

MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 20, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Bryson, Carlson, Carson, Gorman, Sharp, Taylor and Woodhouse.

City Staff Members Present: City Attorney Sears, Police Chief Cox, City Planner Kovach, Deputy Clerk Olson and Administrative Assistant Siebert.

AGENDA ITEMS

- **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – March 6, 2024
 - B. Claim EFTs & Claims #23120-23154 in the amount of \$17,685.09
 - C. Payroll EFTs & Claims #26441-26442 in the amount of \$24,193.64
- **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Supplemental Agreement for Construction Engineering for Daisy Street Sidewalk Improvements
 - B. Supplemental Agreement for Construction Engineering for Daisy Street Pedestrian Crossing Improvements
 - C. Policy Change – Discussion of City Expenditures or Allotment of Funds
 - D. City Contract
- **EXECUTIVE SESSION-** Performance of a Public Employee RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)
- **EXECUTIVE SESSION-** Complaint against a Public Officer or Employee RCW 42.30.110(1)(f)
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1343; NEXT RESOLUTION #1012**
- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor removed item C from New Business. Councilmember Sharp called for Point of Order and was answered by Councilmember Bryson. She asked that the item stay on the agenda if it concerned City business. Councilmember Sharp called Point of Order again and Councilmembers verbally acknowledged to keep the item. Mayor said that if this was a policy change it should go to the policy committee for discussion. Councilmember Sharp had support from other Councilmembers to keep the item on the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Mayor said that construction projects started Monday and should be completed by the end of April. A new hire started at Public Works. The Mayor shared plans with Councilmembers for a plan to complete the interior of the City Hall in phases. A tentative agreement has been reached between the City and Teamsters representing the Police Department members. Clerk Treasurer Olson was able to review grant reimbursement monies collected by the City and claim \$175,000.00 by revisiting some previously closed projects.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

City Planner Kovach – he discussed building code changes that will be affective soon and will have a summary of permits to date next meeting.

Police Chief Cox – to date the PD has clocked over250 hours of overtime. The accumulation of overtime will continue because staff will be attending state required trainings and taking vacation time. The department currently has one Officer at the academy and one open position.

REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Chamber – will be having a fundraiser on April 13th from 6-10 PM. Tickets are \$25 and the theme is Roaring 20's.

Creative District – meeting is tomorrow from 6-7:30. They will be ready to submit their application around the 2nd quarter of 2024.

Utility Committee – a proposal for rate increases will be presented at the April 3rd Council meeting. The committee will try to distribute information to the public and rates will be eventually adopted by resolution.

The Lake Liaison Committee- last meeting was very informative and the Stormwater Manager for Moses Lake, Brad Mitchel, will come again soon for an open public meeting for all to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marcia Neihart, 419 W Main St – a lot of sidewalks are being cut up due to construction projects. She is concerned about where the material is being taken.

Thomas Page, 636 Aster St S – he is not happy that utility rates will be increasing and would like the City to create a separate account for future projects. He also did not like the Mayor trying removing items from the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Supplemental Agreement for Construction Engineering for Daisy Street Sidewalk Improvements – **M/Bryson, S/Woodhouse;** move to approve the consultant

supplemental agreement for construction engineering services related to Daisy Street (SR 17) sidewalk improvements, phase 1 with Gray & Osborne. **Motion carried unanimously.** This is a supplemental agreement and covered in the funding package.

- B. Supplemental Agreement for Construction Engineering for Daisy Street Pedestrian Crossing Improvements – **M/Bryson, S/Sharp**; move to approve the consultant supplemental agreement for construction engineering services related to the Daisy Street pedestrian crossing improvements with Gray & Osborne. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- C. Policy Change – Discussion of City Expenditures or Allotment of Funds – Councilmember Carson would like to propose changes to hiring process. There was a lengthy discussion between Councilmembers and the Mayor on who has authority to hire, budgeted items and the open position at the Police Department. Councilmember Carson tabled this item and will bring back with supporting documents that address some Councilmember’s concerns.
- D. City Contract – Councilmember Sharp wanted to terminate the current contract between the City and Attorney Sears. Councilmembers needed more time to review the current contract. Councilmember Sharp postponed this agenda item and will bring it back at a different time.

Executive Session – Performance of a Public Employee RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)

Started at 6:40 PM for 20 minutes

Ended at 7:00 PM

No action taken.

Executive Session – Complaint Against a Public Officer or Employee RCW 42.30.110(1)(f)

Started at 7:03 for 15 minutes

Extended for 10 minutes

Ended at 7:29

No action taken.

Next Ordinance #1343; Next Resolution #1012

COMMENTS

Councilmember Sharp is still working with City Planner Kovach on updating the Building Permits. Once complete, the forms will be available online.

Councilmember Taylor talked about walking with or without a dog in town and the reaction she is getting from other dogs that run loose around town or behind their fenced yards. This may need to be addressed at some point, since the City is known to be a “walking City”.

Councilmember Bryson asked about the event happening on the weekend at Smokiam park and if the vendor has a permit? She also asked about the disk golf changes being proposed for Lava Links? Councilmember Carson said that there is a lease agreement between Samis and the City to use the property for golf and is being reviewed.

Councilmember Carlson stated that although this evening’s meeting was heated at times, there were frank discussions and good communication during the executive sessions.

Councilmember Carson is working with City Planner Kovach to identify properties that are ready for abatement process.

Councilmember Woodhouse mentioned the need for a solution if the homeless continue to sleep along Main Street business areas.

Councilmember Gorman is proud to be part of the City Council and likes all the new perspectives that Councilmembers bring to issues.

ADJOURNMENT

M/Sharp, S/Carlson; move to adjourn at 7:43 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Allen DuPuy, Mayor

Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant