

*CITY OF ST. ANTHONY  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 23, 2014, 7:00 p.m.  
420 NORTH BRIDGE, SUITE A, ST. ANTHONY, ID, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS*

**PRESENT:** Mayor Neils Thueson, Council Members Tom Erickson, Lisa Haeberle, Rick Hill, Russ Rubert and Rod Willmore.

**ABSENT:** Council Member Suzanne Bagley.

**ALSO PRESENT:** City Attorney Bill Forsberg, City Clerk/Treasurer Patty Parkinson, Police Chief Terry Harris and 18 others in the audience.

Mayor Neils Thueson called the meeting to order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE** was led by Attorney Forsberg.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**State of the City/Mayor Thueson** – Mayor Thueson welcomed everyone in attendance and said he will start the meeting out by explaining some of the city's accomplishments and upcoming things the city would like to do. Thueson said the city completed a chip and seal of streets, everything south of Highway 20. This was about seven or eight miles of work. The city finished 12<sup>th</sup> West Street. The street was widened out to make it safer. At the same time, a foot bridge was placed to help make pedestrian traffic safer. The Rotary erected an American flag on the corner lot next to the city building. The city also participated in this project and will continue to participate by maintaining the flag and pole for years to come. The river bridge was painted. We were also able to install the lighting on Highway 20's on and off ramps. Both those projects were done by ITD (Idaho Transportation Department) at no expense to the city. There are some new businesses in town, a new car wash, a Farm Bureau office, Fong's, Ace Hardware are just some. St. Anthony is changing and growing. The city has purchased new software which will accommodate on line billing. The city purchased a new phone system. There was a lot of work done on the Greenway, mostly done through volunteer help. The city building was repainted and re-carpeted. The sidewalk was changed out front, placing in heat cables under the sidewalk to accommodate the many seniors using the Senior Citizens Center. The city finally has a SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system up and running for the city's water and sewer systems. Planning and Zoning has completed a Comprehensive Plan and is diligently working on new zoning ordinances. The city started a Youth Council which has worked on several projects throughout the year. A scholarship fund was created to assist some of those participating youth in their college endeavors. The city added two new police officers. Thueson then continued by saying the city refinanced the water and sewer bonds. In so doing, the city saved tax payers on the water bonds, \$282,000, and on the sewer bonds, \$970,000, over the life of the bonds. This is 1.25 million dollars. Thueson said a lot of the credit for that goes to the City Clerk and Treasurer. Of all the things

accomplished the city stayed within all their budgets. Thueson then discussed some of the upcoming challenges. The biggest one is the West Main Street Project beginning with replacing some water lines under the street before the street gets replaced. Construction of the street is expected to begin 2016. The city plans to continue chipping and sealing the city streets. This has been done the last three years. The Island is planned this year and some of the north side of town, going as far as we can. Thueson said he would also like to see the corner lot next to the city building, now renamed Rotary Park, improved. There are some bridges over canals which need to be worked on and maintained. Not a lot has ever been done to those bridges over the years. Thueson would also like to see some playground equipment get upgraded or something new in some of the parks. Thueson said he would also like to see an Airport Improvement Plan completed. There is a plan in place to begin maintenance work on the taxi ways. Thueson said the city is going to buy a backup generator for the city building and the well adjacent to this building. When the power goes off, then this building could be used as an emergency building. The county is installing a water line out to the landfill or transfer station. This will be something the city will, once installed, take over and maintain. Thueson said he hopes what we can do is make St. Anthony a place where families would want to come and raise a family. Thueson said he would like to give credit where credit is due. He said the city employees work really hard and in the past four years he has found he could go nowhere else to find any better employees. After praising the employees, Thueson praised the members of city council saying they were a good group to work with. He reminded everyone we work and serve the public as a servant. Thueson finished by challenging the city residents to also serve their community. It doesn't have to be big things, they can be little things. For example, the Chamber of Commerce took on the flower beds in the city and this has been done by volunteers. Thueson finished by telling everyone to be positive about St. Anthony, by speaking positively of the community and taking care of our individual properties. Thueson reviewed some of the really wonderful attractions the city and neighboring area has and asked everyone to invite their friends and relatives to visit. Thueson also expressed his appreciation for all the volunteer committees, including the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Airport Board and the Parks and Recreation committee. Thueson said the city just finished their annual audit and the city is in good shape. The city is paying its bills and putting a little away for emergencies. Thueson said he is proud to be the Mayor of St. Anthony. Mayor thanked everyone for their time and their support.

**Chief of Police Terry Harris Swearing In** – Mayor Thueson swore in Terry Harris as the Chief of Police for the City of St. Anthony.

**Industrial Park Listing/Judy Hobbs** – Realtor Judy Hobbs said it is time again to renew the listing for the Industrial Park lots for sale by the city. Hobbs reviewed a bit of history of the Industrial Park saying there is very little activity. The lots are advertised on their web site and hopefully their new website will draw more attention to the lots. Hobbs said she would be honored for the city to allow her to continue to work for the city. Mayor Thueson said Hobbs has done a good job and responds immediately. Council agreed to allow her to continue with the listing.

**Multi Mobile Transportation Assessment, Development and Strategy/Jan Brown (HUD Consortium)** – Jan Brown, LINKS General Manager of the Co-op, came to the city to report on the Multi-Modal Transportation Assessment and Development Strategy. Brown said she is working for Tom Cluff now of Fremont County. She was just hired as a Special Project Manager for Fremont County Planning and Building Department. Brown said she believes everyone is aware the four county region (Fremont, Madison, Teton, ID and Teton, WY) received a 1.5 million dollar grant from HUD back in February of 2012. This project finishes January of 2015. St. Anthony is one of seven cities in the four county region. There are project features being developed which these communities could not afford on their own and may assist them. Currently, there is an RFP (Request For Proposal) out for a consultant to take a look at our fair housing and equity situation in all four counties. Another feature is a regional recycling system feasibility study. Initiate 1 is an incremental approach to building our public transit system. This would connect our four counties, so that people who cannot drive have alternatives to cross our region. Brown provided a presentation showing the public transportation providers and how they currently connect our counties. She described a draft pilot program which includes a budget asking for support. Brown said an official letter will be coming to the Mayor asking for the city's support. Brown provided council with a graph showing the total ridership in the Yellowstone area, saying 70% of the ridership are employees of the concessionaires. Brown reviewed Initiate 2, an integrated, regional recreational trails network. She spoke about the complete streets recommendation and design. Brown said there are technical assistance funds available to the city should they desire to apply for them. Brown said a lot of what is in the Multi-Modal Plan is for promoting this region as a whole, through on-line ticketing and kiosks. Brown also spoke briefly regarding the Caldera Assessment/Study and the idea for a Mesa Falls National Monument. This will be a comprehensive study of Island Park's resources; its cultural, historic, natural, hydrologic resources to be better prepared to understand and be able to work with the people who are working on a National Monument in Washington D.C. \$150,000 worth of studies will be conducted over the next year. Brown said her job is to make sure those studies yield good information. She said Jim Caswell, BLM Director under the Bush Administration, Steve Woodruff, National Wildlife Federation and other regional conservations speakers will be at the kickoff meeting February 18<sup>th</sup>. A result of these studies will provide a subcommittee of individuals to provide recommendations. Brown asked if council had any questions. No one had questions. Mayor Thueson thanked her for coming.

**Horrocks Engineers/Bridge Replacement by shop** – Kelly Hoopes, of Horrocks Engineers, provided council with a presentation regarding the Egin Canal Bridge by the city shop on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Hoopes said they work closely with Paul Scoresby of Schiess Engineers and apologizes for Scoresby's absence this evening. They have teamed together on various projects. Hoopes said most bridges have a life of about 50 years and this bridge is just turning 50. He showed a photo of the bridge describing some of the items on the bridge are showing their age, curbing, approaches and decking. The curbing is showing some serious issues. What is most serious is what you can't see, what is under the water. Right now there is a scour hole on each side of the abutments.

