

MINUTES REGULAR SOAP LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 15, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Agliano called the regular council meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

ROLL CALL

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

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

AGENDA ITEMS

- **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – March 1, 2023
 - B. Claim EFTs & Claims #21912-22315 in the amount of \$205,387.56
 - C. Payroll EFTs & Claims #22311-22314 in the amount of \$27,276.90
- **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**
- **REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Funding for Park Bathroom Maintenance/Cleaning and Garbage Removal
 - B. Discussion to Keep, Extend or Discontinue the Contract between Chief Cox and the City of Soap Lake for the Position of Interim City Administrator
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. 2023 Transportation Update Presentation
 - B. Consultant Agreement for Design Engineering for Daisy Street Pedestrian Crossing Improvements
 - C. Consultant Agreement for Design Engineering for Main Avenue West Reconstruction Project
 - D. Special Event Permit – Easter Egg Hunt
 - E. Drug Testing Services
- **REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS**
- **NEXT ORDINANCE #1338; NEXT RESOLUTION #994**
- **COMMENTS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Mayor asked that New Business item (C) be moved to New Business item (A).

CONSENT AGENDA

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

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Mayor said that water quality reports were mailed out.

Current audits being conducted by the State Auditor's Office should be complete by the end of March.

An end of the year for 2022 report should be presented at the April 5th council meeting.

There are plans for a council workshop to discuss councilmember's fiscal responsibilities. This will be held sometime in May.

Mayor discussed her reason to not continue the contract with Chief Cox as Interim City Administrator. She will be working at the City M-Th and is taking on many of these responsibilities herself. The City is also looking at hiring a third clerk for City Staff.

Councilmember Sanderson asked that Old Business (B) be added to the agenda to discuss options for the current Interim City Administrator position.

REPORTS OF STANDING/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Park/Rec. Committee – Mona Keiser has the plaque for the park and it is ready to be installed.

She would like the parking area for the electric vehicle charging station to be addressed. Currently, the plug does not reach past the handicap parking spot.

She would like to discuss with City Staff the current balance of the ROC grant and know if the project manager received payment from these funds.

Councilmember DuPuy mentioned that Megan Gould would like to join this committee.

And, the wooden park benches are not holding up. Many are splintering and do not look nice.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Susan Carson, 114 Gladiola St N – the Chamber board has all new board members. Their goals include: advertising local events, increasing businesses in the community and open more store fronts downtown. They are also accepting individual memberships. The Visitor Center is looking for volunteers.

Megan Gould, 49 Ginkgo St S – would like to know what kind of spray the City is spraying in the gravel parking strips. She is also concerned about the parking area around the electric vehicle charging station at the park.

Mayor Agliano notified everyone that the Consolidated truck broke down this morning, causing a delay in garbage pick-up. If the garbage was not picked up, it will be done this evening or in the morning.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Funding for Park bathroom maintenance/Cleaning and Garbage Removal – Councilmembers reviewed expenditures for the parks between 2020 and 2022. There is a strong desire to replace the current bathrooms at Smokiam Park, however, the City does not have the funding that is needed. Even with an RCO grant, the City would need 10% matching funds, and this is currently not available. Councilmember Woodhouse would like to know if ARPA funds could be used to update the current bathrooms. Councilmember Bratton would like to know if tourism funds could be used. Councilmember Taylor asked about the monies paid by the Spa & Resort to manage the campground area, \$25,000.00 annually, could be used to update the bathrooms. The Mayor will be reviewing all of these options.
- B. Discussion to Keep, Extend or Discontinue the Contract between Chief Cox and the City of Soap Lake for the Position of Interim City Administrator – After discussion between Councilmembers and Chief Cox, it was decided that the contract would be allowed to expire.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2023 Transportation Update Presentation – Gray & Osborne gave a presentation on upcoming projects:
 - Daisy Street Pedestrian Crossing Improvements: a flashing beacon will be installed. This is 100% grant funded at the cost of \$63,400.00
 - Daisy Street Sidewalk Improvements: sidewalk will be redone and made ADA compliant. Cost is \$275,000.00 with a %5 City match of \$13,750.00
 - Marinas Dr. and 1st Ave NE Improvements: includes roadway and pedestrian improvements and access to the central business district. Cost is \$898,700.00 with a 3% City match of \$26,960.00
 - Main Ave W, Cherry St to Ginkgo St: roadway and pedestrian improvements. Funding is 100% grant for \$1.15 million
- B. Consultant Agreement for Design Engineering for Daisy Street Pedestrian Crossing Improvements – **M/Bratton, S/Woodhouse**; move to approve the consultant agreement for design engineering services related to the Daisy Street Pedestrian Crossing Improvements with Gray & Osborne. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- C. Consultant Agreement for Design Engineering for Main Avenue West Reconstruction Project – **M/Bratton, S/Taylor**; move to approve the consultant agreement for design engineering services related to the Main Avenue West Reconstruction Project with Gray & Osborne. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- D. Special Event Permit – Easter Egg Hunt – **M/ Sanderson, S/Bratton**; to approve the Special Event Permit for the Easter Egg Hunt. **Motion carried unanimously.** The event is sponsored by Grant County ABATE. It will be on April 8, 2023 from 10:00 am to noon at the Smokiam Park. Susan Carson asked for the permit fee to be waived, but the City cannot accommodate this request. ABATE will pay the \$100.00 fee for the event.
- E. Drug Testing Services – **M/Bratton, S/DuPuy**; to accept the professional services agreement between the City of Soap Lake and QCL, Inc. **Motion carried unanimously.** Chief Cox recommended new hire drug testing and post collision or reasonable suspicion testing.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

Fire Chief Baker – AMR negotiations with the Fire Districts was terminated by AMR. Fire District 7 transported 3 persons this week. The PD will probably assist more on medical calls.

Chief Cox – review a few recent calls, one that included a standoff with a resident in his home. The West Beach bathrooms were vandalized again. Will look at cost of damage and submit to City’s insurance for possible reimbursement. Mental health calls are skyrocketing. Would like to schedule a spring clean-up day for local residents.

City Planner Kovach – there is a current request from a residential developer for an exception to the 18-foot limit on the shoreline development. After discussion, Council agreed to keep the 18-foot limit and not allow the request for 30-foot exception.

Next Ordinance #1338; Next Resolution #994

COMMENTS

Councilmember DuPuy would like to review with Gray & Osborne the sewer pipe that was installed between Evergreen & Fir to see if this pipe was installed with sleeve. He will send the request through Mayor Agliano.

Councilmember Taylor reminded about the upcoming outstanding water resource meeting that will be at Masquer’s Theater on March 25th at 2:00 PM.

Councilmember Woodhouse would like to know if a volunteer could install new fixtures in the park bathrooms to help keep costs down? Finance Clerk Wade will check on options.

Councilmember Bratton said that the School District and McKay’s approved the rerouting of the sewer.

The Mayor submitted letters from the Department of Natural Resources, the USDA and McKay’s for support of the City’s request for emergency funding from the state for the repair/replacement of the lift stations and connecting lines.

ADJOURNMENT

M/Bratton, S/Woodhouse; move to adjourn at 7:38 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Michelle Agliano, Mayor

Jody Siebert, Administrative Assistant