

CITY OF ST. ANTHONY  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
August 13, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

420 NORTH BRIDGE, SUITE A, ST. ANTHONY, ID, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**PRESENT:** Mayor Neils Thueson, Council Members Suzanne Bagley (arrived at 7:14 p.m.), Tom Erickson, Rick Hill, Russ Rubert and Rod Willmore.

**ABSENT:** Council Member Lisa Haeberle.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Clerk/Treasurer Patty Parkinson, Attorney Bill Forsberg, Public Works Superintendent Scott Butigan, Police Chief Terry Harris and 10 others in the audience.

**CALL TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

**PRAYER** was offered by Councilmember Hill. (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 PWS Butigan.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Discuss property at 121 E 2<sup>nd</sup> N to declare as a Dangerous Building and abate –** Mayor Thueson moved this to the beginning of the meeting due to the City Attorney having to leave early from the meeting. Council may wish to have the attorney's advice if needed. Parkinson reported a letter regarding the abatement of the property was sent to the property owners. Shortly after the letter was sent, Parkinson received a phone call and an email from the owners, Benjamin and Olivia Burkett. They indicate they will be arriving into St. Anthony August 24<sup>th</sup> and plan to renovate the property. Councilmember Erickson said it sounds like they will be coming in and working on the property. Councilmember Rubert said it seems like they have things under control. Thueson said council should wait until the 24<sup>th</sup> before doing anything. Thueson said the item should be tabled until the owners can have a chance to move here and appear before council to discuss the matter. Forsberg said the new owners may not be aware of the amount of damage to the property. Parkinson said it will be on Council's September 10<sup>th</sup> agenda. Forsberg said the owners will need a new certificate of occupancy and building permit before they can actually live there.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**2015/16 Budget Hearing -** Mayor Thueson opened the floor for public comment on the proposed 2015/16 Budget. No one signed in to speak either for, against or neutrally. Councilmember Hill reported there is a one percent increase in water and sewer revenue. No increase in sanitation revenue and no increase in property taxes. Most of

the budget is the same as last year's. The police budget was increased for the purchase of a new vehicle and an additional officer. Flowers are in the budget, along with improvements to playground equipment in the parks. Councilmember Erickson said they are looking at two new loaders as long as the street sweeper can sell and the other loaders sell for the minimum prices. PWS Butigan said this is on tonight's agenda. Thueson said the increases in water and sewer is not to accumulate any money. This is what it costs to provide those services. Clerk Parkinson said she also provided council with the 2015 utility rates and the proposed 2016 utility rates. The base rates for water will go up .27 cents and for sewer .31 cents. Usage rates will go up a penny for each water and sewer per 1,000 gallons. There is no increase in either residential or commercial rates. An increase in the late charge will go from \$6.00 per month to \$6.30 per month. Hill said there is a three percent increase in cost of living and a three percent increase for merit pay for the employees. This is there at the discretion of the Mayor. Councilmember Willmore said he is concerned about a couple of things. He doesn't think the city needs a six man police force. He was here before when the cuts were made and he would hate to see the city get employee heavy again. This would be a great expense. He knows it's in this budget in case they want to do that. What he would like to see is the hiring of a sixth man, six months prior to Chief Harris retiring, and then when he retires, go back to five. Willmore said he thought they could hire 10 officers and they still couldn't catch all the drug addicts. One officer isn't going to make a whole lot of difference. Willmore says every time he drives through town he sees one or two county officers doing something. Willmore said he also doesn't think the city should fund TRPTA (Targhee Regional Public Transportation Authority). He sees the bus two or three times a day going back and forth to Driggs with no one riding in it. The one that comes in to town, he never sees anyone on. He said TRPTA hasn't come to any city meetings to tell us what they are doing, to give us any information or who's riding. He said it's a government funded program paid by taxes that is not getting utilized. It shouldn't be funded if it's not being used. As far as the increases in water and sewer rates, one percent is not that bad. We need to keep up with things like depreciation. Thueson asked if he was okay with leaving the budget the way it is and when it comes time to hire for Harris's replacement we can talk about it then. Willmore said he is okay with that. Thueson asked about discussing the TRPTA bill when it comes. Willmore said he is okay with that as well. Hill said just because the money is budgeted for these things doesn't mean we have to spend it. Thueson asked again if there was anyone wanting to express an opinion or concern about the budget in the audience. Joyce Lewis said she is representing her business here in town. Lewis said she has a business where a lot of people have to have transportation. She said there hasn't been one single person who has ever used TRPTA. She said TRPTA is not reliable and so they won't use it. Lewis said she supports not supporting TRPTA. There being no other comments Thueson closed the floor for public comment.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Approval of the 2015/16 Budget Ordinance No. 2015-06 2016 Fiscal Year Final Appropriation Budget** – Mayor Thueson said he would entertain a motion for the 2015/16 Budget Ordinance. A motion to suspend the reading of Ordinance 2015-06 the

