

*CITY OF ST. ANTHONY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
420 NORTH BRIDGE, SUITE A, ST. ANTHONY, ID, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS*

PRESENT: Mayor Neils Thueson, Council Members Suzanne Bagley, Tom Erickson, Lisa Haeberle, Rick Hill and Rod Willmore.

ABSENT: Council Member Russ Rubert.

ALSO PRESENT: City Attorney Bill Forsberg, City Clerk/Treasurer Patty Parkinson, Police Chief Terry Harris, Public Works Superintendent Scott Butigan and two others in the audience.

Mayor Neils Thueson called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE was led by PWS Scott Butigan

GENERAL BUSINESS

Request for support of new proposed bus route to Teton Valley/Jan Brown – Mayor Thueson said he met with the Island Park Mayor, the Teton Mayor and the Ashton Mayor. Both Island Park and Teton mayors said they would not contribute. Thueson said the Ashton Mayor didn't know if this would be any help to the city of Ashton. Thueson said if it benefits the citizens of the City of St. Anthony he would consider it. He just didn't see how it would benefit them. He also talked to two of the Fremont County Commissioners on separate occasions, Leroy Miller and Jordan Stoddard. Thueson said they are not certain they are interested in assisting. Thueson said there already is a transportation system in place with Salt Lake Express. Thueson said he contacted the manager of Salt Lake Express and they run two trips to West Yellowstone every day, including going to Driggs and Jackson. They do not go over the pass to Jackson. Instead they take the river road from Idaho Falls. Jackson and Driggs have a smaller system they have established to go over the pass to link those two cities together. Salt Lake Express will stop in Rexburg, Sugar City, Ashton and St. Anthony for anyone wanting a pickup to Jackson. This request is to fund a study and there is already a study through the HUD grant. If they decide to do this run, then they would contract with someone for the service. Councilmember Hill said he doesn't know how many, if anyone, will utilize this piece of transportation and if it would even help the city of St. Anthony. Councilmember Haeberle said she didn't think the city should contribute. Councilmember Willmore said since the TRPTA thing came up he has paid special attention to the TRPTA bus in town and notes it is always empty. Salt Lake Express doesn't have many riders either. He said he is opposed to funding anything which will compete against a private business. Willmore said this is not a good expenditure of tax payer dollars. Haeberle agrees. Councilmember Bagley said there are so many better ways to spend our citizen's money. Bagley said our community is always helping each other out and gave an example of a friend requesting a ride on

Facebook and received all sorts of offers. Bagley continued by saying how this is a better way to help our citizens and our community. Bagley said she can't see the justification of this and for those residents who do need it then there are other options and resources available. Bagley said those resources should be supported and taken advantage of, rather than put the money into another study. Councilmember Erickson agreed. Thueson said the TRPTA bus does more good for our local citizens and actually goes out to the county areas picking up individuals. There was no motion to fund this request.

Schiess & Associates/Paul Scoresby/Discuss Bridge Grant for Egin Canal Bridge by the City Shop – Mayor Thueson said public works was able to get the water out of the canal long enough for a really good look at the bridge. Thueson said he is not a bridge inspector, but he doesn't suspect the bridge will cave in any time soon. The bridge is 50 years old and has run out its life expectancy. Thueson said he spoke to the individual who did the original inspection using an underwater camera. Public Works employees also looked at the bridge and felt that some minor repairs will repair the bridge enough to keep it until it can be replaced. The city does have an awarded grant which would only cost the city \$40,000 to \$50,000. To repair it fully will cost the city nearly as much and it will only last another 10 years. Councilmember Willmore took photos and showed them to council. There are two holes and the rest is lava rock. Council looked at the photos and discussed the erosion. Thueson said the inspector suggested using some concrete to fill the holes. The problem the inspector sees is the footings are above ground and due to this there will never be a higher rating on the bridge. Making this small repair should hold the bridge until it is replaced using the awarded federal bridge grant. Paul Scoresby of Schiess & Associates said the truth of the matter is none of us really know how long the bridge will last. The city must weigh the risk of any choice they make. Scoresby said we know the super structure has some problems. The only way to get the bridge rating up is to replace the bridge. The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) Bridge Program is in place to help the city receive a new bridge. If the city decided not to utilize this money it will go to another city needing a new bridge. In addition, there will be some safety improvements, including a pathway included in the grant award. Scoresby provided council a checklist of things the city needs to do to get the project underway. Mainly, the most important thing to do is to remain in contact with ITD and Scott Ellsworth, Federal Aid Manager. A motion to move forward with the ITD Bridge Grant awarded to the city and to authorize the mayor to do what needs to be done, including minor repairs to the existing bridge, to hold it over until the bridge can be replaced by the grant was made by Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Erickson. All council members present approved. Motion passed 5-0.

PSI Cost of Living Increase Request – Clerk Parkinson reported Todd Hanson, General Manager of PSI, contacted the city earlier expressing his regrets and requested this item be tabled to the next meeting.

Surplus Sweeper/Butigan – PWS Butigan said the city purchased a vacuum sweeper and found it works good for some things, however for what they use it for, picking up chips and heavy leaves, it doesn't work as well as a mechanical sweeper. Butigan said

he would like to surplus the sweeper, sell it and replace it with a mechanical sweeper. Eventually, Butigan would also like to surplus the other, older mechanical sweeper and then have only one. After some discussion of how the mechanical sweeper is being used mostly for chips and how the city plans to continue to chip and seal more and more streets each year a motion was made to surplus the vacuum sweeper by Councilmember Willmore. This was seconded by Councilmember Bagley. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

INVOICES & CLAIMS - Payment Approval Reports were presented to Council. Following some questions by council which were satisfactorily answered by a staff, a motion to pay the invoices and claims was made by Councilmember Haeberle and seconded by Councilmember Erickson. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

MINUTES – Regular Council Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2014 were presented to council. A motion to accept the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2014 was made by Councilmember Bagley and seconded by Councilmember Hill. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Thueson opened the floor for public comment. Mayor thanked the one person for coming.

There being no public to comment Mayor closed the floor.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chief Harris reported he has been speaking to Police Commissioner/Councilmember Rubert and Mayor Thueson about the older vehicles and the ongoing repairs. The police budget currently has \$26,500 for a police vehicle. This is about \$8,000 short of replacing both of the older white cars. Harris proposes spending the money now and getting the other \$8,000 out of other budget line items in the police budget. Last year the police budget was entirely spent and in fact instead of taking last year's car out of last year's budget and this year's budget it was fully expended in last year's budget. The largest majority will come out of Animal Control. Currently, the officers are doing all animal control calls and so it makes sense the animal control budget participate in the purchase. Harris said the older two white vehicles will be taken off line and replaced with one new one. Harris said in the last two months of last year the police department spent 60% of its auto repair budget. This year, to date, almost \$3,000 of the repair budget has already been spent on those two vehicles. Councilmember Erickson asked if two vehicles are replaced by one, will there be enough vehicles. Harris said the two white ones are used one at a time, since they never know when one will be in the shop. One of the white vehicles was taken to the shop a week ago and the department was told if they wanted to keep it running there should probably be another \$1,200 of work put in to it. Harris said both of these vehicles have about 130,000 miles on them,

making the resale almost zero. All equipment will be taken out and placed into the new vehicle. Harris said if he is able to purchase the vehicle sooner, rather than later, then there will be a significant amount of expected savings on vehicle repairs, since there will be two vehicles under warranty. There will be a total of five vehicles, including the Durango. The Durango will serve dual purposes by taking the decals off and providing it to the city for city official business use. Council agreed and thought he should go ahead.

PWS Butigan reported they will begin work on the bridge. Mayor Thueson said he didn't believe there was any need to do any repairs at this time. Council agreed and said to go ahead and just let the water back in. Councilmember Willmore said the cement is only cosmetic. Butigan said they are doing a little bit of work around the shop. Most the windows are closed off and it's already making the big area warmer. A porch is being placed over the doorway because the new rubber roof is making everything fall right at the doorway, making it dangerous. Oil prices should stay the same for chip sealing. Public Works Director Brandon Harris from Fremont County said they are more than willing to help us when the time comes to chip seal. Butigan is still waiting for contacts to get bids on the slurry seal at the airport and he has a call in to a vendor for a water line under the freeway entrance. This is expected to cost around \$3,000. This is for the area where flowers usually go each spring. Council agreed this should be repaired.

Attorney Forsberg had nothing to report.

Clerk Parkinson reported the city has gone "live" with Payment Service Network. Mayor Thueson has allowed his account to be the test account and after some small bumps, everything is up and running. The next city newsletter will provide information for customers to sign up for electronic billing (e-bills) and the ability to go paperless. Customers can now make their payments electronically over the phone, on the Internet through the city's web page, or via a smart phone using an app. Payment types accepted can be VISA, MasterCard, Discover or Bank Check. They also have the option to schedule payments into the future or immediately. Parkinson also is requesting any suggestions for additional members to the Parks and Recreation Committee. The current Chair is okay with being a member but would like a new Chair assigned. Parkinson suggested Donna Forsberg be asked to Chair. Mayor Thueson said he would contact her.

COUNCIL & MAYOR REPORTS

Councilmember Bagley reported the Mayor's Youth Council would like to be on the Council's agenda for the last meeting in March. Bagley said she had one concern regarding the Shop With A Cop Program. The Mayor's Youth Council participates each year. Bagley said it is important to the youth and the teachers to see Law Enforcement interaction with these kids. Sometimes just sitting next to them at lunch and visiting with them is the boost these kids need. Having a better role model is what these kids are looking for. Chief Harris said one of the hardest crimes to solve is vandalism. Many

times just talking to the kids will provide the information needed to solve these types of crimes. Harris says he encourages his officers to go to the school or attend the games and talk to the kids.

Councilmember Erickson reported one of our officers caught someone going through residents' garages, including some in his neighborhood. Erickson said thank you and appreciates the work. Chief Harris said the suspects were going through cars and 15 vehicles were entered. Little had been taken and arrests were made.

Councilmember Haeberle had nothing to report.

Councilmember Hill had nothing to report.

Councilmember Willmore reported trying to get ahold of Bill Stathum about the Airport study. Willmore was unsuccessful, but will continue to try.

Mayor Thueson reported receiving a phone call about snow plowing. The caller was upset because she couldn't put her snow out in the street, but the city could plow snow onto another's property. Thueson said he took a drive to where the complainant said the snow was being pushed to and he said there was a small pile there. However, it is an abandoned lot. Thueson said he couldn't see any problem with doing this and thought the public work crews did nothing wrong. Thueson said he did contact the complainant and told her snow would not be hauled off. He said if she could think of a better idea to let him know and they would try it. PWS Butigan said on that road the city has a 30 foot easement on both sides and can use that area for pushing the snow to. Thueson said when he receives complaints he follows up on them.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO IDAHO CODE 67-2345, subsection 1 (b) – There was no motion to go into executive session. Mayor Thueson said he would prefer to go into this session when all council members are present.

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m. by Mayor Thueson.


Neils Thueson, Mayor

Attest:


Patty Unruh Parkinson, City Clerk-Treasurer

