

MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 3, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tempore Taylor called the regular council meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

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

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

AGENDA ITEMS

- **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – April 19, 2023
 - B. Claim EFTs & Claims #22400-22434 in the amount of \$89,626.80
 - C. Payroll EFTs & Claims #26315-26319 in the amount of \$30,966.66
- **MAYOR’S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, Authorizing Overtime Compensation for the Chief of Police
 - B. WalMart Community Grant
 - C. Spring & Fall Clean Up
- **REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS**
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1338; NEXT RESOLUTION #996**
- **COMMENTS**
- **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – RCW 42.31.110(1)(g) – Performance of a Public Employee
- **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Pro Tempore asked that New Business item (A) be added as: A resolution of the City Council of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, authorizing overtime compensation for the Chief of Police.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/Bratton, S/Bryson; to accept the consent agenda as presented with a correction requested by Councilmember Bryson to page 3 changing the word Bighting to Lighting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MAYOR’S MESSAGE

Mayor Pro Tempore Taylor read a letter from Captain Mike Stussy, Ephrata Fire Department, commending Officers Jones and Blair for their assistance with a motor vehicle accident on April 15, 2023. This incident involved multiple occupants requiring extrication, downed power lines and a brush fire.

Mayor Pro Tempore Taylor then read a letter of commendation for school teacher Lee Er Phua-Sharp. She administered CPR to a child on the playground. The child is expected to fully recover.

Election season is open May 15th. The Mayor's position and five council positions will be open this year.

Two workshops are scheduled for councilmembers for May 24th and May 31st. Time and location are TBD. Workshops will focus on Fiscal Policy and Fiscal Understanding.

REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Economic Development: Alex Kovach announced that the next meeting would be tomorrow, May 4th. Next meeting for the Creative District will be held on May 18th from 6:00 – 7:30 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Thomas Paige, 636 Asher St S – he believes there is an RCW that covers councilmember residency and urged the councilmember that is currently residing outside of city limits to resign.

Leanne Rash, 14 Birch St – said that there is a lot of dog waste in West Beach. Also, at the dog park, there are three metal posts that are broken off and present a hazard.

Susan Carson – for Chamber: has submitted event permit for Suds-n-Sun 4th of July event. Also, nominated Officer Jones for Grand Marshall for the parade.

114 Gladiola: she is opening the concession stand, but is concerned about the bathrooms being ready, as currently they are closed and locked. She gave appreciation to Volunteer Code Enforcement Officer Ross as many problem areas have been addressed and vehicles have been tagged and removed from the streets.

Eileen Beckwith, 33 Dogwood N – commended the response of officers to a recent burglary where two suspects were taken into custody. She thanked council for providing support to Soap Lake Police Department by allowing 24/7 coverage.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, Authorizing Overtime Compensation for the Chief of Police. **M/Rushton, S/Bratton**; to adopt the resolution of the City Council of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, authorizing overtime compensation for the Chief of Police. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- B. WalMart Community Grant – **M/Bratton, S/Woodhouse**; to accept the Community Grant from WalMart. **Motion carried unanimously.** Grant is valued at \$1250.00.

C. Spring & Fall Clean Up – motion to table this item from Councilmember Bryson.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

Fire Chief Baker – Department is still looking for volunteers. Some of the fleet vehicles have been replaced. Chief has applied for over \$1.3 million in grants, but this process takes time. Calls for service: 48 incidents, 22 in the City, 17 EMS, 1 electrical fire, 2 false alarms and 1 assist. The department would like to commend Officers for their response/assist to the Ephrata Fire department on the recent auto accident.

City Planner Kovach – a total of four permits were received last month. City Planner continues to work with Code Enforcement to address code issues and a few stop work orders have been put in place.

Volunteer Code Enforcement Officer Ross – has 6 new complaints. He continues to work with City Hall with registering business licenses. There have been over 70 dog licenses issued to date.

Police Chief Cox – He reminded everyone about the high call volume that is dealing with mental health issues. Chief assisted Officer Jones on a burglary call where two suspects were taken into custody. This happened in the middle of the day as a neighbor noticed something suspicious and called into dispatch.

Next Ordinance #1338; Next Resolution #997

COMMENTS

Councilmember Bryson reminded everyone of the upcoming Lava Links Sandblaster Open this Saturday starting at 9 AM. This event is sponsored by the Chamber.

Councilmember Bratton gave a reminder for the Economic Development Committee meeting, tomorrow at 1:00 PM at the Community & Senior Center.

Councilmember DuPuy said that the Parks & Rec Committee submitted the grant for the lighting at the basketball court.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) – Performance of a Public Employee

Start at 6:11 PM for 20 minutes

Extended 20 minutes

Extended 15 minutes

Extended 10 minutes

Extended 5 minutes

Ended at 7:22 PM

No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

M/Rushton, S/Woodhouse; move to adjourn at 7:23 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Michelle Agliano, Mayor

Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant