

MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 3, 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, Officer Rowland, City Planner Kovach and Administrative Assistant Siebert.

AGENDA ITEMS

- **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – March 20, 2024
 - B. Claim EFTs & Claims #23155-23183 in the amount of \$80,541.21
 - C. Payroll EFTs & Claims
- **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Special Event Permit- Sandblaster
 - B. Utility Committee Report
 - C. Resolution 2024-1012 A Resolution of the City of Soap Lake Adopting a Schedule of Rates and Fees for Water Service
 - D. Resolution 2024-1013 A Resolution of the City of Soap Lake Adopting a Schedule of Rates and Fees for Sewer Service
 - E. Ordinance No. 2024-1343 An Ordinance Amending the City of Soap Lake Municipal Code Section 3.44.030 Titled "Occupations Subject to Tax- Amount"
 - F. Clark Nuber GAP Analysis Report- DRAFT
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1344; NEXT RESOLUTION #1014**
- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

CONSENT AGENDA

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

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Mayor announced that the City has been awarded a grant for Phase II for the Daisy Street Sidewalk improvements in the amount of \$489,676.50.

He has been contacted by a representative of Senator Murphy's office reference the requested funds totaling \$3.44 million for the sewer upgrades and force main replacements. He expects an official email within the next 90 days.

Phase I on Daisy Street is ongoing and Gray & Osborne is on-site observing the progress.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

City Planner Kovach – Permits for March: 3 new single family, 1 underground storage for the gas station, 1 re-roof project and 1 remodel. There will be a public hearing for a commercial project on Main & Daisy on May 8, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the Soap Lake Senior Center.

Officer Rowland – there has been an uptick in DUI arrests. Recognized Administrative Assistant Siebert's 5 year anniversary with the City.

REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Thomas Page, 636 Aster St S – wanted to know when the utility committee would have another public meeting to discuss rate changes

Steve Wellein, 126 Gingko St N – noted that the utility rates were unchanged for 20 years and rates need to increase to pay for needed upgrades and repairs. Also stated that the Police Department vehicles need to be marked.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Special Event Permit- Sandblaster- **M/Gorman, S/Taylor**; to approve the special event permit for the Sandblaster Open Invitational Tournament. **Motion carried unanimously.** All are encouraged to come and participate in this event sponsored by the Chamber. Clubs and balls are available to use for those who need them. Event is scramble style. Prizes are awarded for many categories.
- B. Utility Committee Report – a report was prepared and made available to those in attendance. This outlined the committee's recommendations for changes to the water and sewer rates and fees. This proposal eliminates the \$300,000.00 deficit in the water and sewer funds and sets the City in a financial position to create reserves for emergency funding.
- C. Resolution 2024-1012: A Resolution of the City of Soap Lake Adopting a Schedule of Rates and Fees for Water Service- M/Taylor, S/Gorman; to approve the resolution as presented. Then, a motion by Councilmember Woodhouse was made to table this agenda item. Vote to support this motion was made by Councilmembers Sharp, Carson and Bryson.

- D. Resolution 2024-1013: A Resolution of the City of Soap Lake Adopting a Schedule of Rates and Fees for Sewer Service- M/Taylor, S/Gorman; to approve the resolution as presented. Then, a motion by Councilmember Woodhouse was made to table this agenda item. Vote to support this motion was made by Councilmembers Sharp, Carson and Bryson.
- E. Ordinance No. 2024-1343 And Ordinance Amending the City of Soap Lake Municipal Code Section 3.44.030 Titled “Occupations Subject to Tax – Amount” – M/Taylor, S/Gorman; to approve the ordinance as presented. Then, a motion by Councilmember Sharp to table this agenda item. Vote to support this motion was made by Councilmembers Carson, Woodhouse and Bryson.
- F. Clark Nuber GAP Analysis Report – DRAFT- this report is for informational purposes only at this time. Three specific recommendations: reconcile 2022-2023 and complete financial closure, file BARS reports for 2021-2023 and update policy/procedures and have staff attend trainings. Councilmembers Gorman, Taylor, Sharp and Carlson all commented on the report.

Next Ordinance #1343; Next Resolution #1012

COMMENTS

Councilmember Sharp thanked everyone for attending the meeting and encouraged residents to reach out to Councilmembers with any concerns.

Councilmember Bryson also thanked all those who attended the meeting. She would like to address the water and sewer rates seriously and quickly to put the City in the best financial position possible.

Councilmember Gorman is honored to serve on the utility committee and wanted to convey the hard decisions that the committee made and the unanimous proposal presented by the committee.

Councilmember Carson also thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She then gave a reminder for the fundraiser coming up on April 13th for the Chamber. She gave a big thanks to everyone that came to and helped at the Easter Egg Hunt, including ABATE, Chamber members and Fire District 7 members.

Councilmember Taylor reiterated that the utility committee has been meeting for 14 weeks to present these recommendations. She also appreciates the effort being made to get a public space at the City Hall for committee meetings.

Councilmember Woodhouse expressed her thanks to the utility committee for all of their hard work and she is not opposed to the rate increases. She just wants more time to explain the changes to the public.

Councilmember Carlson commended the Kovach family for their continued care of the US flag that flies over the City by the library.

ADJOURNMENT

M/Sharp, S/Taylor; move to adjourn at 6:20 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Allen DuPuy, Mayor

Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant