

MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 15, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Bryson, DuPuy, Rushton, Sanderson, Taylor and Woodhouse.

City Staff Members Present: Police Chief Cox, Fire Chief Baker, Finance Clerk Wade, City Planner Kovach and Administrative Assistant Siebert.

AGENDA ITEMS

- **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. CORRECTED Regular Council Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2023
 - B. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – February 1, 2023
 - C. Claim EFTs & Claims #22236-22244 & 26289 in the amount of \$21,148.25
 - D. Payroll EFTs & Claims #22237, 26285-26291 in the amount of \$29,920.53
- **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. WASPC Traffic Safety Grant
 - B. Shoreline Master Program 60-Day Department of Commerce Review
- **REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS**
 - City Planner Kovach – Title 17 Zoning
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1338; NEXT RESOLUTION #994**
- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

M/Rushton, S/Woodhouse; motion to excuse Councilmember Bratton from this evening's meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

CONSENT AGENDA

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

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Mayor Agliano asked the new Fire Chief to introduce himself. Fire Chief Baker came here from Arizona, but has mostly worked in the Northern California area. He has experience

working in small communities with small budgets. He will be introducing himself to Councilmembers and City staff.

The following committees are established and need to update their committee forms with the City showing members: Park/Rec, Economic Development, Policy, Lake Liaison, Tourism and Emergency Planning.

The 5 Year Vision Plan for 2023-2028 needs to be posted onto the City's website.

The Mayor is taking care of the City's website now and is the contact person for items needing posting to the cite.

The Mayor received a letter from a resident explaining a high water bill after frozen pipes caused an excessive water leak. While the City is willing to work with residents setting up payment plans, forgiving or reducing billing amounts are generally not an option.

Residents are encouraged to join and be involved in local committees.

And, finally, a reminder that the next Council Meeting and all subsequent meetings will be held at the Soap Lake Community & Senior Center, 121 2nd Ave SE, Soap Lake.

REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Policy Committee – last met on Monday. The committee is still working on the commercial use of mineral water policy, a draft to allow personal propane BBQ's in the beach areas with a special permit, and addressing current policy for composting bins for residents. City Planner Kovach will no longer sit on this committee. Next meeting will be on Monday, March 6th at 5 PM at the City Hall.

Tourism Committee – The committee has suggested the following funds be distributed to the following groups who requesting funding for upcoming events:

- Soap Lake Police Department: \$5500.00
- ABATE: \$2000.00
- Masquers Theater: \$2500.00
- Seattle Hydros: \$4000.00
- Chamber of Commerce: \$5500.00
- Winterfest: \$3000.00
- Soap Lake Prevention Coalition: \$5000.00

The fund started with a balance of \$37,000.00 and ended with \$9500.00.

M/Bryson, S/Rushton; to approve the tourism funds as listed above for the year of 2023. Councilmembers Taylor and DuPuy voted Nay. **Motion passed.**

Councilmembers discussed importance of having the bathrooms in the park areas cleaned and maintained throughout the tourism season. This item will be placed on the next agenda to discuss further.

Economic Development Committee – the committee is reaching out to those currently involved with Creative Districts in the area to gain guidance on the process of bringing this to Soap Lake.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Burr Beckwith, 33 N. Dogwood: encouraged the Councilmembers to hire independent contractor for bathroom clean-up and litter removal in the park areas for the tourism season.

Marcia Neihart, 419 W Main Ave: Wanted to know how many new homes had been built and how many permits for new housing had the City received? This will be addressed during the City Planner's report to Council later on the agenda.

Mayor Agliano read a letter received from Kathleen and Jerry Vermeire: After receiving a very high water bill, these residents discovered that frozen pipes under their home had caused a major water leak. They asked that this bill and a subsequent bill be reduced to what they would normally pay. The Mayor asked council to consider this and then other residents asking for the same. The Mayor suggested a payment plan would work better. Finance Clerk Wade reached out to the residents and asked about the possibility of their homeowner's insurance covering these expenses.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. WASPC Traffic Safety Grant – **M/Rushton, S/Woodhouse**; to accept the grant funds from WASPC for traffic safety in the amount of \$2400.00. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- B. Shoreline Master Program 60-day Department of Commerce Review: City Planner Kovach explained that after the special meeting on Friday, the next step would be for the Shoreline Master Plan to be reviewed for 60 days with the Department of Commerce. The last 30 days of the 60-day review process will be opened for public input. **M/Bryson, S/Taylor**; to allow City Planner Kovach and City Staff to move forward with the Department of Commerce 60-day review of the Shoreline Master Plan allowing the last 30 days of this 60-day period for public comment. **Motion carried unanimously.**

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

Fire Chief Baker – Explained that the local Fire Districts are working with AMR for a funding solution. Right now, the District would be required to pay AMR \$58,000.00 for continued services. All parties are working on a solution.

A recent fundraiser held at the Del Red raised \$1254.00 for a power gurney.

January calls for service: 36 total calls, 20 in the City. 15 were EMS, 1 was vehicle fire and 5 were calls for service.

City Planner Kovach – submitted an updated copy of the Title 17 Zoning Code to City Councilmembers. This update shows changes made to the code over the last several years. Council will review and send suggestions to the Policy Committee for any further updates. In 2022, 33 permits were issued. Of these, 15 were for new homes and the rest were for garages, additions or other improvements. So far for 2023, 3 permits have been issued for new home builds.

For the Shoreline Master Plan update, once the 60-day review is completed by the Department of Commerce, a joint Public Hearing will be held with Grant County and other Cities that are involved. After this, a review will be submitted to the City Council. Then the whole Plan is submitted to the Department of Ecology for a final review.

A Public Hearing will be held for the Purple Sage Development on March 3rd at 5 PM at the Soap Lake Community & Senior Center. Public comments will be taken and reviews from City Department heads will be given. City Councilmembers may be present for the Public Comments but should only make decisions on the documents provided to them from the City Planner. Documents will be available to review at the City Hall and on the City's website.

Chief Cox – Public Works took down holiday lights and will be working on street sweeping. Department Supervisor Fronsman will be researching availability of cold patch for the pot holes. One new hire and Officer Rowland will attend Academy starting March 21st. Officer Blain will graduate the Academy on March 28th.

Office Staff attended the retirement celebration for Chief Siebert in Quincy today. He has retired after 29 years of service both with the Grant County Sheriff's Office and the Police Department for the City of Quincy.

Chief Cox and Officer Jones will attend drone training next week.

Mayor Agliano – an update on funding for the repair of the two lift stations and replacement of connecting pipes. The Mayor is working with a representative to Senator Patty Murray. The City would qualify for funding because of the Emergency Declaration in Resolution 991. The total cost for the repairs/replacement is estimated to be \$4.3 million. The mayor has asked to state for \$500,000.00 in state funds. Also, letters of support from local organizations and residents for this process are encouraged and can be addressed to the Mayor and City Council.

Next Ordinance #1338; Next Resolution #994

COMMENTS

Councilmember Bryson: the Garden Club had a great turn out for their last meeting. Plans are coming for a possible beautification contest that residents/businesses can participate in.

Councilmember Taylor: the Soap Lake Conservancy Group will be holding a membership drive on March 25th at the Masquers Theater Lobby. Ryan Boldman from the Soap Lake Prevention Coalition has donated equipment to provide remote access to council meetings.

Councilmember Woodhouse: stated a need to enforce the municipal code. There seems to be many in violation, which if not addressed, makes the City unattractive.

Discussion continued among Councilmembers about solutions to have properties cleaned up and municipal codes enforced.

Councilmember Rushton: the dumpster on 6th Ave has been removed.

ADJOURNMENT

M/Rushton, S/Bryson; move to adjourn at 6:35 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Michelle Agliano, Mayor

Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant