

MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 19, 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, Taylor, Wellein and Woodhouse.

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

AGENDA ITEMS

- **OATH OF OFFICE** – Wellein
- **Report of City Officers**
- **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – July 5, 2023
 - B. Claim EFTs & Claims #22523-22591 in the amount of \$219,541.17
 - C. Payroll EFTs & Claims #26356-26363 in the amount of \$35,748.50
- **MAYOR’S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. City Hall Servers
 - B. Purchasing Manual - Adoption
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Storm Drains
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1339; NEXT RESOLUTION #1001**
- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Agliano asked that Report of City Officers be moved to right after Oath of Office agenda item.

OATH OF OFFICE – Mayor Agliano administered Oath of Office to Steve Wellein. He will serve the remainder of term for Councilmember Position #6.

REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS

Fire Chief Baker – The department will be having an Open House the end of August. All are invited.

The Chief gave an update on grant monies applied for and equipment that needs replaced/upgraded.

He commended Officer Blair's quick response time to the recent stabbing incident and said that this quick response probably saved the victim's life.

City Planner Kovach – will bring an update on permitting next meeting.

He is working on a notification process to inform the public about the permitting process for ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units).

He has also been working with Code Enforcement Volunteer Ross on accessing code violations in the City.

Councilmember Taylor asked for an update on the 1078 ordinance. He said that the draft is being reviewed by the Lake Liaison Committee and it will be sent to the City Attorney for a review. Then it will be brought back to Council for review and adoption.

Police Chief Cox – Talked a bit about current booking restrictions.

Commended everyone's efforts during the recent stabbing incident. Officer Blair was on scene within 33 seconds and Fire Command arrived shortly after. Investigation is a coordinated effort with local agencies all working together.

Volunteer Code Enforcement Officer Ross – Presented a handout reviewing recent open cases.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

McKay Health's new Administrator was introduced by Councilmember Wellein, Victor Odiakosa. Mr. Odiakosa has worked in the healthcare system for the last 19 years. His family has lived in Twin Falls, Yakima and Walla Walla. Now, settled here in Soap Lake, he is looking forward to helping provide services through McKay's.

Mayor Agliano introduced new Utility Billing Clerk, Brooke.

The annual LUAU at McKay's will be on July 27th at 5PM. The event is free and all are welcomed to join in the festivities.

The Mayor read a letter from Ms. Baker. She is interested in helping organize a music festival. This was referred to the Chamber.

She also read a letter received from Mona Kaiser, see New Business A.

The public comment period for the ORW designation will start soon. Information on how to leave a comment will be posted on the City's website. The designation of Tier 3B would ensure that the Lake water quality would not deteriorate and that best practices would be in place to eliminate runoff pollutants entering into the Lake.

REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Lake Liaison Committee: Councilmember Taylor encouraged residents to leave comments for the ORW, they will be accepted through mid-September. Councilmember DuPuy commented on all the hard work done by the committee members and thanked them for their time.

Economic Development Committee: Councilmember Bryson announced the next meeting for the Creative District will be tomorrow at 6 PM at the Senior Center. They are working on the required standards that are set by the State. They are looking for all types of creative persons to join them and will be discussing the map of the proposed district.

Policy Committee: Judith Gorman made public comment, see that agenda item.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judith Gorman, 207 Gingko St. – invited attendees to leave their name and email to the Soap Lake Conservancy Group to stay informed on the ORW process. The next SL Conservancy Group meeting will be Friday, July 21 at 1:30 PM at the Senior Center. She also gave a reminder for the upcoming Dry Falls Festival, Flood Fest, to be held this Saturday at the Dry Falls Visitor Center starting at 9 AM.

Thomas Page, 626 Aster St S – he was glad to see Public Works employees out working after the recent storm. He would like to see more resources for the Public Works department, more employees and better pay for them. He received a letter from Code Enforcement about weeds on his property, but believes the City should also maintain their properties accordingly.

Susan Carson: on behalf of the Chamber she thanked everyone that participated and helped at the Suds n Sun event. The Moonlight Paddle event is coming on September 2nd, permits have been applied for.

Susan Carson: 114 Gladiola St – she is disappointed in the quality of work being done by Public Works employees and believes there should be a simple maintenance schedule and more training of employees.

Eileen Beckwith, 33 Dogwood St N – would like copies of any handouts given to Councilmembers at the Budget Meetings to be available to those that attend the meeting.

Suzette Slipper, 116 Fir St N – wanted to know why the questions that were asked to the Councilmembers during the Purple Sage Public Hearing were not also asked during the presentation of the Adoption of the SMP Periodic Review during the June 27th Council Meeting.

Fred Slipper, 116 Fir St N – posed questions about the public processes done during the review of the SMP. He questioned the amendments that were done and would like City Planner Kovach to provide minutes from these meetings. He also requested a copy of ordinance 2023-1338.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. City Hall Servers – the Mayor met with Grant County IT and received a quote. She would like to table this agenda item and bring it back in November. Councilmember Taylor asked about the recent urgency to replace the servers and if they were near failure? The Mayor explained that the servers would lose some Microsoft support options in August.
- B. Purchase Manual Adoption – **M/Bryson, S/Woodhouse**; to approve and adopt the Purchase Manual as presented. **Motion carried unanimously**. The Mayor commented that the most recent purchasing manual passed last November did not include some federal requirements and these requirements were updated in this manual to stay compliant with state and federal requirements.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Storm Drains – Mayor Agliano had read a letter from Mona Kaiser during the Mayor’s message. Ms. Kaiser provided details about the flooding that took place on her lot after the recent rain storm and provided pictures of the damage that

was done. Councilmember Bryson had reviewed the storm water management plan proposed in 2019 and said that some of this was already outdated and may need to be reviewed again and updated. Councilmember Taylor had received several photos and videos from residents after the recent storm. Mayor Agliano said that the drains had been cleaned in the spring, but current Public Works staff is only 2 employees and she is looking to hire another employee soon. Councilmembers discussed maintenance issues and would like to see a schedule done for routine maintenance and accountability that the schedule is being followed. Mayor said she would meet with Supervisor Fronsman and ask that a maintenance schedule be followed monthly to address the storm drain issue. Councilmember DuPuy shared that local citizen and member of the Soap Lake Conservancy, Bonnie Holt Morehouse, took samples of runoff near the Lake right after the storm and sent these samples off for testing.

Next Ordinance #1339; Next Resolution #1001

COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

M/Rushton, S/Taylor; move to adjourn at 6:37 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Michelle Agliano, Mayor

Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant