

*CITY OF ST. ANTHONY  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
May 14, 2015, 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, Russ Rubert and Rod Willmore.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Clerk/Treasurer Patty Parkinson, Attorney Bill Forsberg, Public Works Superintendent Scott Butigan and eight others in the audience.

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Councilmember Erikson.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Mayor Thueson directed attention to the bench in the back of the room made by Tyler Murri. Murri built the bench as part of an Eagle Scout Project and will be present later in the meeting to present it to the city.

**Requests for Proposal for Garbage Services/Review/Discuss/Decision** – Mayor Thueson said council needs to discuss and consider contracting for sanitation services in the city. Thueson asked to hear from each council member. Councilmember Willmore made a motion to add Randy Kirkham to the agenda so he may address council regarding this. This was seconded by Councilmember Haeberle. All council members approved. Motion passed 6-0. Thueson said he still wants to continue on and he sees all three proposers are in the audience and council may want to visit with all three. Thueson asked to start with Willmore. Willmore said his position is still the same as it was two weeks ago. He said he visited with Kirkham extensively and was blunt with him. Willmore wanted to make sure everyone read the minutes from the last meeting, because he doesn't need to repeat everything. He still feels the same. Councilmember Hill said they opened up the service for requests. The committee took time to look at it and interviewed every proposer. Hill said he'd like to keep things local too, to a point. Hill said PSI has done the city a great job for 10 years. Price is good and service is good. We know what we are getting and what we are going to get. The others who knows? Councilmember Haeberle said she is torn. She has read both letters received from Eagle Rock and Snake River Sanitation. Haeberle said she'd like to keep things local, but knows PSI has done a great job. She said she really feels like it should go to a local person. Councilmember Erickson said he appreciates visiting with each proposer and the letters received. PSI has spent 10 years working hard, doing a good job and hasn't given us any reason to question them. The reason we are having this meeting is because Kirkham with Snake River wants the city to give a local man a chance. Erickson said the city has done that. This doesn't mean we have to do it. A 10 year track record with PSI, no history from the other

two and PSI being so workable makes Erickson feel like PSI is in the stronger position. Erickson said the city should go with PSI. Councilmember Bagley said she wasn't at the last meeting and knows this was sent to a committee for their review and recommendation. She asked for the outcome of the committee. Erickson said the committee, Hill, Willmore and himself, recommended by a vote of 2-1 to go with PSI. Willmore voted Snake River. So, the recommendation of the committee was to go with PSI. Bagley said she is very happy with PSI. They have done a good job. If it's not broken, why fix it? Bagley said she would like to continue with PSI. Councilmember Rubert said he wasn't involved in the last meeting. Rubert said he had a couple of questions. Has the contract been a year-to-year thing or is it a multi-year contract. Thueson said it is a five year contract to be reviewed once per year. Attorney Forsberg said this is correct for the last contract. Rubert said regardless of what business we are in, in some shape or form its competition. Competition is what makes the free enterprise work. It is true PSI has provided a valuable service. Rubert said he is a strong supporter of keeping things local. He said his vote would be, if someone believes they have what it takes to make a difference in the community and to provide a service above and beyond what it's been in the past; then some healthy competition may not be a bad thing. Rubert said he would certainly entertain an opportunity to give the local people a chance provided it can be reviewed in a year to see how they are doing.

**Comments from Randy Kirkham** – Mayor Thueson asked Randy Kirkham for any comment. Kirkham introduced himself, saying he lives in St. Anthony, Idaho. Kirkham said he operates Snake River Sanitation here in town. He would love the chance to give other people in St. Anthony a job here and keep something here that people could rely on and have a job locally and keep our money local. Kirkham said he would keep everything he could locally, including building dumpsters and work on his trucks. It serves a great purpose to keep our money here. Kirkham said he thinks he has met all the demands, equipment wise and financial wise. Kirkham said he knows council might have some financial concerns about his ability to come up with the money. He said his banker is more than willing to have a conference call with council to let them know the money is available. Willmore said he'd like to say something. Willmore said he talked to Kirkham and told him bluntly the city didn't want to hire him if it's going to put him in a financial bind. Willmore said he gave Kirkham the numbers, as far as what the city was going to propose and to go back to his bank. Willmore told him if he couldn't do it, then he should rescind his proposal. Willmore said he spoke to Kirkham today and had hoped he'd have something from the bank today; however the bank wasn't able to get back to him on time. Willmore said he thinks he can service us well. Willmore continued by saying he didn't think he could beat PSI's job, but he does think we can make our community better if we have jobs here. Kirkham sent the city a business plan on how he would get started and what trucks he would buy and Willmore said he is willing to risk allowing Kirkham to do it. Willmore said he's done his homework on this one and spent a lot of time with Kirkham to make sure this will work. Thueson asked if anyone else had questions for Kirkham. Thueson then said he'd like to give the other two an opportunity to speak. Fred Tiffany, of Eagle Rock Sanitation, asked if Kirkham is associated with Snake River Sanitation out of Blackfoot. Kirkham said he is not. Tiffany then said they were not aware of the results of the proposals and where the prices fell. Thueson said they were all really close. These were not bids just proposals to see who it was council might choose. They varied a bit, making it very hard to figure it out exactly. Kirkham was a little higher than either PSI or Eagle Rock. PSI and Eagle Rock were very

