

*CITY COUNCIL AND COUNTY COMMISSIONER SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES –
December 2, 2009 – 6:30 P.M.
CITY OF ST. ANTHONY COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
ST. ANTHONY, ID*

PRESENT: City of St. Anthony Mayor Garth Rose, City Council Members Woody Andersen, Bryant Biorn, Elva Powell, Bryan Stoddard, Rod Wilmore, County Commissioners Leroy Miller, and Ronald "Skip" Hurt.

ALSO PRESENT: City Attorney Bill Forsberg, City Public Works Superintendent Scott Butigan, City Clerk/Treasurer Patty Parkinson, City Chief of Police Jim Smith, County Clerk Abbie Mace, and Mayor Elect Neils Thueson.

The meeting was called to order by City of St. Anthony Mayor Garth Rose at 6:30 p.m.

Neils Thueson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Andersen said the city is working on an application for funding from the Local Highway Rural Investment Program for the bridge at the end West Main. Mayor Rose said that there were some changes to the original plan. The city has decided not to make the road into a T because it was determined that the bridge is in still good repair. Instead, they plan on keeping the bridge and increasing the width of the bridge by 18 feet. Commissioner Hurt said the county is still committed to assisting the city with the project.

Councilmember Andersen also reported that the Chamber of Commerce meeting is tomorrow and they will be electing a new president. Councilmember Biorn said there are many registered members, but few attend the meetings. Mayor Rose asked for ideas on how to improve participation. Commissioner Miller said that maybe a Winter Carnival might be something the Chamber could look at doing.

Councilmember Andersen reported on the Association of Idaho Cities (AIC) meeting he attended in Idaho Falls. He said that the state is looking at an 8% decrease in the state budget. Commissioner Hurt said the state is looking at cutting entire programs, instead of just cutting back.

Commissioner Hurt reported that the county is beginning to look at where they can cut back on oiling the roads. It used to be a five year rotation and now they are looking at seven years.

Commissioner Hurt reported that the county uses Black Inc. Solutions for insurance for their employees. Hurt explained some of the program and how it works. Mayor Rose said that a council member should follow up on this. Councilmember Stoddard said this could be something the Finance Committee should look into. Stoddard asked that this item be placed on the Finance Committee's agenda for Monday. Clerk Mace said she'd give Clerk Parkinson the contact name and number.

Councilmember Stoddard said that the city needs to look at options regarding the police department. Commissioner Hurt said that the county is willing to support and help the city

with the city's program and whatever the city wants to do. Hurt reported on the possible increases in costs to the county if they were to provide police protection for the city. Mayor Rose said this has been talked about for several years. Hurt said that by statute the city could abandoned their police department and request that the county do that function. Stoddard said it is something that needs to be addressed, most likely in the next fiscal year. Councilmember Biorn asked what would happen to the current employees and would the county consider hiring them if the city were to eliminate in whole or in part the police department? Hurt said hiring is completely up to the Sheriff.

Councilmember Stoddard said that the city will also be reviewing the Fire Department. Councilmember Biorn reported that the fire district and the county are not tied together in any way other than the county collects the taxes for the fire district. Clerk Mace reported that there are four fire districts in the county and the Fremont Fire District is the only one that has full time dispatchers on duty. Commissioner Hurt wanted to remind the city that there is equipment that needs to be maintained and there should be at least one eight hour employee on duty for that need.

Councilmember Willmore wanted to personally thank the county for the help with crack sealing the runway at the airport. It couldn't have been done without their help. Willmore asked if the county could help with snow plowing. Mayor Elect Thueson said that if it can not be plowed then someone needs to notify the FFA and close the airport down. Public Works Superintendent Butigan will contact the county for assistance by going through Marla Vik. Willmore also reported on the pilot controlled lighting system for landing. He thought that it would pay for itself in the first year in electricity savings. Willmore also reported the airport now has fuel available. Having fuel available makes the airport more useable to more pilots.

Councilmember Stoddard asked about the existing shop south of the canal. Commissioner Hurt said the Fire District and County have to have a hearing to sell the building to the Fire District. That hearing is in process and will be held on the 21st.

Public Works Superintendent Butigan said that the construction that was supposed to happen on Bridge Street won't likely be done until spring. There will be a project on East Main that will start in the spring. This project is being done with stimulus money. The East Main project will include curbing and sidewalks will be ADA accessible.

Mayor Elect Thueson said he is really happy to see this kind of cooperation between the County Commissioners and the City Council Members.

Commissioner Hurt offered to help the city will and work towards building good relationships. Hurt reported that they are working well with Ashton and also provided some economic funding for Island Park. The county has two new buildings and new diesel tanks that they are sharing with the school district. The old stud mill office has been remodeled and a fleet manager will be hired. They are just finishing up the new road and bridge shop in Ashton and finishing the EMS building in Island Park. Mayor Rose asked where the county is with the building for Search & Rescue. Hurt said they are moving into the new building tonight. There will be some changes to the building and those changes will need to go through the City's Planning and Zoning Board. It will include a kitchen,

small office and some other improvements. Clerk Mace reported that Fremont County has the largest Search & Rescue in the state. The county does more calls than any other county.

Commissioner Hurt is a bit concerned about next year's budget and the downturn in the economy.

Commissioner Miller said they sold some property up on Bitch Creek, receiving \$210,000. There are another four parcels that the county will be selling in the spring. There may be a possibility that some stimulus money will be received from the Forest Service. The county is working on trail projects, water projects and maybe a bathroom replacement in Island Park. The county has a couple of new groomers coming. They are given these groomers from the state through gas tax money. Fremont County has the largest area to groom in the state.

Commissioner Miller said that the grant for the new fairground bleachers was denied. Miller said he was disappointed that didn't happen. Miller reported that Senator Risch has asked Commissioner Hurt to testify in Washington, DC on the Mount Jefferson area. Hurt will be representing not only Fremont County, but Idaho and Montana. If they make this into a wilderness area it would hurt a lot of business and the local travel industry. The economic impact on Island Park alone would be devastating.

Commissioner Miller said that the golf committee has really turned the golf course around, making it the best year they have ever had. Commissioner Hurt said it has a lot to do with Miller's involvement. Miller said it was the work of the committee. They replaced the roof and windows at the club house.

Commissioner Miller said the County Census Committee is working on many different projects. The Census is looking for workers and they are in the process of interviewing. Right now, what's important is completing the annexation maps to ensure that everyone is correctly counted. Also important is educating people of the importance of the census.

Chief of Police Jim Smith said that they are working out the bugs on the radio system with the repeater. Teton Communications will be putting up the repeater next to the county building between the courthouse and the Sheriff's Office.

Councilmember Biorn reported on the Community Thanksgiving Dinner put on by the Lions Club. Biorn said he was there for a couple of hours and reported that there were 17 turkeys, 8 or 9 hams and about 100 pounds of potatoes. They have gone from around 300 people attending to 450 people attending. He said it is concerning to see so many people attend, but at the same time a good thing to see so much community participation and donations.

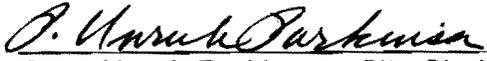
Council members and commissioners agreed that Thursday, March 4, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. would be the time for the next meeting here at City Hall.

There being no further business to come before the City Council or the County Commission the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Rose at 7:45 p.m.



Garth Rose, Mayor

Attest:



Patty Unruh Parkinson, City Clerk-Treasurer

