

*CITY OF ST. ANTHONY  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
April 23, 2015, 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 and Rod Willmore.

**ABSENT:** Council Member Suzanne Bagley and Russ Rubert.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Clerk/Treasurer Patty Parkinson, Attorney Bill Forsberg, Public Works Superintendent Scott Butigan, Chief of Police Terry Harris and 15 others in the audience.

Mayor Thueson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PRAYER** was offered by Councilmember Erickson. (This is a non-denominational offering and anyone who would like to offer prayer may do so by request.)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE** was led by Boy Scout Cesar Tavaréz.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**TRPTA (Targhee Regional Public Transit Authority) Report/Amanda** – Amanda Ely was not present.

**Main Street Report/Kara Hidalgo** – Dan Hidalgo from the Idaho Art Lab reported they have selected their teen mural artists for the mural project. They are Cash Krebs a sophomore from North Fremont High School, Hope Birch a freshman, Rachel Murray a freshman, Kailyn Thompson a freshman, and Ed Furniss all from South Fremont High School. Next month, at this time, preliminary drawings will be presented to council for their approval. The Art Lab is creating a piece of art work to be displayed at the Fisherman's Breakfast in Keefer Park. It will be displayed at the breakfast temporarily for public input. It is a 35 foot fishing pole with a dangling six foot fish. The pole will have an interactive reel. Kara Hidalgo said she attended the Main Street Conference in Atlanta to represent the City of St. Anthony. Kara provided council with a handout which summarized the event and the key factors in downtown revitalization. Kara reported she focused on three factors, Economic Development, Placemaking and Design, Arts and Culture. Kara spoke about the events she attended and the towns she toured. One town was a lot like St. Anthony. Kara said she received many ideas and feels like the city needs to stay connected with Ashton and other cities connected to the Main Street Program. Kara will be attending a Main Street meeting in Nampa in a few weeks, which will maintain connection with similar communities in our state. Kara said the community needs to become more involved in helping the city decide what sort of revitalization needs to take place. Either something geared towards tourist or something geared more towards a bedroom commuter community. Until this is decided

you really can't take the next step. Kara said she has some suggestions, but this is a great start and she is impressed with what we already have in our city. We have great events, the river, the sand bar and the sand dunes not far away. Kara suggested during Summer Fest the committee consider backing the booths in the center of the street to invite more commerce from the brick and mortar businesses. Kara said part of the information she provided council is a google search. This shows what tourists might see when they google the city. Kara said the first eight pages of the search show 89 images of the sand dunes. This was the largest subject matter which popped up in the search. Kara said she learned the city should find their assets and use them. Kara said she would also like to do some research on why businesses seem to come and go so quickly in St. Anthony. Maybe owners need to learn ways to market or maybe landlords need to learn the benefits of long term leases and planning out five year plans with tenants and seeing them as investments. Kara said council has a role to talk positively about the city and to support any revitalization team with things like Proclamations. Council needs to be involved in larger planning and training efforts and their input is needed, as council is the voice of the citizens. There should be a vision crafted through participation and they should have a voice in the community vision process. Partnerships with business owners and not for profits should be created to solidify this vision. One thing to always remember is to continue to improve the quality of life for the people already living in the city, such as having nice parks and culture with places to recreate. Kara said one thing she learned is if a city has empty buildings it is important to appear as though it is busy. The goal is to find an inexpensive, quick way to fill the vacant store front windows. The first impression should show activity with something there and then the second look should show the property is for rent. We need to have the building owners find tenants. Habitat for Humanity will give the city free paint and building materials and artists from the Art Lab can create art for downtown. Kara had one idea of getting doors from Habitat for Humanity and having artists place something on the door which could be placed in empty store front windows to give the impression of activity and that the space is for rent. This might include historic facts, murals, photos or ideas for what the empty space could be used for. This could be shared with other cities, like Ashton. In addition, tourists visiting need way finding signs, where to park, where there are restrooms, where the tourist info center is, etc. Kara has contacted a number of local businesses and artists interested in using arts and culture to stimulate the economy. They are meeting and calling themselves the Creative Industries Committee. Anyone is invited to attend. The next meeting is Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 at the Idaho Art Lab. The Main Street Matters group is meeting in Ashton Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, from 4-6 p.m. Mayor Thueson thanked Kara for going. Both Kara and Daniel Hidalgo have and are doing a lot for the City of St. Anthony and it is really appreciated. Kara said they will be promoting the Greenway on May 7<sup>th</sup>, which is the Idaho Gives Day. There will be artists along the Greenway to promote that. Tomorrow night is the gallery opening with music and refreshments. All are invited.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Thueson opened the floor for public comment to invite the Boy Scouts in

