

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 10, 2007
CITY OF ST. ANTHONY
420 NORTH BRIDGE, ST. ANTHONY, IDAHO

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

ALSO: City Attorney William Forsberg, City Clerk Taci Stoddard, Police Chief Jim Smith, Supt. of Public Works Woody Andersen, concerned citizens and newsmedia.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge was led by Chayna Hirschi.

ELECTRIC SCOOTER: Owen Hirschi and his daughter Chayna were present to discuss electric scooters use in the City. Owen stated his daughter had saved money and purchased an electric scooter this past summer. It was pointed out to them that it was illegal to drive an electric scooter without a driver's license, which Chayna did not have yet. Mr. Hirschi began to wonder about this and do some checking into the law himself. He cited the Idaho Code section scooter use currently falls in, and stated he felt the scooters may have been exempted from state law restrictions had they been in use during the time the laws were adopted. Further clarification was sent out in the City's last newsletter explaining that scooter use was prohibited on public roads and sidewalks. Hirschi decided to see about changing the law and contacted State Senator Brent Hill. Hill suggested that another section of Idaho Code suggests that City's can regulate the safe use of "toys" on city streets. He would like the City to give some consideration by an ordinance or some other means which would allow the use of electric scooters as kids would use bicycles and tri-cycles. Councilmember Merrill asked the City Attorney for his opinion. Forsberg replied that he would like some time to do some research. Mayor Beck suggested that Mr. Hirschi, Chief Smith and Forsberg work out something that could be presented to the Council. Chayna Hirschi also addressed the Council asking them to consider changing the law to allow electric scooters to be used. A meeting was scheduled for the following week to review the City Attorney's research.

P.A.Y.S. RACING SNOW HAULING AGREEMENT: The snow hauling has expired and needs to be renewed. Mayor Beck gave the Council the history of how agreement came to be. Supt. Andersen clarified that the agreement was done because it is beneficial to the City because it gives a place to put the snow and eliminates the City have to clean up garbage from the snow after it melts. Some of the problems in the past in hauling the snow have mostly been the time involved in hauling outside the City. In order to get the snow removed in a timely manner and take the additional time to haul it to PAYS Racing a full crew is needed and all the equipment needs to be operable. Andersen feels the fuel and wear and tear costs are minimal; it is just the time involved. He would still like to see the snow go out. Councilmember Rose pointed out that the agreement already addresses that the City will take it out when they are available.

Marvin Crain, PAYS Racing owner, stated his need to have the snow is greater at the 1st of the season than later, and he would like to have more of it at the 1st of the season when he needs it for the snowmobile races. He cited the benefit of business to the community that his races bring.

City Attorney Forsberg agreed that a new contract would be needed. Blanchard stated he would like to see it hauled out to PAYS Racing's site, and Rose commented it could still be left up to the Superintendent's discretion. A motion to approve a new contract was made by Rose. Forsberg added he would like to see it added to the agreement to have PAYS provide a copy of their insurance every year. It was also discussed that the contract should continue year to year unless terminated by either party. A new motion was made by Rose to approve the agreement and approve hauling snow in the interim until the agreement is signed, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

SWENSON PARK COMPLEX: Mayor Beck explained efforts are still being made to try and get water to the park by using water rights in the Twin Groves canal transferred to the Salem Union canal somehow. Drilling a recovery well will not work. The Mayor has approached the Salem Union about transporting water to where the City can get a pump in. The Mayor needs approval of the Council to work with South Eastern Idaho Canal Company to come up with an agreement that would satisfy both parties and then bring it back to the Council for final approval. Approval to enter negotiations with the canal company made by Rose, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

2ND JANUARY MEETING CANCELLATION: A motion to cancel the 2nd January meeting due to lack of business was made by Merrill, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

MINUTES: Minutes from the December 13th Council Meeting were presented for approval. No corrections noted. A motion to approve made by Merrill, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

BILLS: Bills were presented for Council approve. A motion to pay was made by Merrill, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

CURFEW ORDINANCE: A motion to read the proposed ordinance by title only for the 3rd and final reading made by Merrill, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried. Merrill read by title only for a 3rd reading. A motion to pass was made by Merrill, 2nd, a roll call vote was taken with Loomis, Rose, and Fransen voting against passing the ordinance, Blanchard, Merrill, and Rausch voting in favor of the ordinance. Mayor Beck broke the tie by voting in favor of the ordinance. Ordinance was adopted by majority voted and will published. Mayor Beck explained that he voted in favor because he felt the City did what it could in finding out what residents wanted, especially with the results of the survey of 71% being in favor of a curfew ordinance. He stated that he knows what the police have in mind with the ordinance, and it was never the intention to have officers roam the streets looking for curfew violators. It is a good tool for the police department in their crime fighting efforts, and he feels the department is behind it.

MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS & COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS:

Mayor Beck addressed those present and gave an accounting of the City the past year. He also detailed upcoming issues that the City will have to address.

He discussed the completion of the wastewater projects, and that the treatment plant is showing 90% removal and levels for all contaminants are within allowed limits. There are still sewer lines that need to be replaced and the money still needs to be found for that as the Council plans for the future. The water study is complete. The garbage contractor has been good to work with; the City is cleaner. Beck explained the need to keep an eye on the fees, and that the departments need to pay for themselves.

In the Police Department he is seeing go things with the new Chief and the Department. Another challenge is to look at the patrol equipment and come up with a way of upgrading it. The Code enforcement officer has been working hard and is a great help to the Police Department. The Fire Department sent a letter a few months ago that the City's fire truck is aging and made some suggestions to the City to begin planning on replacing the truck.

The Mayor discussed streets and the recently completed transportation study. The Council needs to get from the citizens what they want to see done with the millions of dollars of repair work that needs to be done. He stated there would be some personnel changes in the upcoming year with Supt. Andersen retiring.

The airport is in good condition for a small airport. There is continued interest in putting in hangar. The power supply does need to be upgraded, and the City still needs to continue to plan for future maintenance. He is excited about working with former Councilmember Cathy Koon in her new position as Fremont County Economic Development Director. The new industrial park at the airport is finished except for the road, and he hopes lots will be ready to be sold in the spring. The Mayor's Youth Advisory group has gotten started, and they are interested in taking on some projects in the community and having some input at City Council and Parks Committee meetings.

The Mayor explained that the City Code had been reviewed with regards to committees before setting them up and giving Councilmembers their responsibilities. The personnel committee will be Rose, Merrill, Loomis and the Mayor. The Public Works Committee will involve Streets, Airport, City properties and Parks and will consist of Blanchard, Rose, and Fransen. The Utilities Committee will be Merrill and Rausch. The Public Safety Committee involving Police, Fire, and Code Compliance will be Loomis and Rausch. Merrill and Blanchard will continue with the Mayor on the Youth Advisory Committee. Councilmember Rausch will continue to serve on the ECIPDA Board and the Mayor will continue with his membership on the FEAC Board.

COUNCIL REPORTS & DEPARTMENT REPORTS

COUNCILMEMBER BLANCHARD: Blanchard announced the some of the members of the Youth Advisory Committee will not be able to be involved with meeting until the return. They are serving as pages for the next six weeks in Boise at the State Legislature.

COUNCILMEMBER LOOMIS: Loomis asked what the status was on work camp inmate crew. Supt. Andersen reported and how many the City was currently using and their positions in the City. Loomis discussed looking at the agreement with the work camp to how best use those hours, and if the City is getting it's monies worth according to the agreement. Andersen explained that winter is hard to use any extra work camp crew because it is a slow time.

COUNCILMEMBER ROSE: Rose thanked the Mayor for working hard this year and doing a good job, and stated the Council had too. He discussed the nuisance ordinance and the misconception that the Council is divided on the issue. He also commended Chief Smith on his 1st six months with the City.

COUNCILMEMBER MERRILL: Merrill stated her appreciation for the Council and a job well done.

COUNCILMEMBER RAUSCH: Rausch announced the next two economic development workshops coming up. She stated she felt like the decisions made by the Council the past year have been given a lot of thought with the best intentions for the City.

COUNCILMEMBER FRANSEN: Fransen reported the Swenson Park Committee didn't meet in December, but will be starting up again in the next two weeks. They will hopefully be getting the park laid out so a computer drawing can be made. Heather Griffel, one of the committee members, is starting to do some grant writing and getting some grant material. She will be bringing about 16 possible sources of grant funds to the committee to see what they want to do. Rose commented on city resident Jim Hobbs doing snow plowing on the Greenway, and how generous that was of him to do that.

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