

*CITY OF ST. ANTHONY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
420 NORTH BRIDGE, SUITE A, ST. ANTHONY, ID, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS*

PRESENT: Mayor Neils Thueson, Council Members Suzanne Bagley, Bryant Biorn, Tom Erickson, Rick Hill, Russ Rubert and Rod Willmore.

ALSO PRESENT: Public Works Superintendent Scott Butigan, City Attorney Bill Forsberg, Police Chief Jim Smith, City Clerk-Treasurer Patty Parkinson and approximately eight citizens.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Councilmember Biorn.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Idaho Art Lab/Dan & Kara Hidalgo/Report – Hidalgos were not present.

Recommendation from Planning & Zoning on Draft Updated Comprehensive Plan (Chase & Tibbitts) – Joshua Chase, Planner, reported on the updated Comprehensive Plan providing a summary of the changes. Chase spent some time discussing the Preferred Land Use map and the land use designations, describing each designation. When zoning is established it needs to be consistent with the Preferred Land Use map. Jim Hobbs, Planning and Zoning member, said the Comprehensive Plan allows for others to see what the city is planning for in the future. Evan Tibbitts, Chair of the Planning and Zoning Committee, applauded David Atkinson for creating the first Comprehensive Plan and expressed his appreciation for the work Chase has done in helping the Planning & Zoning Committee with their ideas and putting them on paper. The next order of business will be to work on the area of impact and the development code. Chase thanked the Planning and Zoning Committee and city staff for their work. Chase said the Planning and Zoning Committee held a public hearing to hear comment on the plan last Wednesday with no participation from the public. City Council can't take any action until they receive Planning and Zoning's recommendations. City Council may hold a hearing but it is not required. There were no other questions.

Consideration of Ordinance for Updated Comprehensive Plan – Mayor Thueson asked if council was interested in adopting this ordinance. A motion to suspend the reading of Ordinance 2012-1 adopting the 2012 Comprehensive Plan on three different days and that the ordinance be read by title only once was made by Councilmember Biorn and seconded by Councilmember Willmore. A role call vote followed with council members Rubert, yes; Bagley, yes; Erickson, yes; Biorn, yes; Hill, yes; and Willmore, yes. Motion passed 6-0. The ordinance was read by title by Biorn. A motion to accept Ordinance 2012-1 adopting the 2012 Comprehensive Plan was made by Willmore and seconded by Bagley. A role call vote followed with council members Rubert, yes; Bagley, yes; Erickson, yes; Biorn, yes; Hill, yes; and Willmore, yes. Motion passed 6-0. Joshua Chase, Planner, said he has a couple of template ordinances for zoning and will begin work immediately with the Planning and Zoning Committee on this next step. Biorn thanked the Planning and Zoning Committee for all the

work they did. Biorn asked them to keep in mind mining, gravel, wind turbines and to consider those things when working on the next step. Mayor Thueson also expressed his thanks to the Planning and Zoning Committee. Attorney Forsberg said in regards to the area of impact as the committee moves to the zoning portion of this any changes that will be done have to be approved by the city and the county together.

Draft changes to Personnel Policy (Willmore & Parkinson) – Clerk Parkinson reviewed the proposed changes to the Personnel Policy. Proposed changes are to change the description to indicate employees working less than 30 hours per week, to provide six (6) hours of Holiday Pay to those employees considered as a Part-Time Regular Employees working more than 20 hours but less than 30 and making the designation for the “Designated Official” as the City Clerk. A motion to accept the proposed changes to the Personnel Policy was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Rubert. All council members were in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

2012 Lower Henry’s Watershed Partnership Agreement/FEMA (Parkinson) – Clerk Parkinson reported on the ongoing Discovery Meetings for the Upper and Lower Henry’s Watershed with FEMA she has been participating in as the city’s Flood Plain Manager. A Partnership Agreement has been created for the Lower Henry’s Watershed and she is requesting council allow for her to sign the agreement as representation for the city. A motion by Councilmember Biorn was made to allow for the city to enter into FEMA’s 2012 Lower Henry’s Watershed Partnership Agreement. This was seconded by Councilmember Rubert. All council members were in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

TRPTA Grant Support Request – Mayor Thueson explained he is on the TRPTA board and talked about how they service the Rexburg and surrounding area within 15 miles with rides. TRPTA is requesting a support letter for grant requests. Thueson read the letter out loud. TRPTA revenues are received in mostly grants and thus the request. Thueson said this support letter only provides a consideration for support in the amount of \$1,000, depending on council’s future budget approval. Thueson asked for comment. The city has never provided any funding to TRPTA in the past. Councilmember Biorn said the city needs to figure out what the city’s donation pays for and how much it costs based on rides. TRPTA provided information saying it gave about 300 rides last year from the city of St. Anthony to Rexburg or Rexburg to St. Anthony. Biorn said that’s about \$4.15 for every ride. TRPTA charges a rider \$4.00 per trip. Biorn said if the ride count doesn’t increase then we are paying more per ride than the rider is. It may be they are asking for money because there are no riders. Biorn asked if their cost per ride is \$20 then wouldn’t it be possible to get a ride to Rexburg for less. Biorn said if the vans are running empty it doesn’t make sense to give them money. But if they were full, then it might. They do have wheel chair accessible vans, which most other services do not, so that should be considered. Right now they are just asking for help getting the grant. There are people in our community that need this service. Councilmember Rubert said the money the city would be donating would be to help get the grant. Thueson said this money would be used to match any grant money they receive. Rubert said \$1,000 shows good will and cooperation to the program from the City of St. Anthony. Councilmember Erickson said the letter does leave an out for the city if the city can not find the funding in the next budget year. There was no opposition to having the Mayor sign the letter from any council member. Mayor will sign the letter and mail to TRPTA.

PUBLIC COMMENT Mayor Thueson opened the floor for public comment.

Sherri Jackson, Chamber President, asked council to be leery of TRPTA's request, saying if the city gives money to one there will be others asking for the same. They do have the wheel chair accessibility that others do not. Right now there are a lot of things going on with transportation. The Chamber is very busy right now. Currently, they have 29 members. Chamber is having their banquet on March 31st. They had their first Fisherman's Breakfast meeting. The breakfast has been going on for 57 years. They need new help and funding. Manpower will be an issue. More money is coming in for the flower fund. So far the Chamber has received around \$250 for the flower fund and \$150 for the Fisherman's Breakfast. Lila Gold asked about a Sister City Association. Councilmember Rubert said there is a community in Minnesota called St. Anthony and Lila Gold contacted them about a Sister City Association. Rubert says this would lie outside the function of the city council. Mayor Thueson said if the Chamber is interested in a Sister City this is something they should try and pursue.

Jerry Cain, Airport Manager, said the airport has a Fly-In each year in September. Last year over 350 people showed up and airplane rides were given away. A lot of people got an introduction to aviation. Lorraine Crockett and Don Oram asked about food and they want to do it again this year and he is asking for permission to do the Fly In again this year. Cain thought the city should think about building a row of hangars and then renting them. Cain said he receives about a dozen calls a month from people wanting to rent a hangar. Mayor Thueson asked Cain to take this information to the Airport Board and allow them to provide council with a recommendation. Thueson thanked Cain for his work and efforts given to the Airport and the Airport Board.

Ben Clark, owner of Upper Valley CPA, said Josh Norman and he have partnered up and formed another company called Pottersville. Clark said they recently just signed closing documents on the old JCPenney building north of the Roxy Theater and they want to revamp the back area of the building. He said they have a national retailer interested in the building and placing a business there. He said they are concerned about how back doors of that building and the Roxy building open right up into the alley way of the parking lot. Clark is asking the city to consider closing the alley way. He said the parking lot could still be used as a parking lot. The parking area on Bridge Street isn't big enough and so the back entrance becomes important for the retailer. Also, the back entry way into the Roxy is also really important to them as people will park in the back parking lot and cross the alley to get into the building. Clark said it is a safety concern to them. Clark said they are happy to provide the businesses but he needs some consideration on the street access so that pedestrians are not in jeopardy. There are also utility poles in the parking lot and Clark thought the city could use that as a barrier to make a side walk. Mayor Thueson asked Chief Smith and PWS Butigan to take a look at it and provide some suggestions or ideas. Butigan said the alley is used by garbage trucks. Butigan said an alternative would be to cut side doors between the two buildings. There are also city utilities down that alley. Thueson said council should take a look at it and to come back to the next meeting with alternatives. Clark said the distance between the buildings gets a lot of snow from the roof and no sunlight. Thueson asked for this item to be placed on the next agenda for discussion and consideration.

There being no further public comment Thueson closed the floor to any further comment.

INVOICES & CLAIMS - Payment Approval Reports were presented to Council. After several questions, which were satisfactorily answered by staff, a motion to pay the invoices and claims was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Bagley. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

MINUTES – Regular Council Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2012 were presented to council. A motion to accept the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2012, was made by Councilmember Bagley and seconded by Councilmember Erickson. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

DEPARTMENT, COUNCIL & MAYOR REPORTS

Police Chief Smith reported he is reviewing the COPS grants for this year. This year the grant requires a 25% match and a requirement to hire a veteran. The grant would pay up to \$125,000 in the first three years, which fit into the costs of an entry level officer. The deadline is coming up in March. The city's chances for getting the grant are better this year, since we applied last year. The seat belt grant is finished. A post grant survey will be conducted to see where they are at as they were about 61% seat belt compliance before the grant. A couple of graffiti letters were sent out and most major eyesores have been cleaned up.