attendance to introduce themselves and what they are working on. The scouts were working on their Citizenship in Community merit badges. They were Mason Summers, Cesar Tavarez, Parker Dupree, Tanner Dupree and Keegan Gould.

There being no other comments Thueson moved on to the next agenda item.

**Requests for Proposal for Garbage Services/Review/Discuss/Decision** – Mayor Thueson said each council member should have a copy of the minutes and recommendation made by the Solid Waste RFP Review Committee. Councilmember Erickson said it wasn't easy. Three good proposals came in to the city. PSI, Eagle Rock Sanitation and Snake River Sanitation provided the city with proposals. The committee interviewed each proposer and talked about their businesses and what they can do. The committee didn't come to an agreement on everything. Erickson said where he is at he proposes the contract be awarded back to PSI. Erickson said the reason is every day we are in business and every day we work we prove ourselves. We work hard, we do a good job and we hope that those we are doing a service for like what we are doing. Erickson said he thinks for the last 10 years PSI has worked hard and done a good job. We have been very satisfied with the job they have done. They have a history with us. They have done a good job. So, the proposal to the group is to keep PSI. Erickson read from the meeting minutes. PSI has been in the solid waste business for many years. The manager of its local division has 23 years of experience in the business. PSI has been the City's solid waste contractor for the last 10 years and the City has had a very positive experience. During that time, PSI's service has been excellent. It is reliable and responsive to the City's concerns and requests. Of the companies considered, PSI has the most available resources to provide for the scope of services required for the city and has given the city its assurance that it will provide the best pricing and terms in that it will meet the best terms in the proposals before the City. PSI is providing solid waste collection services for 13 municipalities in Eastern Idaho along with the INL. Only one other company is currently contracting with any municipality and that is Eagle Rock Sanitation with the City of Mud Lake. PSI also stated a willingness to donate back to the community by providing free equipment and services to the City's various events, including the 24<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, Fisherman's Breakfast, various youth sports events and Summer Fest. PSI has very impressive employee safety and drug screening programs. Its equipment maintenance is top notch. It has significantly better insurance coverage available including environmental hazards coverage with high limits to further protect the City from potential liabilities of all kinds. Erickson said with that he made a recommendation to the city council to continue with PSI. Councilmember Hill said he agrees with Erickson. He said he appreciates all three businesses which made proposals. PSI has done the city an excellent job and the city has experience with them, the price is right, and feels the city should go with PSI. Councilmember Willmore said first of all he thinks PSI has done the city an excellent job. All the things recommended in the minutes he agreed with. Willmore said he strongly disagrees and especially wants to give an opportunity to our local guy. He said it is interesting that we talk about small business tonight. But he strongly believes that small business needs an opportunity in our city and SRS would provide us with the same quality of service as PSI. Willmore said he knows SRS doesn't have as much