close in pricing. Tiffany said he has been watching this debate over the last few weeks and apparently they are not being considered as local, being 40 miles away. They think they are local. Tiffany said he is dismayed that when you get a chance to get something local and half of you don't want to do it. On the flip side, what can you do to open up the store fronts and you send a check to Texas, just as far as you can get. Tiffany continued to say it seems to him this is a double standard and if he is not local enough for council then maybe he (Kirkham) is. Tiffany said they are perfectly capable of doing this job with 20 years' experience. He said Jefferson County had a public hearing regarding waste disposal and not one comment was in favor of PSI. The over whelming majority want a local company. Tiffany said he suspects if this was put to a vote in St. Anthony it would overwhelming be a local guy. Todd Hansen, of PSI, said the reason people did not speak in favor of PSI is because Eagle Rock sent all the constituents a letter to show up and support Eagle Rock. The majority spoke in favor of Eagle Rock, but no opposition to PSI. Hansen said as far as money getting sent to Texas he said he doesn't understand what the difference is. All of our employees live in the area, so money is spent in the area. He said our taxes are spent in the area. Hansen said the decision is in front of them. There is experience. Hansen said he's been in the business 21 years and PSI has been around longer than that. He said PSI has proven what they can do in the community and the service they provide. They are financially stable and nothing catastrophic can put them out of business. It's not just trucking. There are 50,000 pound vehicles filled with hydraulics and diesel and you need someone with experience. PSI has the means to respond to either a manmade or natural disaster. Sometimes it's not about price or a local guy. Hansen said sometimes the decision you have to make needs to be the best for the voters and mitigating risk. Solid waste is a matter of public safety. It can be a complicated business at times and nasty. Things happen. Hansen asked council to consider these things.

Mayor Thueson then told council he would entertain a motion. A motion to begin contract negotiations with PSI was made by Councilmember Erickson and seconded by Councilmember Hill. A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Council Members Willmore, no; Hill, yes; Haeberle, no; Erickson, yes; Bagley, yes; and Rubert, no. Motion tied 3-3. Thueson said it is now up to him. He said the reason he is going to make the vote he is going to make is because his responsibility is to the citizens of St. Anthony, 3500 people. Not just one person or business. The track record with the people the city has had has been so good. Thueson said he doesn't know why we want to penalize someone doing such a good job. Thueson said he will vote in favor of PSI. The motion passed 4-3 in favor of beginning contract negotiations with PSI. Thueson said if a successful contract cannot be reached with PSI then the process will begin again. Councilmember Willmore said since the city will be going with PSI he'd like to see PSI come forward with putting some money back into this community, including several Eagle Scout projects, where one young man is raising several thousands of dollars for some handicapped playground equipment. Willmore said there is a bunch of different places which could use some help. Willmore said he challenges PSI to donate to some of these causes. Hansen said he is willing and open to do these things for the community, as this is the fun part of the job. Councilmember Rubert said he thinks it would be wise and prudent for the citizens of the City of St. Anthony to be allowed to have an annual performance review of the services they receive. Rubert said he thinks a mandatory comprehensive performance review needs to be in order, so we as the council and the citizens in general can keep track of what they are actually paying for. Thueson said he can guarantee

if the public is not being served the way they should be served, Clerk Parkinson is the first to hear about it. Thueson said we can ask for this in the newsletter.

Mayor Thueson didn't think Tyler Murri was going to make it to the meeting, so he moved on to paying the invoices and claims.

**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 Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Rubert. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

**MINUTES** - Regular Council Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2015 were presented to council. A motion to accept the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2015 was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Haerberle. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**PWS Butigan** reported everything is ready for Spring Cleanup and the Greenway, weather permitting. Butigan said the new merry-go-round should be in Keefer Park by Tuesday. Tables will be set up for Fisherman's Breakfast. There is a new swing set and a tree in Cedar View Park. The large evergreen tree in the front of the building will be removed and replaced with a tree matching the rest. Crews have been Dura-patching when weather permits. Butigan said a few meetings ago there was a complaint about the Industrial Park. Since then, crews have smoothed it out and the county has sprayed the weeds. All the dead and dying trees have been hauled off.

