

## MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 19, 2022

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Agliano 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 Bragar, City Planner Kovach, City Attorney Norton and Administrative Assistant Siebert.

### AGENDA ITEMS

- **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2022
  - B. Budget Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2022
  - C. Claim EFTs & Claims #22023-22065, #26234-26235 in the amount of \$159,979.77
  - D. Payroll EFTs & Claims #26236-26240 in the amount of \$21,536.21
  - E. Water and Sewer Improvements Phase III – Change Order No. 2
- **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. Appoint Chief Cox as Interim City Administrator- review of contract
  - B. Mineral Water
- **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. Special Event Permit Application – Winterfest
  - B. Drum Circle Event – Permission for Use of Fire Pit
  - C. An Ordinance of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, Adding a New Chapter 12.44 of the Soap Lake Municipal Code, Establishing the Rules and Regulations for Excavations in City Rights of Ways; Providing Penalties for Violations; Containing a Severability Clause; and Setting an Effective Date
- **REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS**
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1334; NEXT RESOLUTION #989**
- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

### CONSENT AGENDA

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

**M/DuPuy, S/Taylor;** to excuse Councilmember Bratton from this evening’s meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.** Councilmember Bratton entered the meeting at 5:40 PM

Mayor Agliano added Old Business item (B) Mineral Water to the agenda.

**MAYOR’S MESSAGE**

Grant County offers tourism funding to local businesses. The application is available at their website and must be submitted, in paper form, by this Friday.

AWC offers a webinar series “Essential for officials”. Mayor Agliano encouraged councilmembers to contact Ruth for sign-up information.

**REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Councilmember Bryson spoke on behalf of the Lake Liaison Committee. They met last week and are progressing with outstanding resource water.

Councilmember Bryson also spoke for the Economic Development Committee. They also met last week and are continuing progress with the business incubators.

As a member of the “unofficial holiday decorating volunteer crew”, Councilmember Bryson gave an update on the holiday décor ordering: they have ordered/received the flagpole tree, the inflatable tree and lighting for the light poles. They may need assistance from the City’s lift truck to reach the lights on Daisy to hang the snowflake lights.

Councilmember Taylor said that Kyle Foreman from Emergency Management will give a presentation on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM at the school library.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alan Lundberg, 20113 Delta Rd NW: talked about mineral water and how the City used to allow access to this system to both residential and commercial customers. Now the City has an agreement with the Soap Lake Natural Spa and Resort, but no other business at this time. He thinks that the City needs formal policy on how a business and/or individual can obtain access to the mineral water.

Burr Beckwith, 33 N Dogwood St: has handouts of fact sheet for the upcoming EMS levy on the November ballot.

Trudy Black, 42 S Hemlock St: believes that appointing Chief Cox as interim City Administrator is a conflict of interest. She also mentioned that the public park bathrooms in Wilson Creek are open and would like Soap Lake to offer the same access.

Eileen Beckwith, 33 N Dogwood St: she is hopeful that the City will hire an Administrator soon, but believes that Chief Cox is knowledgeable and supports him in this interim roll.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Appoint Chief Cox as Interim City Administrator –review of contract- City Attorney Norton was present to discuss with and answer questions from Councilmembers. She said that this appointment is temporary and Mayor Agliano still supervises this position. Councilmember DuPuy asked about the City Administrator’s roll in presenting a budget and if this was a conflict with the Chief’s roll for presenting a budget for the Police Department? City Attorney Norton explained that the Mayor

oversees the budget and City Councilmembers have final approval of the budget. The Mayor is still actively interviewing for this position. **M/Rushton, S/Bratton**; to accept the Employment Agreement Interim City Administrator. Councilmember DuPuy voted “Nay”. **Motion passed.** Discussion continued about salary, responsibility, and budget.

- B. Mineral Water – **M/Sanderson, S/Bryson**; to allow the policy committee to draft policy for businesses and other entities to have access to draw mineral water from Soap Lake with service agreements and possibly revise the current ordinance governing mineral water. **Motion carried unanimously.** City Attorney Norton explained that the City still owns the right to the mineral water and does currently have an agreement with the Soap Lake Spa and Natural Resort. Other companies or individuals that would like access to the mineral water would need service agreements with the City. The Spa and Resort does not have “sole” rights, but the City does need a policy explaining the process for gaining access to the mineral water.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Special Event Permit Application – Winterfest – the application will be circulated to the appropriate department heads for approval. **M/Bryson, S/Bratton**; to approve the Special Event Permit Application contingent upon approval from department heads. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- B. Drum Circle Event – Permission for Use of Fire Pit – This item was tabled to be brought back at a later meeting after review of current ordinance and special event permitting.
- C. An Ordinance of the City of Soap Lake, Washington, Adding a New Chapter 12.44 of the Soap Lake Municipal Code, Establishing the Rules and Regulations for Excavations in City Rights of Ways; Providing Penalties for Violations; Containing a Severability Clause; and Setting an Effective Date – This item was tabled to be brought back at a later meeting after review from the City Attorney.

### **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

**Police Chief Cox** – City Hall currently has city clerk position open.

Two bids on the HVAC system for City Hall have been received. May only need a compressor changed out.

Ruth will be attending a WCIA conference on Friday and Chief Cox will attend on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. Attendance is mandatory to maintain insurance.

Public Works has a position open. A booster system failed and parts have been ordered for repairs. Women’s bathroom at West Beach was vandalized again. Still getting quotes for stainless steel toilets to replace all toilets in the parks.

Brought up the idea for Public Works to have take home vehicles. If City Council would be in favor, this would need to go through Teamsters negotiating unit.

The Police Department has a new recruit, Dakota Blair. Recruit Blair is scheduled to start the academy mid-November.

Dog at large cases are being reviewed on a case-by-case basis, since Grant County Animal Outreach is unable to house anymore dogs at this time.

Cameras have been installed at locations around the City. Officers have the ability to view in real time after motion is detected.

Trunk – or – Treat will be Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5-7 pm in front of the PD and City Hall.

Chief thanked all the assisting agencies for their help processing the shooting that happened on October 17<sup>th</sup>. A helicopter was called in to fly the victim to the hospital.

**City Planner Kovach** – a change of occupancy permit was hung at the location of 100 block of Daisy St. This building will need to be brought to code to comply with any residency occupation permitted.

Talked to Council about a possible easement application for the Corsica Apartments located next to the James Building. Now he will talk to the owner once more with recommendations of installing cooling units higher, on the roof, or in the attic.

**Fire Chief Brager** – the department has been steady with calls and is also short staffed. They are still transporting, but when they are doing this, they are out of the area to respond to calls. The district is still taking applications for Chief position.

**Next Ordinance #1334; Next Resolution #989**

**COMMENTS**

Councilmember Bryson and Woodhouse mentioned that the Shop About is this weekend. Local businesses will participate in side walk sales.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**M/Bryson, S/Bratton; move to adjourn at 7:18 PM. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Michelle Agliano, Mayor

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Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant