

*CITY OF ST. ANTHONY
SPECIAL COUNCIL / COUNTY MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 10, 2010 – 6:30 P.M.
420 NORTH BRIDGE, SUITE A, ST. ANTHONY, ID, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS*

PRESENT: City of St. Anthony Mayor Neils Thueson, City Council Members Elva Powell, Rod Willmore, Bryan Stoddard, Bryant Biorn, Suzanne Bagley, Woody Andersen, County Commissioner Paul Romrell.

ALSO PRESENT: City Police Chief Jim Smith, City Public Works Superintendent Scott Butigan (arrived at 6:42), City Clerk/Treasurer Patty Parkinson, City Attorney Bill Forsberg and approximately 15 interested citizens.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thueson at 6:30 p.m.

GENERAL BUSINESS 6:30 p.m. – Since the meeting had not been posted by the county, only Commissioner Romrell was presented to report on county issues.

City of St. Anthony and Fremont County Update and Review of City/County issues – Commissioner Romrell reported on the work being done by county crews due to the recent flooding. The Teton River was going over the banks and a lot of work had to be done to keep the river within its banks. Rocks and gravel were hauled to maintain the banks. If this hadn't been done, Romrell thought it could have flooded downtown Sugar City. It did tie up the county's road and bridge department for a couple of days. Had this flooding occurred under a normal snow pack, it might have ended up differently.

Mayor Thueson asked about the county chipping and sealing the roads. Romrell said they are still working on bridges and it may be July or August before chipping and sealing the streets can be started. Thueson said there is a good amount of tailings from the Bridge Street project and offered the tailings for the county to use in trade for some assistance with the city streets later.

Mayor Thueson reported on renegotiating with the city's garbage contractor and asked about the current status of the landfill. Romrell reported meeting with Clark County Commissioners and discussed the options of participating with them in an incinerator. Later that same day there was a report of seepage coming out from the east side of the landfill. The county has hired an engineering firm to look at what is going on and to come up with a plan on how to deal with the seepage. Currently it hasn't affected the ground water, but it would be nice to have an incinerator operating within our area. With an incinerator there is a constant flow of electricity being produced and could be a potential revenue stream. Fremont, Bonneville, Madison, Teton Counties and Teton County, Wyoming may be getting together to make this incinerator plan workable. Teton and Madison County are currently trucking their garbage to Jefferson County. With a new planned incinerator, they will be able to take all sorts of waste, biomedical, sewage, etc. The big question has to do with the current leaching. This is a day by day thing and the county is working with DEQ and a plan is being developed in the event the landfill needs to be worked on, by removing the hill or lining the landfill. Romrell shared with the city the different options available to the county should there be problems with the current landfill.

Public Works Superintendent Butigan said they have spoken to County Road and Bridge Manger Marla Vik and as soon as the weather gets better work will be done on the roads.

Councilmember Stoddard thanked Romrell for all the hard work the county has done to maintain an open relationship with the city.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Anthony's City Hall Council Chambers. This will be right before the city council's regular meeting at 7 p.m.

Mayor Thueson recessed the meeting for 10 minutes at 6:50.

The regular city council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Thueson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE was led by Attorney Forsberg.

GENERAL BUSINESS 7:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Variance Recommendation / Barrientos / Hathaway (Tibbets) – Bill Butterfield of the Planning and Zoning Committee (P&Z) explained the variance. The variance was for a request to place a double wide trailer home on a lot without a foundation. City ordinance requires a permanent cement foundation. Councilmember Stoddard asked if Barrientos had a specific plan. Butterfield said they don't want to put it on a cement foundation because of the costs being too expensive for them. Councilmember Willmore asked about the public hearing and how the public responded. Butterfield said there was one neighbor and one letter, but comment was neither negative nor positive. David Atkinson of P&Z said he had some issues with the city's current ordinance and how it is stricter than the state code, which doesn't require a mobile home to have a concrete foundation. Mayor Thueson said that he has a real concern about allowing variances for any reason. Stating if the city allows for one to do it, then the individual having to abide by the ordinance would not be happy. The ordinances need to be followed and if the ordinance isn't good then it should be changed. Thueson asked for a motion. A motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Committee to not allow the request for variance for Juan or Maria Barrientos, 339 W 6th S, for the placement of a manufactured home without a foundation was made Councilmember Anderson and seconded by Councilmember Biorn. All council members were in favor. Motion carried 6-0. Biorn asked if P&Z would look at the ordinance for possible recommendations on changes. Mayor asked the clerk to send notice.

Martha Russell / Spokesperson for Fire Fighters – Martha Russell introduced herself as a concerned citizen. She said she is not a legitimate spokesperson for the fire fighters, just a concerned citizen. Russell said she has lived in St. Anthony for the last 19 years. Russell said she has concerns about the current decisions regarding the St. Anthony Volunteer Fire Department. She has heard rumors and wants to have the rumors and gossip clarified. She is also concerned about the group that has kept the city and county a safe place to live from fire dangers. She said she has been trying to get the word out about what was being decided in terminating the St. Anthony Volunteer Fire Department. The fire department has sponsored her and several others in a bowling league and that is why she wants to help this group. Russell presented the city council with a petition. She

said she took it upon herself to circulate this petition among the residents of the city and the county. She said the title "Dispatchers" was not an accurate title of what they do. Russell also spoke about the Church family house fire and said we need to thank our volunteers and everything they have done for the city and county. She then handed the petition to the Mayor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Thueson then opened the floor to entertain any comment. Mayor asked Councilmember Biorn if it was the intent of the city council to dissolve the volunteer fire department. Councilmember Biorn said no and the volunteers are to be respected and their service is appreciated. Biorn said their decision has been based on the duplications of services. From a budget standpoint the business aspect needs to change. This has nothing to do with the volunteer fire fighters. Biorn said the city is not trying to punish anyone or to dictate what happens in the county. The city believes things can be done more efficiently and effectively with the same results. Mayor Thueson said he attended a Mayoral meeting and asked how other cities do what they do. We already have a state of the art dispatching service at the sheriff's department and this is what we should be using. Every city, Idaho Falls, Ammon, Shelley and Firth all dispatch from the sheriff's office. The cost ran from \$0 to \$25,000. Our cost is \$240,000. That is a concern. Steve Lundquist, a paid dispatcher, said it's only half that. Mayor said it's a total cost to the county and city of \$240,000. Russell asked who would maintain the equipment. Mayor said the city's proposal is to maintain one full time employee and to share the costs of maintaining the building and equipment. Mayor Thueson said most of the smaller communities like Island Park and Ashton do what we are doing completely with volunteers. Mayor Thueson said we want to have the finest volunteer fire department and the city has asked them to volunteer for both the city and the county. Lundquist said the fire department response time will be affected and there will be a drastic increase in response time. Mayor Thueson said other cities say this isn't a problem. David Fausett, Fire Chief, said not having dispatchers would increase the response time. Councilmember Stoddard said at the fire district meeting, commissioners said this was only an issue in the county. Fausett said this is true. Stoddard then asked why the city residents should pay for county. Fausett said this is why the district is trying to have an override vote to increase the tax levy. Councilmember Andersen said what they took to the commissioner and what the city hoped they would vote for would be to annex the city into the district. Andersen said he feels there is double coverage. He said the city wanted to join the district and pool the money to spend it on one entity and taxed equally between the county and the city. Right now it is not equitable. Councilmember Biorn said the reason the district voted the way the did was to keep station employees. Biorn said the city only wanted to be annexed and nothing else. The city offered to give the city's equipment to the district and it turned out the vote from the commissioners all the sudden came to be about the employees and not about our request to be annexed. Andersen said if the city were annexed then the district would make all the decisions, spending the money as they see fit. Fausett said they are not dispatchers and it's about getting the resources out to where they need to go. The issue is about having someone at the station to get the equipment up and ready. Thueson agreed and said this is why the city is offering one full time employee. Biorn asked why the city represents 20% of the taxable property, yet pays 50% of the expenses. The county residents should pay the largest portion as they receive the largest benefit. Fausett asked if that has been proposed by the city, to just pay 20 percent. Biorn said that is exactly what the city is proposing, which is why the district would experience a short fall

