

MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 5, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

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

AGENDA ITEMS

- **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – September 21, 2022
 - B. Budget Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2022
 - C. Claim EFTs & Claims #21997-22022 in the amount of \$355,475.56
 - D. Payroll EFTs & Claims #26227-26233 in the amount of \$34,662.38
- **PUBLIC HEARING** – Review of Final Project Performance on the Water and Sewer Phase III Improvements Project Funded by the community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Appoint Chief Cox as Interim City Administrator
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Replacements of Holiday Lights and Decorations for Downtown
 - B. Applications for Tourism Funding are Due at End of October
- **REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS**
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1334; NEXT RESOLUTION #989**
- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING – Review of final Project Performance on the Water and Sewer Phase III Improvements Project Funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Open: 5:32 PM

Mayor Pro Tem Taylor stated that the project is now completed and is currently in use. There were no significant issues during the construction process or after its completion.

No comments.

Closed: 5:33 PM

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Mayor Pro Tem Taylor wished Mayor Agliano best wishes during her absence from this evening's meeting as she is home taking care of a family member.

REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cindi Rang – on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, she presented Councilmembers with a copy of the special event permit for Winterfest. She said that she had asked for the application to be on this evening's agenda, but would like the application to be on the next agenda for approval. Only minor changes from last year's event: earlier start and road blocked off.

Eileen Beckwith, 33 Dogwood N - encouraged residence to be informed on the upcoming Levy for Fire District 7, which would help fund EMS services for the greater area of Soap Lake. Information will be posted on the Soap Lake for Locals' website.

Marsha Neihart, 419 Main Ave W- stated that while at the Visitor's Center, a visitor to the area thought that the Center was part of the RV park and that one of the entrances to the RV park was completely blocked off.

Bonnie Holt-Moorhouse, 718 1st Ave SE – was concerned earlier in February that the construction on the sewer line was only done halfway down the alleyway. After several months, the sewer line was continued and the last three homes on the street were connected to the new line. She did note that this new line was connected into an old concrete line.

Cindi Rang – again on behalf of the Chamber, she asked that an agenda item be added for next meeting for allowing a BBQ pit fire on the beach for warmth during the monthly Drum Circle Event.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Appoint Chief Cox as Interim City Administrator – discussion among Councilmembers concluded with this item being brought back on next agenda with a copy of the contract for Council to review and time for Council to review the doctrine of incompatible offices.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Replacements of Holiday Lights and Decorations for Downtown – a presentation by the “Unofficial Downtown Decorative Lighting Volunteer Crew” was given to the Council and explained plans for decorating the downtown area, along Main St at the flagpole, at the gazebo and along Daisy St. Total funds requested were \$2,300.00. **M/ Sanderson,**

S/Bratton; to approve replacement of holiday lights and decorations for downtown and to use tourism funds for funding. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- B. Applications for Tourism Funding are Due at End of October – this announcement was made as the deadline for the City to receive applications for tourism funds for 2023.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

City Planner Kovach – discussed with Council options for a “no-cut” ordinance. This would limit excavations for streets within five years of being paved. Options also included changing development standards to have each lot stubbed out and meter installed as a street was paved. Options will be presented at next meeting for council to decide which route to take.

Then there was discussion about changing zoning, which could lead to amending the City’s comprehensive plan. Councilmember Bryson suggested that this topic be brought to the Economic Development Committee for them to look at benefits and possibly be brought back to Council at a later date for final decision.

Other items: Gray & Osborne are still working on easements with the school district; hotel is working with budget and interior design; City Hall still needs HVAC system addressed; and only one permit for a boundary line adjustment was received last month.

Fire Chief Brager – Department responded to 24 calls last month. 14 were calls in town of which 12 were EMS calls, 1 outside fire and 1 fire alarm. The District did receive their transport license and has already conducted multiple transports. Chief encouraged residents that if they have questions about the upcoming Levy vote, to please contact the department and they would be happy to answer any questions. They did receive \$20,000.00 donation to help with repair costs to the truck that was damaged during a fire fight response. The department is actively recruiting, anyone interested, please contact the department.

Police Chief Cox – Chief has been helping cover shifts, as one officer is out on injury.

Chief discussed options for a change in ordinance to address parking RV and motorhomes on City streets. Some of these vehicles are being parked for long term on streets, causing obstructions and some damaging newly paved roads. Council agreed to have the ordinance change brought back for council approval at a later meeting.

New officer will start with the department on Monday, October 10th. He will need to go to the next available academy.

Trunk- Or – Treat Event will be on Monday, October 31st from 5 PM – 7:30 PM. Location this year will be moving to in front of the Police Department and City Hall building.

Volunteer Code Enforcement Officer Ross – presented Council with monthly report of open/closed cases by zone. He has also responded to several complaints and taken appropriate actions, such as: referral to Grant County Sheriff’s Office for areas outside of City limits, contacting complainant directly, and assisting officers with fact gathering for infraction issuance.

One large land owner of many undeveloped lots will be contacted about keeping lots cleaned and addressing fire danger issues.

Next Ordinance #1334; Next Resolution #989

COMMENTS

Councilmember Sanderson requested the presence of City Attorney Norton at the next Council Meeting to answer Council questions concerning the appointment of Chief Cox as Interim City Administrator.

ADJOURNMENT

M/Bryson, S/Bratton; move to adjourn at 6:59 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Michelle Agliano, Mayor

Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant