

MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 3, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kovach called the regular council meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Council members present: Mayor Kovach, Agliano, Arnold, Bratton, Rushton, Sanderson, Still and Tweedy.

City Staff Members Present: Police Chief Cox, City Administrator Tijerina, City Attorney Norton, City Planner Piercy and Administrative Assistant Siebert

AGENDA ITEMS

- **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2021
 - B. Claim EFTs & Claims #20746-20785 in the amount of \$104,598.67
 - C. Payroll EFTs & Claims #26064-26069 & 26083 in the amount of \$63,083.98
- **PUBLIC HEARING** – Request for Annexation
- **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Community and Senior Center Lease Agreement
 - B. RCO Grant Contract for Basketball Court
 - C. Legal Counsel at City Council Meetings
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Council Decision on Annexation
 - B. Agreement for Phase III Sewer Improvements Project
 - C. Agreement for General Engineering Services
 - D. CDBG Water System Improvement Grant
 - E. Municipal court Clerk Inter Local Agreement
 - F. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, Amending Prior Rate Resolution(s) to Increase Water and Sewer General Facilities Charges; Containing a Severability Provision; and Setting an Effective Date
- **REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS**
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1316; NEXT RESOLUTION #948**
- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

CONSENT AGENDA

M/Tweedy, S/Still; to accept the consent agenda as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING – Request for Annexation

Start: 5:35pm

City Planner Piercy gave a brief summary of the proposed annexation.

Then he summarized nine public comments that were received:

1. Mary Dewey- email, was against annexation
2. Joyce Pearson- concerned about cost to City
3. Andrew Schopf- interested in overall plan, concerned about utility connections
4. Leslie Taylor – concerned about school capacity and utilities
5. Nell Kovach – concerned about location of UGA and maintenance of roads and walkway
6. Alex Gabor & Margie Hendricks – concerned that the process, public does not have access to meeting and not in compliance with ADA and OPMA
7. Ella Rowan – letter listed 18 points of concern
8. Raymond Gravelle – letter rebutted Ms. Rowan’s 18 points of concern

City Planner Piercy suggested that this Public Hearing be left open until the first regularly scheduled City Council Meeting in March.

One issue that City Planner Piercy will be discussing with the City Attorney is if the City has the right to annex this plot of land because of the UGA boundary with Lakeview.

At 5:43 the Mayor asked if there was any other public comments. None was received.

M/Sanderson, S/Tweedy; to leave the record open for 30 days and reconvene the Public Hearing on March 3rd, during the regular City Council Meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.** City Planner Piercy will be reviewing all comments received and addressing all public concerns upon the reconvening of the public hearing.

Hearing was left open to Wednesday, March 3rd, during that evening’s regularly scheduled City Council Meeting. Recording was stopped at 5:48 pm.

MAYOR’S MESSAGE Mayor reviewed the absence of Councilmembers from meetings and asked that if Councilmember’s know they cannot attend a meeting to either contact him or the City Administrator to be excused. After three consecutive non-excused absences, the Councilmember could forfeit their position.

In person Council Meetings are not permitted until Grant County enters into Phase II. You can check the status on the Grant County District Health website: www.granthealth.org

Items to be discussed soon will be campground host, spring clean up, park bathroom and garbage.

Mayor will be attending online conference next week on the 10th and 11th presented by AWC.

REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Park Committee – Mona Kaiser gave an update on the fundraising/donations received for the basketball court upgrade. So far \$22,000.00 has been given towards the goal. Everyone is very appreciative of this community effort.