of \$60,000. Fausett said he can't speak for the district or the city, but if the override goes, then the district tax payers will have to pay that difference and they should be the only ones allowed to vote on it. So, if you ask for an over ride you have to ask the district tax base to do it. Mayor Thueson said he firmly believes there is a duplication of services. The county's emergency ambulance service does their calls with volunteers and with more calls then the fire department. Why can't the fire department work the same way? The volunteers can put their heads together and find out what they need and allow the city to provide them what they need. Mayor Thueson said it's our job to make sure we are spending tax dollars in the best possible equitable way and all taxpayers are treated equally. Biorn said a \$100,000 property in the county is taxed at \$60 per year for fire services and a \$100,000 property in the city is taxed at \$140, even though it isn't taxed separately. Russell said Fausett mentioned there was one fire where they needed to have one person in the fire station. Thueson said in the same way they send fire people to the fire, they send one volunteer to the station. Andersen said if the city is annexed into the district the city is out of the equation and the district doesn't have to deal with the city. Citizen Richard Law said due to the strong emotions regarding this topic he spoke to the State Fire Marshal and having to ask someone to come out of bed, like the ambulance crews, would be sufficient. Having an enhanced 911 system, like we do, we would have sufficient response time and it would be well worth consulting the State Fire Marshal regarding this issue, knowing best practices and provide consulting services to provide the best fire department. Citizen Bill Butterfield said that if they have to come back to the station, aren't all the fire fighters trained to fill the packs and keep spares available? Mayor Thueson suggested purchasing more air packs. Councilmember Willmore said he has used the fire volunteers many times. They are a great bunch of guys who have done a great job. The city never said they want to close the fire department. Laying people off isn't an easy thing to do. The city needs to do what we can do to balance the budget and spend tax payer's money wisely. The city needs the volunteers and they are appreciated. Mayor Thueson said if we put our heads together, then we can do the same as the ambulance crew and get everything working as fast as possible. Mayor said he has invited every volunteer to come to a meeting and talk to the council about their needs. Mayor Thueson said the city is not against the volunteers and things have changed in 30 years, including a very effective, efficient 911 system at the sheriff's office. Evan Tibbets later came and Councilmember Stoddard asked about how the ambulance service does their calls. Tibbets said they are all volunteers and they restock after each call. Tibbets said they wish response time could be better, but didn't think if they did have full time employees, it would change much.

There being no further public comment Mayor Thueson closed the floor.

Proposal for Schools pick-up/drop-off and signs (Karen Daw & Smith) requires motion by city council to add – A motion to add to the agenda the proposal for the schools pick-up and drop-off area and signs to this meeting agenda because delaying the topic would otherwise delay business that needs to be taken tonight was made by Councilmember Stoddard and seconded by Councilmember Powell. A roll call vote followed with Councilmembers Bagley, yes; Powell, yes; Andersen, yes; Biorn, yes; Stoddard, yes; and Willmore, yes. Motion passed 6-0. Mayor Thueson explained the need for a more efficient way to handle the way buses and the public pick-up and drop-off children at the various schools. Chief Smith said the Traffic Safety Committee met and discussed who was going to do what to implement the changes proposed. The map provided showed the proposed changes in streets from two ways to one way, which

council ready approved. The city will order the signs and install them and the school district will pay for the signs. Councilmember Bagley asked if snow removal had been addressed. PWS Butigan said that issue has been resolved. After a number of questions by council, which were satisfactory answered a motion to accept the proposal of having the city order and place the signs as shown on the proposed map given to the city by the Traffic Safety Committee and having the school district pay for the signs was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Bagley. All council members approved. Motion passed 6-0.

Silver Horseshoe Alcohol Violation Hearing (Smith) – Mayor Thueson explained a complaint had been filed with the clerk on the Silver Horseshoe. Mayor Thueson asked if Marsha Wilson was present, to represent herself, as she is the license holder. Marsha Wilson was not present. City Attorney Forsberg explained state law and city ordinance prohibits locking the doors during business hours. There is always a concern if there are locked entrances and there is an emergency, patrons can't get out and help can't get in to provide assistance. Forsberg explained the options council has. Mayor Thueson asked Police Officer Harris to explain what happened. Harris explained what is in his written report given to council. The door had been locked and he was unable to gain entry on two separate occasions. The sign said the business was open and patrons were inside. The second time the key lock was locked and the service window was blocked so he couldn't see through. If there had been a fire no one could have gotten out without a person with the key to open the lock. Councilmember Bagley asked if Harris asked for reasons for the door being locked. Harris said the employee told him he has told his employees not to lock the door and he apologized. Bagley asked if there had been any other calls to the business for any other reason. Harris said there have been general disturbance calls that didn't require any action other than with the people involved. Councilmember Stoddard asked about the citation. The citation is a misdemeanor and a judge determines the fine and/or punishment. Kathy Hayward, the building owner, believes they are gone and have left the area. Hayward said she has evicted them. A motion to revoke the Retail Alcohol Beverage License for Marsha Wilson doing business as the Silver Horseshoe was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded Councilmember Bagley. A role call vote followed with Councilmembers Bagley, yes; Powell, yes; Andersen, yes; Biorn, yes; Stoddard, yes; and Willmore, yes. Motion passed 6-0. Mayor instructed the clerk to send a letter to Wilson.

Lease Review Roxy Theater Foundation (Forsberg) – Attorney Forsberg said Kathy Hayward and Dr. Mark Draper would be co-partners and they desire to lease the Roxy Theater building. The Roxy foundation has since met and they would be in favor of releasing the lease if the city desired. The foundation didn't feel like they have the resources to sub lease the property. The lease provides for a 30 day written notice to break the lease by either party. The city could send a letter to Bert Flamm, the chairman of the Roxy Board. Councilmember Biorn said the property is owned by the city and currently being leased for \$1 per year. Biorn asked if now is the time to put the property up for sale and then gain at least property taxes as a revenue source. Councilmember Andersen said years ago the Roxy was turned over to the city since no one else could do anything with it. The city would sponsor grants, but they were not in favor of spending money on the building. The Roxy Foundation did some maintenance, but over time there has been a loss of interest. Breaking the lease would mean the city would then have to maintain the building. As a citizen, Andersen is not interested in taking on the building and putting more money into it. If the city breaks the lease, Andersen is in favor of making

the property surplus and selling it. Mayor Thueson said Flamm is also interested in breaking the lease, since they don't want to put any money in it either. Hayward would like a 99 year lease. Forsberg said a 99 year lease to a for profit organization has an unattractive feature of not getting rid of the property and there is residual liability and obligation on the lease and not on putting the property on the tax roles. Forsberg advised council there really is no benefit to the city. Councilmember Biorn asked if the city has to take the highest bidder. Forsberg said it has to be the highest competent bid. The city can put a floor on the bidding, a minimum acceptable bid. Hayward said they are willing to do whatever they can. A motion to terminate the lease was made by Councilmember Biorn and seconded by Councilmember Powell. All council members were in favor. Motion passed 6-0. A motion to add to the next agenda the surplus of the building to the next meeting agenda was made by Biorn and seconded by Councilmember Willmore. All council members were in favor. Motion passed 6-0. Councilmember Andersen asked if we have to wait 30 days before placing the item on surplus. Forsberg said there is no need to wait. Powell said she would check into the pricing of the property.

