

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 25, 2006
CITY OF ST. ANTHONY
420 NORTH BRIDGE, ST. ANTHONY, IDAHO

PRESENT: Mayor Bill Beck, Councilmembers Garth Rose, Shawn Fransen, Darby Merrill, Cathy Koon, Matt Blanchard and Dee Rausch.

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Jim Smith, Supt. of Public Works Woody Andersen, City Clerk-Treasurer Taci Stoddard, City Attorney Penny Stanford, concerned citizens and newsmedia.

EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING – KEITH RICHEY: Keith Richey, Fremont County Emergency Planning Coordinator outlined for the Council what the City and County have received from homeland security the last four years. Starting next year the funding will come under a competitive grant program. Richey stated he has over \$20,000 in training funds that are not being used. They will be sending officers from the Sheriff's office and Police department to a bomb school at no cost. Much of the training available is not restricted to just emergency responders. Any government officials can attend. Much of the training is at the National Fire Academy in Maryland, or arrangements could be made to bring training to this area.

Under Presidential mandate there now has to be training done on the incident command system, which is standard guidelines for emergencies or events so everywhere in the US will be same. Richey would like to offer a three hour class (condensed from 8 hours) for city officials. It would involve training on roles and responsibilities and doing an exercise (i.e. a winter storm). As all cities in the County on line with this training then they can build up to doing a full scale exercise. The Council discussed times to hold the training, and agreed to hold a special work meeting January 17th at 6:00 p.m. for the Mayor and Council, any involved agency and department heads, and any other interest employees. The City Clerk will get notice out to the employees.

Richey also announced that CERT program class are available and will be starting soon. These classes train community members to survive crisis until EMS services can arrive. There is no charge for the course, and supplies are given just for taking the course. It makes community members a good resource.

Council discussed with Richey who has control in a disaster situation in the City, and whether that authority rested with the Mayor or County Commissioners. Richey explained that authority still rested with the Mayor, but the County Commissioners had the power to declare a disaster to open the door for funding. Chief Smith stated that a draft of an emergency response plan had been completed that mirrored the County Plan and spelled out the line of authority.

PRESENTATION TO FORMER COUNCILMEMBER CATHY KOON: Mayor Beck recognized Koon for her years of service as a Councilmember and presented her with a plaque.

PARKS & RECREATION APPOINTMENT: The Mayor presented City resident Jennifer Wight for Council approval for appointment to the Parks and Recreation Committee. A motion to approve was made by Fransen, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

CITY ATTORNEY POSITION: The Mayor announced that he had received a letter of resignation from City Attorney Penny Stanford as City Attorney effective November 17th as she takes on her new responsibilities of a Magistrate Judge. The Mayor stated he has met with the personnel committee to discuss how to proceed with hiring a new city attorney. Councilmember Merrill stated the Personnel Committee had met and was recommended to the Council to put out an RFP for attorney services and look at contracting for an hourly rate, which could be evaluated later to see if the Council wished to have a salary contract. She explained that the hourly rate gives the City some time to decide if things are working out. Stanford stated that it may be worth it to look at have services billed hourly to find out, but the Council may find it costs more to go hourly. Merrill stated that it would be easier to go from hourly to a contract should they want to do that at a later time. Councilmember Merrill made a motion to publish an RFP 2nd, all in favor. A motion to go with an hourly rate until deemed otherwise made by Merrill, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

SWENSON PARK COMPLEX: The Mayor discussed with the Council the different options being looked into for the challenge of getting irrigation water the Swenson Park Complex. One option is looking at current water rights in the Twin Groves Canal and taking some of that water right and using it for recharge in exchange for drilling at well. There are some legal issues involved with that, and the Mayor stated he would like Council permission to allow him and Paul Scorseby of Schiess and Associates to meet with Kent Foster, the premier water rights attorney in the State. They would have a conference with him to get an idea of what would be involved for the process and get an idea what his fee could be depending on how the process went. Rose made a motion to give the Mayor permission to meet with Foster, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

The Mayor and Council also discussed the issues dealing with trying to assist the model airplane club in working with the Park committee. In recent meetings it has been identified that the group's liability insurance would not allow them to fly near a park. The two uses are not compatible. The Council made a commitment to lease the property, but the club has not signed the lease. Mayor Beck expressed his opinion that the Council make a commitment for the Park to move forward and find another location that would be better for the flying group. Councilmember Merrill expressed that she would not oppose that, but feels the City should made the effort to help the flying club find another location. The Mayor discussed some other possible options the club may be able to pursue. Merrill stated that now that it is known they cannot fly near other public areas, the City would not be able to use the property for another other uses, and stated the club would be better off in the long run to consider another location. A motion to rescind approval of the lease to the High Country Flyers was made by Merrill, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried. Merrill suggested the club meet with Park and Recreation to work on finding other locations.

The Council discussed how the ad hoc committee for the park would function. Council agreed that the committee would work directly with the City Administration and provide the Parks and Recreation Committee with minutes from the meetings.