PWS Butigan reported they are still working on the dog pound. The pound was placed on hold as crews have been chasing water problems for the last few days and there are some storm drains no longer working. They will need to be excavated out and replaced. Butigan provided estimates on two drains, one is about \$8000 at Gary Bauers and the Radio Road one is about \$2100. Butigan provided council with a list of some maintenance work on city buildings. Councilmember Hill said there are some issues that really need to be addressed as a few things have really been neglected. Mayor Thueson asked Hill to work with Butigan to get some costs together and priorities listed for council consideration. Butigan said the Sand Bar building roof needs to be replaced. Part of the wall also needs to be repaired. The roof will be about \$8000 as it's hard to know what's underneath and if there are problems underneath, those will need to be repaired prior to placing on another roof. Butigan estimates about \$3000 to fix the concrete work on the building itself and about \$1700 to paint. This totals about \$12,700 in repairs for a building we don't use or have anything in. Butigan didn't think there really is any use for the building. If the city rents it, then the figures will probably go up as everything will need to be upgraded to make it suitable for inhabitation. To tear down the building, would be about \$15,000. Councilmember Biorn said there would be a lot of benefits to tearing it down, a possible pad and shelter and/or a better way for emergency vehicles to get into the river from there. Thueson asked council to just think about this. Chief Smith said FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) meets there once a month.

City Attorney Forsberg had nothing to report.

Clerk Parkinson reported everyone has completed their ICRMP University classes and everything has been submitted to obtain the five percent discount on insurance rates. Parkinson said Arbor Day is coming and scheduled for Friday, April, 27th. She is contacting Henry's Fork Elementary to co-ordinate the events for the day and invite council to attend.

Parkinson also reported on the progress with III-A (Idaho Interagency Insurance Authority Trust), the city's new insurance for medical and vision. The Trust has been approved by the Idaho Department of Insurance and cards should be received by Monday for the employees and is scheduled to start March 1, 2012. Parkinson also provided news from the Chamber of Commerce. Parkinson also reminded council members to provide her with items for the newsletter and to get those things to her on the 20th of the month prior.

Councilmember Willmore reported there will be an Airport Board meeting on March 9th in the city council chambers. The board is going to get an updated bid from Rocky Mountain Power on getting power out to the hangars. A recommendation will come from the board after their review.

Councilmember Hill thanked the Planning and Zoning Committee for their work on the Comprehensive Plan. It looks real nice. Hill also wanted to thank the Parks and Recreation Committee for their hard work on the Second Annual Winter Festival. 39 people came out to play Frisbee golf.

Councilmember Biorn reported on working with the public works crew and office staff on water usage. He provided council with a paper displaying actual leak sizes and how much water can be lost in a year from those small leaks. Biorn said from the books he's read regarding water audits they say there isn't a correlation with water pumped and then collected in the sewer system. It is better to compare water pumped to water billed through the system. Biorn said he will begin a study with personnel to come up with a plan to provide for a reliable water study and audit. AIC (Association of Idaho Cities) Conference is in Boise in June this year. Biorn asked Clerk Parkinson to email those dates to council for them to plan. Biorn also wanted to remind everyone to volunteer where they can. There are all kinds of different places to volunteer including Fisherman's Breakfast and Pioneer Days Parade.

Councilmember Erickson reported on the West Main Project. Erickson said he met today with Mayor Thueson, PWS Butigan, Clerk Parkinson, Paul Scoresby and Ryan Peterson of Schiess and Associates to review the Draft Concept Report. Right now it's in the preliminary concept report. The final concept report has to be in by April 15, 2012. Once approved, the city will be on the list scheduled for funding. Currently, funding for the city is scheduled for 2017. Erickson said the city is on schedule and there were a few things discussed while reviewing the draft. There is a lot to this project and it's going to be nice once it gets done. Mayor Thueson agreed it was a very good meeting.

Councilmember Bagley reported on the business license ordinance and how many businesses are following all the requirements. The city hired a company called "Ahead of the Curve" and they will be doing the background checks on the transient businesses and their employees. When the employees come in for background checks and get approved the city will provide a copy of the business license with a seal for them to carry with them door to door. This is the safety issue the city wanted for our residences and we'll Bagley said she will try and put something out in the newspaper or newsletter to educate our citizens.

Councilmember Rubert reported the next Chamber of Commerce meeting will be Thursday, March 1st at 5:30 p.m. in the Chamber Office.

Mayor Thueson had nothing to report.

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m. by Mayor Thueson.


Neil Thueson, Mayor

Attest:


Patty Unruh Parkinson, City Clerk-Treasurer