Matt's Custom Meat request to lease city right-of-way / Matt Froehlich (Butigan) –

Matt Froehlich explained how he uses a trailer which he stores on city right-of-way, mostly during the hunting season, to keep wild game in order to separate the wild game from the regular meat at his butcher shop. This is on the west side of the building. It sticks out 14 feet from the edge of the building. There is 21 feet from the building to the edge of the road. Froehlich would like to lease the section of that right-of-way where the trailer is parked from the city. Councilmember Willmore asked if there a safety concern. Chief Smith said no. PWS Butigan said where the trailer is at it doesn't impede any parking. That business has utilized that area for parking, and in the past, for their kill truck. Councilmember Biorn asked about selling the property to Froehlich. Councilmember Andersen said once city right-of-way is sold it is gone forever. You never know when you need to run a sewer line or utility through the street and the city may need the spacing for utilities one day. Andersen said this is the same thing that is currently going on with West Main. Some of that city right-of-way has been sold and now the city is trying to create a new street and have realized the problems associated with attempting to gain those right-of-ways back. It is a very time consuming and difficult process. Mayor Thueson agreed. Attorney Forsberg said it's important to safeguard the infrastructure of a community. Council can not know what will happen in the future. Councilmember Stoddard asked if the council can be restrictive. Forsberg said Froehlich has the right to use the ground as long as it doesn't interfere with any use the city might have now or in the future. If he cements and the city wants to dig it up, it's at his cost to replace. Permanent buildings or structures wouldn't be permitted. With 60 days notice the city could terminate if they find need of the property. There are currently no utilities there. Froehlich wants 14 feet from the building and then the length of building, which is 40 feet. A motion to lease the property as described by Froehlich for \$100 per year was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Powell. All council members were in favor. Motion passed 6-0. Councilmember Andersen would like to amend the lease to not be transferable. All council members agreed.

Fireworks Permit (Parkinson) – A fireworks permit was submitted to council by American Promotional Events doing business as TNT Firework of Tacoma, WA to sell fireworks at Broulim's Market parking lot at 301 Aspen Square from June 23, 2010 through July 5, 2010. The operator is Kelly Jo Hodges of 249 N 4300 E, Rigby, ID. A motion to accept the permit as described was made by Councilmember Biorn and seconded by

Councilmember Willmore. All council members were in favor. Motion passed 6-0. Mayor instructed the clerk to contact the permit holder.

Personnel Policy changes (Willmore & Parkinson) – Clerk Parkinson reviewed the policy changes recommended by the Personnel Committee. The committee recommends to council to change page three, section D, paragraph one, from a twelve (12) month introductory period to a three *(3) month* introductory period. Also to recommend a change to the policy on page 17, section 9, Promotions and Compensation, to change sentence three to read; Promotions and changes in status may be recommended by officials in each of the operating departments by following procedures which have been approved by the appropriate administrative official, but final authority regarding compensation rests with the appropriate administrative official. A motion to accept the changes as described was made by Councilmember Stoddard and seconded by Councilmember Bagley. All council members were in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

Inella Douglas appointment to Planning & Zoning – Mayor Thueson appointed Inella Douglas to the Planning and Zoning Board. Councilmember Andersen said she has served in the past and was released due to serving so many years in a row. All council members approved of the appointment.

INVOICES & CLAIMS - Payment Approval Reports were presented to Council. Councilmember Bagley had an addition to the invoices of ammunition. The police department piggy backed with Madison County on ammunition saving a considerable sum. After several questions, which were satisfactorily answered by staff, a motion to pay the invoices and claims was made by Councilmember Biorn and seconded by Councilmember Willmore. All council members were in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

MINUTES - Regular Council Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2010 were presented to Council. A motion to accept the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2010 was made by Councilmember Biorn and seconded by Councilmember Powell. All council members were in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

MAYOR, COUNCIL & DEPARTMENT REPORTS

PWS Butigan reported all the roto-mill material has been done at the airport for Neil Shupe and Red Baron Ag. East Main should have asphalt on by next week. Crews will begin work on Third Street next week and the county is to assist on chip sealing. The streets that will be done will be West Fourth North, the school road up to the seminary and Third Street. It has still been a little cool for chip sealing and so it may be July before they start.

Chief of Police Smith reported the snow fence is up at the sand bar, as water was coming up all the way to the grass. Signs have been put up for no swimming. The 24th of July parade route will be the same as last year. The seat belt campaign was over Sunday and it was successful. The aggressive driving campaign is coming up soon and the department plans to use some of the money to purchase additional equipment. Smith also provided council with the most recent police incidents summary.

Attorney Forsberg reported Red Baron Ag's banker called about their lease and he

referred them to the clerk. At the next meeting on June 24, those citizens that didn't clean up their property or respond to their letters sent out the first of May are all being invited in to show cause on why they shouldn't be required to clean up or be cited criminally for it or have the city crew clean up their property and then bill them for that clean up. There will be about 10 homeowners.

Clerk Parkinson reminded council next week is the Annual AIC meeting and voting credentials have been submitted, with Mayor Thueson as the voting delegate and Councilmember Andersen as the alternate.

Councilmember Bagley reported giving out many free dog licenses at Fisherman's Breakfast. There were many officers available and some small items, stickers and pencils, were given away to the children. There was a lot of positive PR and a lot of positive comments. The city offices will continue to provide free tags throughout the month of June and at Summerfest in August.

Councilmember Powell reported the roof that was patched is still leaking in the same spot. It is still under warranty and staff is working with the vendor to get it repaired. Powell also said she, Mayor, Attorney Forsberg and staff met with PSI and reviewed the contract. The contract doesn't allow for breakage without several things happening and the notice is only 15 days. That triggers a requirement to negotiate with them to correct any deficiencies in the notice and then there is mediation. So the city can't just go out and rebid. The city is not dissatisfied with the current service being provided by PSI. There is another five year term, beginning in December. Minor changes in the contract will be done to have it better coincide with the city's budgeting and fiscal year and to extend the notice period from 15 days to six months. Powell said she would like the Finance Committee to review any possible increases per cart per month for this year and next. Powell said she has been to the library and had to park in the employee parking. She said the employees park in the front of the building and so she asked they park at the end of the parking lot and take down the employee only parking sign in the back so more people can park closer to the library entrance. The city crews will also build more parking at the north end of the parking lot for the doctor's office. Powell said there should also be no parking along the east side of the building and the police department will park at the end of the building. Chief Smith said the police department has traditionally parked by the police door and sometimes they are at a dead run going to their vehicle for an emergency call. Smith didn't believe their parking by the door was interfering with anyone. Chief Smith said this is a problem for the police department and there should also be available parking for the senior citizen's van. Powell said there will be no parking along the building for anyone. Councilmember Biorn said this is a government building and since 9/11 there are reasons for not parking right next to government buildings. Biorn also said when vehicles park right next to the building people start their cars and let them run, causing a health hazard and ugly marks on the side of the building with exhaust build up. Biorn said there should be allowances for the Senior Citizens for loading and unloading and that their vehicles are not running when they do park there. Officer Harris said there is an issue of vandalism with antennas being broken off vehicles and he didn't mind the extra 10 steps. Powell said in all the years as a council member she has never seen an invoice for vehicle repairs due to broken antennas. Harris said there hadn't been since they quit parking at the end of the building. Officer Manhart said he had concerns about backing in and out

and crossing over the sidewalk. Harris said there are children crossing the sidewalk. Powell said this was her point, with children in the parking lot going back and forth to the library and if people are parking along the building you can't see them. Biorn said he would like to have the police try this. Harris said Madison County and Fremont County park up against the building. Powell said they don't have a library and doctors office with little kids there. Harris said there is more danger backing across the sidewalk. Powell said they shouldn't be at the office all the time. Harris said it sounds like there is a grudge here when comments are made like that. Powell said no there isn't. Mayor Thueson said we will give the new parking a try. Harris said we can do it, but it will change the response. Powell wanted to thank who ever planted the flowers next to the city building. It looks really nice. Parkinson reported that Karen Valenta planted the flowers and city crew workers cleaned up the area around the building. A couple of local youth have volunteered to plant and water the flowers in the planters next to the city building.