experience as the other two, but he has some experience and he hasn't heard anything negative. Willmore said we are not talking about a major road construction job that has to be engineered or anything like that. Willmore said it's picking up garbage; it doesn't take a whole lot of skill other than driving a truck. Which is skill, as Willmore hires truck drivers and you have to have somebody that can do that but, it's just picking up garbage. Willmore said he believes SRS said they would match any offer. Willmore said he sees \$185,000 of our money going out of town. When you buy fuel from Berry Oil, that is not in town. The drivers don't live here. Willmore said this is an opportunity to better our community. It may not start off as good of service as PSI is giving us at this time, but to give SRS a year or two and they'll be as good as PSI, plus some, as he is right here locally and we'll be able to call up on him anytime. He'll maintain his trucks here in town. The other two in Idaho Falls, their tires, their fuel, all of it. It would provide a couple more jobs in St. Anthony. Willmore thinks the committee way over analyzed what SRS will be purchasing, financially. It is not our responsibility to determine if he is financially capable of doing it. It is his banks. If he fulfills his contract requirements and has the performance bond then he is covered and the city is covered. He may fail, he may not, but that is not our call. Willmore said he just feels we are missing an opportunity to better our community and to keep money in town and provide some jobs. Councilmember Haeberle said she tends to agree with Willmore. This is one reason she moved here because it was a small town where everyone worked together and we try to do everything here in St. Anthony. Haeberle said she thinks this is important. Willmore said he wished the other two council members were here tonight. After a short pause, Thueson said he would entertain a motion. A motion to table this item until there is a full council was made by Willmore and seconded by Erickson. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 4-0. This item will be placed on the next agenda. Thueson thanked the representatives in the audience from Eagle Rock Sanitation and PSI for coming to the meeting. Thueson asked if either one of them had anything to say about this tonight. Eagle Rock said they believe in buying local and any services they could use locally they would do, such as buying fuel and repairing trucks. Thueson asked PSI what they do. PSI said they don't have a facility in this area and all maintenance is done at their shop in Idaho Falls. Todd Hansen, of PSI, said on the point Willmore made that it isn't the council's job or duty to determine the financial viability of a proposer, he thinks it might be, because there really is a fiduciary responsibility to make the best decision for your constituents based on that and other factors. Thueson said it is council's responsibility to represent 3500 people in this community. It is what they elected us to do. It is our responsibility to find the company and the people that will serve the citizens of St. Anthony the best. Thueson said he commends the Committee for doing what they did.

Mayor Thueson then opened the floor again for public comment.

Beatrice Blain, 484 N 2400 E, stood up and said she lives on the Teton Highway right across from the business park next to the airport. She lives in the county, but receives city water, thus receives and enjoys the city's newsletter. Blain said in year's past she receives information about her responsibility for a neat and tidy lot. Blain said she likes it that our city is clean and beautiful. But, the city's business park doesn't seem to need

to comply with this neat and clean ordinance. In other words, everyone complies but the city. Blain said her kids have already hauled away four pickup loads of weeds from her fence. It is only April and it will continue through the whole year if something isn't done to knock down the weeds in the city's business park. Mayor Thueson asked PWS Butigan what can be done about it. Butigan said the city needs to get some equipment. There was some discussion on what kinds of things the city can do to take care of the problem. Butigan said he will look into it and see what can be done. Thueson thanked Blain for coming in.

Donna Forsberg, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee, stood up to introduce their newest member, Curt Neppi. Neppi said he moved to the city about a year ago, living next to Boyd Yancey Memorial Park. Neppi said he works for the Forest Service in Ashton as a Rec Specialist. He said he has two young kids and they like this little town. He also said he is honored to be on the committee and looks forward to helping out. Mayor Thueson said the veterans would like a sign directing people to the Veteran's Park. Thueson has asked them to contact the Parks and Recreation Committee for their request.

Mayor then moved on to the next item on the agenda.

**INVOICES & CLAIMS** - Payment Approval Reports were presented to Council. Following some questions which were satisfactory answered by staff, a motion to pay the invoices and claims was made by Councilmember Hill and seconded by Councilmember Willmore. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

**MINUTES** - Regular Council Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2015 were presented to council. A motion to accept the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2015 was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Haeberle. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Chief Harris** reported the department will be working on a seat belt grant from May 18<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>. There is also a grant to patrol the 100 deadliest days from May 25<sup>th</sup> to September 8<sup>th</sup>. The grant runs in three different 33 day slots. The COPS Grant has been extended for another year. This puts back into the General Fund \$40,000 which pays wages for the COPS officer. Harris said he put in an application to have a training session here in the city, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> called Leading by Legacy from the Chiefs of Police Association Department of Justice. The city is one of eight locations in the nation where this will be held. The police department survey is just about completed and Harris said he thought he might have something for council's review at the next meeting or so. May 10<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> Harris will be attending the FBI Command Academy in West Yellowstone. The training is free. The city will pay for hotel and meals.

**PWS Butigan** provided council with an estimate from Automation Werx. The city has

been having some problems with communications in the SCADA system between the well and the pump. The pump didn't shut off, which overfilled the tank. The quote is for the computers to talk better to each other. This will allow both wells to better talk to each other and not allow this problem to happen. The current radio system setup uses 450 MHz radios with serial communication. This type of radio is very slow in communications and forces the master radio for the SCADA to only communicate with one station at a time. The new proposal calls for the installation of 900 MHz radios with Ethernet communication. This will allow for the fastest communication on the market for telemetry systems and allow the master radio for the SCADA to talk to multiple radios at the same time.

A sewer line has been placed into the Snack Shack at the Ball Diamonds. Hopefully, it will be finished by Monday. This will allow for a sink in the shack.

A furnace needs to be replaced over the Police Department. There is enough in the budget for this around \$6,000 to \$7,000.

Councilmember Erickson said Tom Howell is very concerned the tank gets painted the correct color and he said he can come up with the paint. Greg Lemmon is concerned the tank has the correct stars and numbers on them. Lemmon said he will do these for the city. Mayor Thueson said to make sure photos are taken before and after painting of the tank.

**Attorney Forsberg** had nothing to report.

**Clerk Parkinson** reminded council Arbor Day is Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at 10:00 a.m. in Boyd Yancey Memorial Park and everyone is invited to attend. Four trees will be planted and the first graders from Henry's Fork Elementary will be in attendance helping the city plant. Each first grader will receive a seedling to plant at home in addition to cookies and punch. The city was awarded \$300 from the Arbor Day Foundation. The Association of Idaho Cities Annual Conference is being held in Boise June 10-12. Please let Parkinson know if anyone from council would like to attend. Parkinson said there will be an ECHO meeting April 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 at the County Annex Building. Parkinson said she will also be attending the last HUD Teton Regional View meeting on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> in Driggs. In addition, Parkinson will be attending a Rural HUD Consortium meeting in Billings, Montana May 4 – 6. Parkinson provided council with the second quarter financial statement and the Fund Summary for the six months ending March 31, 2015. A Fremont County Public Hearing Notice was also provided to council for their information.

## **COUNCIL & MAYOR REPORTS**

**Councilmember Erickson** had nothing to report.

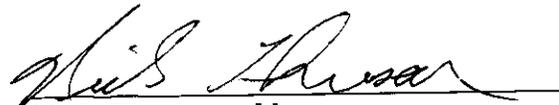
**Councilmember Haeberle** had nothing to report.

**Councilmember Hill** had nothing to report.

**Councilmember Willmore** had nothing to report.

**Mayor Thueson** said there has been a request for an electronic sign instead of the sign currently by the Bridge Street Bridge. Thueson said he would like someone to check on the pricing of one, as it would be pretty nice. Thueson asked for a volunteer to look in to it. Councilmember Haeberle said she would see what she could find out.

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m. by Mayor Thueson.

  
Neils Thueson, Mayor

Attest:

  
Patty Unruh Parkinson, City Clerk-Treasurer