Policy Committee – will be meeting on Wednesday at 5:30 pm via WebEx

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Community and Senior Center Lease Agreement – Mayor has no updates on this.
- B. RCO Grant Contract for Basketball Court – Mayor wanted Council to be aware of the Cultural Resource Study that is in the contract. This will be effective if any archeological findings are made during the court development. Also, a push will be made to get the development started as soon as possible so that the court can be used for summer/fall next year. **M/Bratton, S/Arnold**; to approve the contract with RCO and move forward with the Basketball Court development. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- C. Legal Counsel at City Council Meetings – Discussion between the Mayor, Councilmembers and City Attorney concluded on the preferred participation of the City Attorney during Council Meetings. **M/Bratton, S/Agliano**; move to allow the Mayor to decide if the City Attorney’s presence is needed at the Council Meeting and to allow the City Attorney to review the agenda and be available for any needed input during the Council Meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Council Decision on Annexation – Mayor asked Councilmembers for any additional questions or comments about the proposed annexation. Council Member Rushton would like the City to benefit from any development. Council Members Arnold and Tweedy wanted the residents to have ample time to review the proposed annexation and have comment time. Council Member Sanderson feels that the parcel of land will get developed and the City could benefit from an increased tax base and utility revenue.
- B. Agreement for Phase III Sewer Improvements Project – Mike Meskimen gave a brief background of the proposal. The City completed Phase I in 2018 and Phase II in 2020. There is approximately \$2.3 million in funding remaining from the original grants. **M/Tweedy, S/Still**; move to approve the Agreement for the Phase III Sewer Improvements with Gray & Osborne. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- C. Agreement for General Engineering Services – **M/Still, S/Rushton**; move to approve the General Engineering Services Agreement with Gray & Osborne. **Motion carried unanimously.** Agreement was presented by Gray & Osborne as they were recently selected for the City’s general engineer. The agreement has been updated and will cover from 2021-2023. There are no specific tasks

scheduled, but as work comes up it will be presented to Council. The City Attorney has reviewed and has no concerns.

- D. CDBG Water System Improvement Grant – **M/Tweedy, S/Bratton**; move to accept Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program General Purpose Grant for Water System Improvements. **Motion carried unanimously**. This is a total of \$897,000.00 and will be combined with left over USDA Grant for water system improvements.
- E. Municipal Court Clerk Inter Local Agreement – During a recent meeting with the Grant County City’s Association, the Municipal Court Clerk position was discussed. In summary, the surrounding Cities would like to collectively contribute to shared expenses for District Court to hire a Municipal Court Clerk. This would allow the surrounding Cities to hold Municipal Court once again. No documents are ready to share yet, but Council is aware of the desire of the City to participate in an interlocal agreement and agrees that this is important.
- F. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, Amending Prior Rate Resolution(s) to Increase Water and Sewer General Facilities Charges; Containing a Severability Provision; and Setting an Effective Date – **M/Rushton, S/Tweedy**; move to approve the resolution of the City Council of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, amending prior rate resolution(s) to increase water and sewer general facilities charges; containing a severability provision; and setting an effective date. Council Member Sanderson voted “nay”. **Motion passed**. This resolution will be numbered 2021-948 and contains the changes recommended by Council to the general facilities charges. A listing of current actual material costs will be posted on the City’s website and updated as needed to allow contractors the knowledge of current pricing.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

City Administrator Tijerina – has nothing at this time.

Chief Cox – Department is advertising for possible opening for Officer. The current hiring list is expired. All applications will be reviewed by Civil Service on February 17, 2021.

City Planner Piercy – Effective February 1st, the City is under new energy code from the State of Washington. The guidelines encourage fewer fossil fuel usage for heating and cooling. This does add to the cost of housing but is not expected to have a big impact. He will be reviewing all comments and providing information back to the council from the public hearing.

Next Ordinance #1316; Next Resolution #949

COMMENTS

Councilmember Still proposed an ad hoc committee to develop a memorial for the late Mayor, Marina Romary. Committee members will be Still, Sanderson and Rushton. They would like at

least one community member to be on the committee. **M/Bratton, S/Arnold;** to start an ad hoc committee to honor former Mayor Marina Romary. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

M/Tweedy, S/Bratton; move to adjourn at 6:46 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Alex Kovach, Mayor

Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant