

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 13, 2006
CITY OF ST. ANTHONY
420 NORTH BRIDGE, ST. ANTHONY, IDAHO

PRESENT: Mayor Bill Beck, Councilmembers Garth Rose, Darby Merrill, Matt Blanchard, Dee Rausch and David Loomis. Councilmember Fransen was excused.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: City Attorney Bill Forsberg led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTOR SPORTS COMPLEX AT FAIRGROUNDS: Donald Powell, sponsor of the recent efforts for a drag racing strip and motor sports complex at the Fremont County Fairgrounds, presented information to the City Council about the plans for the proposed facility. Councilmembers were presented with a written plan and viewed pictures of a similar drag strip in Gooding. A map was also given to Councilmembers of the site. Some of the proposed activities include a 1/8 mile drag strip, mud bog pit, and outlaw go cart track. Powell stated the activities could end up increasing the amount of parking available for other events at the fairgrounds such as the Pioneer Days rodeo because they would be making some parking improvements. He brought to the Council's attention that concerns brought up at the Planning and Zoning hearing on the Conditional Use permit were addressed in the letter and other concerns could be addressed with the lease from the County. He sees this as a big positive and use for ground that is not currently being use. Drag races are a family affair, and this would bring people to St. Anthony. There are no racing facilities on this side of the state, with the closest track being four hours away. Powell stated that the Fremont County Fair Board is 100% behind the complex. The property is not in the City limits, but in the impact area and needs a recommendation from the City. Planning and Zoning has held a hearing for a conditional use permit and recommends approval.

City Attorney Forsberg discussed with the Council that the impact area agreement with the County indicated the City is the permitting authority and not Fremont County. He also stated the motor sports complex is not a compatible use for the zoning, and doing a Conditional Use permit would not be appropriate. A variance needs to be granted or the area needs to be re-zoned and changed from its existing C1 zoning. A motion to look at a zone change for that portion of the impact area and send the issue back to Planning and Zoning made by Merrill, 2nd, all in favor.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT: Cathy Koon, the new Economic Development Director for Fremont County, gave a report to the City Council listing what she has been working on the past seven weeks since she took the position. Some of the items she discussed were the Idaho Transportation Department Grants, the Ft. Henry Scenic By-way, recent trainings attended, prospective new businesses looking to expand

in St. Anthony, railroad tracks property and crossing issues, meetings with business owners, revamping the Chamber of Commerce, ideas for capturing business from the sand dunes, training classes for businesses, BYUI advanced writing students writing articles about Fremont County, getting the City Airport federally funded, working on upgrading the “Welcome to St. Anthony” sign, and website work for Fremont County.

CITY ATTORNEY CONTRACT: The Council reviewed the proposed contract. The City will be withholding FICA from the contract wages to make sure they are covered with regards to withholding regulations. Councilmember Merrill read the contract and made a motion to approve, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

2ND DECEMBER MEETING: A motion to cancel the 2nd meeting in December because of the Christmas holiday made by Merrill, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

MINUTES: Minutes from the November 30th and December 13, 2006, council meetings were presented for Council approval. A motion to approve was made by Blanchard, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

BILLS: Bills were presented for Council approval. After discussion a motion to pay with exception of a possible duplicate bill was made by Merrill, 2nd, all in favor.

CURFEW ORDINANCE: The proposed curfew ordinance was presented for a 2nd reading. A motion to suspend the rules and read the ordinance by title only made by Merrill, 2nd, all in favor, Loomis and Rose opposed, Rausch, Merrill, and Blanchard motion approve by majority. Merrill read 2nd reading by title only. Loomis stated his feelings that the poll that was done with a flyer in the City utility bills was not a good representation. With the people he has talked to 90% feel that making a curfew is basically making a cut in people’s liberty as youngsters, and they don’t want the curfew. He reported he has talked with about 30 people, 4 were for it, and the others were against it. Merrill stated she felt the majority of people she talked were in favor. Loomis indicated of those he talked to that were in favor of the curfew didn’t understand why there were two times for the different age groups. A motion to approve the ordinance on the 2nd reading Merrill, 2nd, Loomis and Rose opposed, Rausch, Merrill, and Blanchard in favor, motion passed by majority.

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS DEPARTMENT REPORTS

MAYOR BECK

Mayor Beck reported on the Industrial park and that Summit Truss plant has exceeded their expectations of their business plan. An essential completion on construction has issued with everything done except the paving (which has to be completed by June 30, 2006) and a punch list of items.

The Youth Advisory committee has had a 2nd meeting with the Youth Council. They are still in the organization phase and working on bylaws. There are four young men coming

right now and they are working on getting some more. Councilmember Blanchard mentioned two of the young men still want to serve, but they will be leaving for one month to serve at the state legislature in Boise.

COUNCILMEMBER ROSE

Rose reported that he had talked with two of the fire district commissioners, and was going to meet with them tonight, but he state he worried the Mayor would be changing council assignments. He will carry on with the Commissioners about joining Fire District.

He reported the City has been with PSI for a year now with the sanitation contract, and it seems to be going well.

COUNCILMEMBER RAUSCH

Rausch reported on a recent community workshop which purpose was to discuss the economic demographics of the County. It was very well attended and very interesting. Additional workshop on other subject will be held in January and March.

SUPT. ANDERSEN

Andersen expressed some concerns about a road shortcut at the end of the airport runway that someone is using. Two lights at the end of the runway have been destroyed. Andersen also reported that three of the City crew had passed their certification exams; two in collections and one in wastewater treatment.

CHIEF SMITH

The Chief reported two new officers had been hired. He has spoken with the Sheriff about combining efforts on a narcotics grant along with other area agencies. He discussed Homeland Security funds that are available to the County, Ashton and St. Anthony, and is working with Keith Richey, the Emergency Services Coordinator for Fremont County and getting some of those funds.

Chief Smith also reported on some nuisance yards that are being worked on. A letter to property owners is being fine tuned by the City Attorney. Smith has passed his Idaho law week examine to be certified as an Idaho Peace Officer. The pedestrian street crossing problem was discussed, and the Mayor stated he would put something in the newsletter about it.

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Willard D. Beck, Mayor

Attest:

Taci Stoddard, City Clerk-Treasurer