

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 12, 2007
CITY OF ST. ANTHONY, IDAHO
420 NORTH BRIDGE, ST. ANTHONY, IDAHO

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

ALSO PRESENT: City Attorney Bill Forsberg, City Clerk-Treasurer Taci Stoddard, Supt. of Public Works Scott Butigan, Police Chief Jim Smith, Chamber President Sherri Thomas, concerned citizens and news media.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: City Resident Angie Fadness led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED CITY ATV ROUTE: Mayor Beck explained the directions the proposed route would take coming in from the landfill road, then making its way to 1st East and down to main and to the ball fields. He explained he had received several phone calls, all of which were negative to the idea of having the route. The Mayor then read city resident Larry Bennett's letter in opposition to the route. Several residents spoke concerning safety, noise, and disruption of the community. Mayor Beck also explained the City had been contacted by Fish and Game who indicated a route from the sand dunes to the landfill road was approved the day of the ATV For the Record Parade but Fish and Game has no intention of approving a permanent route. Sherri Thomas explained that the route was discussed at town meetings as a way to bring business into town from tourists at the sand dunes. Some residents commented that it would only benefit a few of the businesses, and could lower property values of those homes on the route, and could have an affect on our streets that are already in need of repair. Councilmember Loomis commented that a designated route would allow police to know where ATV's would be allowed on the streets, and that most people are going to be coming into town touring and not "hot rodding", and it would at least give people an option.

After further discussion a motion was made by Merrill to table the issue pending further information about a designated trail in the county that would come into town from the sand dunes. The motion received a 2nd, all voted in favor.

4th NORTH SPEED LIMIT CHANGE: City resident Rod Willmore addressed the council regarding the decision to lower the speed limit on West 4th North recently. He feels the change was not given proper consideration prior to changing it. He presented a petition against the recently lowered speed limit and asking the Council to change it back to 30 miles per hour. He feels lowering it was unjustified and it has become a nuisance. He feels it is inconsistent with the other streets in town, and doesn't feel 30 miles per hour is too fast or a safety problem if it is enforced.

Discussion followed with residents commenting in favor of leaving the temporary speed limit in place until the Salem Bridge is complete, and others siding with Willmore in changing it back to 30. Some suggested changing it to 25 mph as a compromise, and others discussed enforcement

of the speed limit being important no matter what the speed limit is. Chief Smith commented that if the speed limit is too low, issues come up whether it breeds contempt for the law. Councilmember Merrill made a motion that except for school zone that the limit be set at 25 mph until Salem Bridge open scheduled for Dec 2007, 2nd, Merrill, Rausch, in favor, all others opposed, motion failed. Councilmember Loomis made a motion that the speed limit be 30 mph except for the school zone, and 20 mph for Class A trucks, motion received a 2nd. Discussion on the motion followed about defining trucks, and truck traffic being only part of the issue. Councilmember Loomis voted in favor, all others opposed, motion failed. Councilmember Rose made a motion to leave it alone at 20 mph until the bridge work is complete, 2nd, Loomis abstained, all others in favor, motion carried.

AIRPORT & FAIRGROUNDS ZONE CHANGE: The Council discussed the need to change the zone from C1 to a Public Service District. The City can change the airport as it is in the City limits, but the County will have to have their own hearing for the fairgrounds as it is only in the City's impact area. Planning and Zoning recommends changing the zone to PDS (Public Service District). A written ordinance is needed to proceed with the airport zone change. A motion to recommend to the County Planning and Zoning Commission to change the zone based on the City's Planning and Zoning recommendations was made by Rose, all favor, motion carried.

LEONARD PROPERTY CONDEMNATION: The City discussed possible property condemnation of a structure located at 650 South 2nd East. Councilmembers were given a copy of a letter written to Suzette Roseborough, Bart Leonard's guardian, in September. City Attorney Forsberg explained to the council that the building has been empty for 10 years, as Mr. Leonard is disabled and lives in Boise in a group home. Pictures were reviewed and Forsberg further explained that the property has deteriorated, and the home is not habitable. Various complaints from neighbors have been received about the condition and safety of the property. Forsberg stated under city code 8-04-010, the Council has the authority to declare it a nuisance and request the property be abated. He asked for Council direction on how to proceed. Roseborough was asked for her comments, and she responded that it had always been the intention that her brother would return home, and in the beginning following his accident they tried to keep the place up. She feels many of the neighbor's children may be vandalizing the property. She has spoken with a real estate agent who says the property is repairable. Because of Medicaid issues the property has to be sold at fair market value and would go towards medical liens on the property with the County and Medicaid. As long as Leonard could possibly come back and live at the property they would not force him to pay. They couldn't rent the property because Leonard cannot show that he receives an income. Sale of the property is a possibility but will take some time. A time frame for getting the property listed was discussed, and what is a reasonable selling price for the property. Forsberg suggested giving 30 days to list the property and review again in 6 months if the property hasn't sold. Roseborough asked for 60 days as she has been told by Medicaid that she will need 2 or 3 appraisals, and she cannot jeopardize her brother's benefit. A motion was made, based on the Mayor's recommendation to give 60 days to list the property, and then review in 60 days to see if steps had been taken for the listing and what the listing price is, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

PROPOSED 2007 BUDGET AMENDMENT: A budget amendment was reviewed and discussed. The budget needed to be amended to account for additional revenue and expenditures

received during the fiscal year. A Motion to set the hearing for September 26th was made by Merrill, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

MINUTES: Minutes from the August 8th and August 27th Council meetings were presented for approval. Changes were noted and a motion to approve with changes was made by Merrill, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

BILLS: Bills were presented for Council approval and review. After discussion a motion to pay was made by Merrill, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS DEPARTMENT REPORTS

MAYOR BECK

Mayor Beck reported on High Country RC&D efforts in cloud seeding to help with the drought and water issue. Water District #1 has pledged to fund one-sixth of the \$120,000 per year cost up to \$35,000. Several counties have joined in with \$5,000 each, and they are asking all the cities and other entities to contribute. The issue will be on the next agenda to decide how to participate and how much to contribute. Merrill stated she would look at the water budget to see how much could be available.

The Mayor reported he would be meeting with Schiess & Associates on the extension of City services on Radio Road and St. Anthony Motor site at the South end of town.

COUNCILMEMBER MERRILL

Merrill reported on recent water leak work in the City and fire hydrant replacements in town that will continue into next year.

COUNCILMEMBER FRANSEN

Fransen stated he would like to see the City get involved with helping to save the Hess Museum.

CITY ATTORNEY FORSBERG

Forsberg reported the documents on the suit with Fremont County have been filed. He also commented that criminal business had picked up lately.

CHIEF SMITH

The Police Policy and Procedures manual is complete and will be distributed.

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Attest:

Willard D. Beck, Mayor

Taci Stoddard, City Clerk-Treasurer