The bridge has a bridge rating of 37 out of 100. The usual trigger for supplemental funding is below 50. This bridge has been awarded federal funding for replacement. Hoopes provided council with three different alternatives for what can be done. First, repair of the bridge. Overall cost \$50,000 for curbs, abutments, railing, the approach, super structure and maybe the girders. The wing walls are showing some map cracking and a few other things. This would provide 10 years additional life to the bridge. Second, is to purchase and install a pre-fabricated Contech steel bridge. Total cost \$250,000. This would provide a 75 year life. A downfall for this type of bridge is it doesn't have the capacity or ability to expand. These first two would have the city bearing all the cost. Third, is the Federal Aid Bridge Replacement Project, total cost \$450,000. This has a total cost to the city of \$40,000 plus \$10,000 to \$14,000 of temporary repairs. Life span of this bridge would be about 80 years with a construction time out about four years; thus, the need for temporary repairs until construction. Mayor Thueson said the city will need to contact the canal company to see if they can drain the canal for the city to make repairs or inspection. Hoopes said they could better inspect the bridge once the water is out of the canal to see exactly what needs to be repaired. Thueson said the individual who owns the power plant, Ted Sorenson, seems to be easy to get along with. Thueson said he spoke to him and he agreed to allow the city to stop the flow of water to make repairs. It will mostly be something the city will need to negotiate with the canal company. Thueson thanked Hoopes for attending and said he will come back to this item to give council a change to think about it a bit.

**TRPTA Request for Funding and Email** – Mayor Thueson said just this afternoon he attended a TRPTA (Targhee Regional Public Transportation Authority) meeting saying they have a request for \$1500 as well. Thueson said he is not sure what to recommend. The Fremont County Commissioners have given them some money. Thueson said he is on the TRPTA board, but he must ultimately support the interests of the City of St. Anthony. Councilmember Erickson asked if this was something the city budgeted for. Council agreed they had budgeted \$1000 for this request. They want \$1500. Thueson said he, just the other day, spoke to one of the drivers in a TRPTA bus parked here in town. He said the driver told him the bus goes to Rexburg, through Sugar City, Willford, out to Parker and in to St. Anthony. The driver has about three riders who take the trip twice a day. Thueson asked council what they would like to do about TRPTA's request. Erickson said he knows some of the kids riding on this bus. They work at the development workshop in Rexburg. There is no other alternative and feels it is a good thing. Councilmember Rubert said if it was budgeted for and there is a benefit to the community then why not follow through with what the city budgeted for. Councilmember Haeberle, Hill and Willmore agreed. Willmore said he never has seen anyone on the bus riding. Haeberle said she knows there are some students that attend Central High School (in Rexburg) that use it. Thueson said TRPTA has experienced management changes and looks like they may come around to be more profitable. A motion to assist TRPTA by providing a match of \$1,000 for 2014 was made by Erickson and seconded by Rubert. All council members present approved. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Thueson wanted to go back to discussing the bridge. Councilmember Willmore

asked why we had to do anything at all, since it seems like the bridge will last at least four more years. Willmore said another option would be to close the bridge down. Councilmember Hill said lets drain the canal and take a real good look at it to see what the minimum amount of repairs might be before making a decision. Hoopes said the canal hasn't been drained, as it runs year round. The inspection report done in 2012 indicates the cavity growing from four inches in 2002 to one foot four inches. Hoopes said once it opens it has a tendency to go faster. He said they really don't know until the canal is drained and they can get a better look at it. Thueson said he will speak with Butigan to contact the canal company about draining the canal to obtain a really good inspection of the underside of the bridge. After it is fully inspected, without water in the canal, a report will be given to council to decide what to do.

**Liquor Catering Permit/Star Bar/Mule Deer Banquet** – A request for a catering permit from the Star Bar, Gaylene Blair, for the Annual Mule Deer Banquet at the National Guard Armory on March 15, 2014 from 4 p.m. to midnight was presented to council for approval. There were no concerns presented to council. A motion to approve the requested catering permit was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Hill. All council members present approved. Motion passed 5-0.

**Resolution 2014-01 Declaration for a Drug-free Idaho** – Mayor Thueson said the Association of Idaho Cities is requesting cities to create a resolution to declare Idaho drug free. Thueson read the declaration. A motion to accept resolution 2014-01, Declaration for a Drug-free Idaho, was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Erickson. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Thueson opened the floor for public comment. Thueson acknowledged and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Daniel and Kara Hidalgo of the Idaho Art Lab were present. Daniel said the money provided by the city last year went right into the rent keeping the Idaho Art Lab open. They had a Halloween Carnival with activities which were family friendly and fun. The last show of the year was the Mini Masterpieces. They have had their first Artist in Residence. This artist will be going to Japan and when he returns will provide a presentation to the Idaho Art Lab. Daniel was recently awarded a Certificate of Change Leader from the Idaho Commission on the Arts for exceptional community development efforts. This is a professional development workshop he attended. Twelve are invited to the course and three are awarded the certificate. Daniel and Kara provided council with some documents showing the cash flow and budgeting for the Art Lab. Daniel did a budget review. Daniel said the investment the city has made has shown there is a return on their money by providing jobs and the goal is to be self-sustaining. Currently, the city's support is very vital. Mayor Thueson wanted to know if they will continue to provide the murals in Keefer Park. Daniel said yes and Tara thinks they will be able to obtain an Idaho Commissions on Art Grant for that. Tara said since the paintings there

has been no graffiti. The Art Lab tries to provide benefits to give back to the community by hosting the Annual Chamber Rewards Banquet. He encourages everyone to attend tomorrow night's art opening for Shawn Williams from 5-8 p.m. They said they really appreciate the city's support and thanked the council.

There being no other public comment Mayor closed the floor.

**INVOICES & CLAIMS** - Payment Approval Reports were presented to Council. A motion to pay the invoices and claims was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Rubert. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

**MINUTES** – Regular Council Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2014 were presented to council. A motion to accept the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2014 was made by Councilmember Haeberle and seconded by Councilmember Rubert. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Chief Harris** reported over the past couple of months a significant increase in drug seizures. Not only in numbers of arrests but in more distributed quantities. Where there used to be small user amounts there is more distributed amounts, such as half pound of meth, one, two and three pounds of marijuana. How much this may have to do with the states around us isn't known but it is changing. He thanked the county for their support and confidence of him. Harris said he believes he is the only individual which moved from the Fremont County Sherriff's Office to the City Police Department. He said he enjoys working for the city and believes working for the city gives him an opportunity to work closer with its citizens. Harris said he is looking forward to working as the new Chief of Police for the city.

**Attorney Forsberg** had nothing to report.

**Clerk Parkinson** reported she has been working with Payment Service Network (PSN) to automate credit and debit card transactions. This vendor will be able to provide a small savings to the consumer. PSN will also have the ability to provide to the city's utility customers e-bills, an electronic utility bill, at no additional charge to the customer. The expected date of the program should be around the first week of February. The Planning & Zoning Commission is getting closer to a finished first draft. Things are moving along and they will continue to meet twice a month. The first quarter financial statement has been prepared and provided as well as the Fund Summary.

## **COUNCIL & MAYOR REPORTS**

**Councilmember Rubert** said the Chamber of Commerce Banquet is Monday, February 10, 2014.

**Councilmember Erickson** had nothing to report.

**Councilmember Haeberle** had nothing to report.

**Councilmember Hill** had nothing to report.

**Councilmember Willmore** had nothing to report.

**Mayor Thueson** had nothing further to report.

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m. by Mayor Thueson.

  
Neils Thueson, Mayor

Attest:

  
Patty Unruh Parkinson, City Clerk-Treasurer