BUOYS AT DIVERSION DAM: The Mayor explained that every spring there are two sets of buoys put in the river at the sand bar and diversion dam. One is put in by the power company at the dam and the other at the Sand Bar by the volunteer Fire Department. The Mayor stated that after some discussion it has been decided that the buoys near the dam are actually attracting kids instead of being a safety factor. They are no longer useful and the power company would like permission to not have to put them up anymore. Supt. Andersen added that the buoys also attract and catch moss and snags and can actually become a safety hazard. A motion to authorize the Mayor to send a letter to Rocky Mountain Power to allow removal of the buoys made by Merrill, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN: Blanchard stated that a draft of an Emergency Operations Plan for the City had been complete. He stated that in talking with Chief Smith, they would like to get a temporary committee together to work on completion of the plan. Blanchard stated he would be interested, and he and the Chief feel Supt. Andersen needs to be involved, as well as the Mayor and any others the Council feels would be necessary. The Mayor appointed to the Emergency Operations Committee, the acting Mayor, Chief of Police, Public Works Director, the Councilmember responsible for the Police budget, the Fremont County Emergency Management Coordinator, Fire Chief of the South Fremont Volunteer Fire Department, and a licensed EMT crew member from the City. A motion to approve the committee appointments made by Merrill, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried. The Chief clarified this would only be a short term committee acting until the plan was completed.

UTILITY VEHICLE PARKING: Councilmember Blanchard read a draft of a possible ordinance that would allow for utility vehicle parking in the two hour parking zone for various utility repair and construction that may need to be done during business hours that would extend beyond the two hour parking limit. City Attorney Stanford agreed that it made good sense, and as an ordinance would allow for the exception in any part of the City, not just the two hour parking zones. The proposal will be drafted in ordinance form and be presented to the Council at the next meeting.

CURFEW ORDINANCE: Mayor Beck stated there had been over 200 replies from City residents to the recent survey regarding the curfew ordinance. The results were 71% in favor of the curfew. Mayor Beck recommended doing a read through of the proposed ordinance, not for passage, but to have general discussion of some of the issues. Blanchard read. City Attorney Stanford stated it needed to be in ordinance form before official readings could continue. Stanford also stated that Chief Smith is a fine Chief of Police that has the best interests of the community at heart. She stated she has some concerns about whether the ordinance is enforceable and thinks it provides some help with larger communities. She asked that before the decision was made about the

ordinance that Councilmembers talk with law enforcement officers in local communities in the area that have a curfew and see how they feel about it and if it's effective. It would make it easier to understand and they could see the enforceability of the ordinance. Stanford will put the document in the proper ordinance form. Councilmember Fransen stated also that the City has a great chief and he will be great asset, but as long as he has lived here has never been a curfew, and he doesn't seem to see in talking with local businesses about vandalism that there is anything pointing in the direction that it is needed. Councilmember Rausch stated that if the people of the City of St. Anthony want a curfew they should have a curfew, and if that is there wish then the Council should follow through. She would like the time be from midnight to 5 am. Merrill asked if it would be possible for the times to be different for different age groups. Chief Smith explained that the idea of having exception is supposed to cover the different age groups for legitimate activities. Rose state he felt people he had talked with were split fifty-fifty on the issue, and he feels it's questionable to enforce. He is still debating in his own mind whether to put something on the books that needs to be enforced, but is hard to be enforced. Blanchard stated he would like the time to be 12:00 a.m., and understands the need but he is not sure he has seen any problems. He stated, however, that is it sometimes better to be proactive than reactive. Mayor Beck commented that people he had talked to saw it as a tool for parents to use to enforce rules at home. Fransen stated that maybe hours should be 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. for those 16 and younger. Council agreed to have different time options listed in the ordinance to be considered at a possible 1st reading at the next council meeting.

MAYOR & COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS DEPARTMENT REPORTS

MAYOR BECK

The Mayor stated he would hopefully have a name for Council approval for the Councilmember position vacated by Cathy Koon at the next meeting.

He announced that access to Keefer Park was going to be blocked off for the winter to keep people of the new sod until next spring.

COUNCILMEMBER BLANCHARD

Blanchard announced that the Police Department was looking into a grant for communications that would also help the County. The Department is also still looking for an officer to replace Blake Fullmer.

COUNCILMEMBER ROSE

Rose stated that the Fire Department asked that the Council look down the road to replacing some equipment. Mayor Beck asked if there had been any discussion about the City joining the Fire District. This had been discussed years ago, and the Mayor suggested it may be time to have to discuss that again. It would work the same as when the City joined the Fremont County Library District. The Mayor asked Rose to get the feelings of the Fire District Board and see if it was something they would like to pursue. Rose will try and attend either their November or December meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER RAUSCH

Rausch stated she had great hopes for Cathy Koon being employed in the Fremont County Economic Development position. The Mayor added that the County had received some grant funds and hired a consultant and will have meetings to work on developing an economic strategy plan.

COUNCILMEMBER FRANSEN

Fransen told Councilmembers to make sure they take a look at the recent work at Keefer Park with the new shelter. A great job has been done and it will be a major improvement from what the park has had in past. He stated the digging in front of the army tank was for the oval concrete pad that had been proposed last year as a memorial to war veterans that had served from St. Anthony. He let the Council know that ad hoc committee for Swenson Park is going strong and picking up some major contributions. Right now they have more than enough equipment and time donated to do everything that needs to be done at the park. Paul Scorseby of Schiess & Associates at a recent meeting expressed excitement to work with such an enthusiastic committee. It is a busy project and they have the committee together to make go. Fransen stated there was a young man from BYU-Idaho going into landscape architecture that has offered to assist with design work as part of a project to include on his resume.

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Willard D. Beck, Mayor

Attest:

Taci Stoddard, City Clerk-Treasurer