**Attorney Forsberg** reported Planning and Zoning met last night and all members were present. They had their first hearing under the new zoning ordinances. It was a Special Use Permit Application from Upper Valley Community Health. They bought a home on First North which they wanted to convert to professional offices. The ordinance allows for this use as a conditional use in this residential zone. The applicant was present as well as two of the neighbors, who spoke. The Planning and Zoning Commission granted the Special Use Permit. Unlike years past, it will not be coming to city council for approval as the new zoning allows for the commission to make this decision. The only time city council will see something like this is if someone were to appeal their decision. It was a fairly successful evening and everything seemed to work.

**Clerk Parkinson** said the new zoning map is up in the council chambers. Parkinson reported on providing council with past Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, Planning and Zoning Meeting Minutes and the Zoning and Fence Permits Report. Parkinson said today is the last chance council members have to register for the 2015 AIC (Association of Idaho Cities) Annual Conference, June 10-12. Parkinson said she attended an AIC District meeting and was brought up to date on legislative matters pertaining to cities. One important outcome of the new seven cent gas tax will be an increase in highway revenue to the city by 33%. What this means is, an additional \$33,000 will be received by the city for streets. This will reduce what the city's general fund has been giving to the street fund by that amount. This is a significant

increase into the street fund and general fund. Mayor Thueson said the city is already budgeting \$100,000 each year for chip and seal and seal coating. It is time to review what the city wants to do next. Thueson said curb, gutter and sidewalks are important. Parkinson said she also attended the Rural HUD Consortium meetings in Billings and appreciates the opportunity allowed her by council to attend. Parkinson also reported the Boy Scout who is raising funds towards the ADA assessable equipment has already raised about \$4300. The ground cover was also ordered today because the pricing to the city was for around \$7,000 and when they learned it was a Boy Scout Eagle Project they donated much of the material cutting the cost to \$2,700. The rocks which will be used for the Welcome to St. Anthony signs have been picked out. They look really nice. Parkinson will provide council with some options to view of the rocks given to us through the Eagle Scout working on this project.

## **COUNCIL & MAYOR REPORTS**

**Councilmember Rubert** said the Chamber of Commerce is alive and well and functioning. Plans for Fisherman's Breakfast are underway. There have been some large donations and their biggest concern is coming up with volunteers for cooking and serving. There is plenty for adults and youth to do. Rubert encourages the Mayor's Youth Council to be involved and to contact the committee. Rubert extended a personal invitation to the councilmembers to help out. The Fisherman's Breakfast Committee is still looking for more volunteers to participate in the future. The breakfast will take place Friday, May 22, 2015.

**Councilmember Bagley** reported May 19<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 a.m., is the school assembly where the Mayor's Youth Council Scholarship will be awarded. Bagley said the primary function of the Eagle Scout Project for the Welcome to St. Anthony signs will be raising the money for the rocks.

**Councilmember Erickson** had nothing to report.

**Councilmember Haeberle** reported she looked into the electronic signs and learned they are very expensive. For example, the one by the high school was \$25,000. Mayor Thueson asked Haeberle to contact some of the people she has been talking to and get some of the sign's prices to get a better idea where the city should start.

**Councilmember Hill** said the next Finance Committee Meeting will be Monday, May 18, 2015. Mayor Thueson said he won't be able to attend as he has another event to attend.

**Councilmember Willmore** said there are a number of lights on the taxi-way at the airport which are not working. He said the two street lights they just put up out there are still not working either. Willmore asked Butigan if there were plans for the asphalt. Butigan said it should be done this summer. This should finish out the rest of the taxi-way grant. Parkinson said she was told by Bill Statham the city should be receiving the grant money by the end of the month.

**Mayor Thueson** had nothing to report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Thueson opened the floor for public comment.

Daniel and Kara Hidalgo from the Idaho Art Lab presented council with the approved teen murals for the Keefer Park Mural Project. Six murals were approved. Daniel laid all the art in front of the council for their review and named each artist. Daniel said they will be doing an interactive fishing pole with a large fish on the line at Fisherman's Breakfast. He said C & C Supply donated a lot of paint for the project. Kara said they will be standing next to it to ask the community what they think of it and whether it should be a permanent thing or something they only bring out for Fisherman's Breakfast.

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

**Presentation of Eagle Scout Project/Tyler Murri** – Tyler Murri presented to council the bench he made for Keefer Park. He said all materials were donated. Mayor Thueson said he did a really good job and appreciates him doing this. The bench will be placed in Keefer Park.

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