Councilmember Andersen reported Bridge Street looks great. Andersen asked PWS Butigan to check the old search and rescue building for water damage. Butigan said the floor is damp but not flooding.

Councilmember Willmore asked if Attorney Forsberg has an agreement drawn up with the county on the airport. Forsberg said he hasn't met with Lookabaugh. Willmore would like to see that in writing and signed. Willmore would like on the next agenda the 100 foot drag races at the airport. Willmore said he never heard any complaints from the last drag race. He said Airport Manager Jerry Cain did a fine job of policing the area during the last race.

Councilmember Stoddard reported he stopped at the Planning and Zoning Meeting and followed up with Evan Tibbitts and said they are doing a great job. Melissa Hinckley also had a meeting scheduled but it was later cancelled. He said he did speak to Hinckley about the slides and getting rid of those slides in the next surplus sale.

Councilmember Biorn reported he is concerned about being appointed to both the Finance Committee and the Personnel Committee and feels there's a conflict. Mayor Thueson didn't there was a problem and asked for Attorney Forsberg's advice. Forsberg didn't think there was a conflict. Biorn said there is a lot of emotion around the current fire department issue. He thinks all the council members need to stay positive and to seek out the facts on the entire scenario. Biorn said he has found sometimes it's hard to stay positive, but requests everyone to remain focused. He encouraged everyone to stick with it and keep up the good fight. The petition is large with a significant number of signatures from both the city and county. Biorn said we need to respond to the people in the city, since that is our charge. Mayor Thueson said to read the petition. It says the undersigned do not think the city council and the Mayor of St. Anthony have the best interests of the City taxpayers and the South Fremont fire District at heart. Mayor Thueson asked what else are we doing if it isn't just that. Biorn said there is a misconception the city funds the volunteer fire department and the city doesn't fund the volunteers. Attorney Forsberg said the city does fund the volunteer fire department, but the city is not talking about defunding them and getting rid of them. Forsberg said, if anything, the city will be increasing the funding to the volunteers. Biorn said he did have some communication with a citizen through email recently and felt it his duty as a council member to respond. He said he

didn't think it was necessary on every occasion, but thought it would serve us well to respond on a case by case review. Officer Harris asked that council look at providing additional training to the police officers, since they are most often the first on the scene to any incident, fire, lost children, etc. Biorn said it was Officer Brokens who was first on the scene at the Church house fire removing items from the home. Citizen Jim Hobbs said he once asked to volunteer and he felt like he was more than qualified, as he used to fight fires in Montana. The response he received was they were not interested in his volunteerism. He said it is so frustrating to see money being wasted. Hobbs said he stands behind the Mayor and council and realize everyone should work together to benefit the tax payer as best as they can. If agencies can't work together there is waste. Councilmember Stoddard thought it would be a good idea to get the opinion of the State Fire Marshal on how things are being run here in the city. Biorn agreed. Biorn also thanked the police department for all their assistance and thanked them for their service.

Mayor Thueson asked council to review the police incidents summary report. The police department does a lot and he appreciates all they do. Thueson said Jonathan and Aaron Townsley would like an Eagle Scout project. Some ideas were the pound could be painted or a high water gage at the sand bar could be done. Please let the city know about any projects and we'll pass them on. Mayor Thueson is considering the surplus of the Lumina. He would like that added to the next agenda.

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m. by Mayor Thueson.


Neils Thueson, Mayor

Attest:


Patty Unruh Parkinson, City Clerk-Treasurer