2016 Fiscal Year Final Appropriation Budget on three different days and to read the ordinance one time was made by Councilmember Erickson and seconded by Councilmember Hill. A roll call vote followed with Councilmember Rubert, yes; Bagley, yes; Erickson, yes; Hill, yes; and Willmore, yes. Motion passed 5-0. The ordinance was read in full by Erickson. A motion to adopt Ordinance 2015-06 was made by Erickson and seconded by Rubert. A roll call vote followed with Councilmember Rubert, yes; Bagley, yes; Erickson, yes; Hill, yes; and Willmore, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Approve Resolution 2015-02 Adopting a new Water rate for Water Services –** Councilmember Rubert read Resolution 2015-02 adopting a new water rate for water services in full. A motion to adopt Resolution 2015-02 was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Rubert. A roll call vote followed with Councilmember Rubert, yes; Bagley, yes; Erickson, yes; Hill, yes; and Willmore, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Approve Resolution 2015-03 Adopting a new Sewer rate for Sewer Services –** Councilmember Bagley read Resolution 2015-03 adopting a new sewer rate for sewer services in full. A motion to adopt Resolution 2015-03 was made by Councilmember Hill and seconded by Councilmember Willmore. A roll call vote followed with Councilmember Rubert, yes; Bagley, yes; Erickson, yes; Hill, yes; and Willmore, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Approve Resolution 2015-04 Adopting a new Late Fee rate for late utility payments –** Councilmember Hill read Resolution 2015-04 adopting a new late fee for late utility payments in full. A motion to adopt Resolution 2015-04 was made by Councilmember Rubert and seconded by Councilmember Bagley. A roll call vote followed with Councilmember Rubert, yes; Bagley, yes; Erickson, yes; Hill, yes; and Willmore, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Schiess & Associates Report on West Main Project –** Paul Scoresby of Schiess & Associates reported that three weeks ago the final design or PS&E (Plans, Specifications & Estimate) for the West Main Street Project was turned in to ITD (Idaho Transportation Department). The engineer file was also turned in to them. There may be some back and forth on the PS&E. Another accomplishment just last week was the Corp of Engineers Permit was finalized. Everything is now in LHTAC's (Local Highway Technical Assistance Council) court. Scoresby said, at some point, there will be a need to change some of the park properties into roadways with a change of use. The city still owns the property but it will change from park property to right-of-way. The next step, after this, will be the selection of a construction engineer. This will be a process where a RFQ (Request for Quotation) will be solicited and received. Then a committee will be established to review them and make a recommendation. Schiess then said he brought Kelly Hoopes from Horrocks Engineers to tonight's meeting and recommends the city look at them strongly for the design of the bridge on 2<sup>nd</sup> West. Horrocks Engineers did the design of East Main.

On another topic, the airport, Scoresby said he has called and spoken to Bill Statham,

Project Manager of the Idaho Transportation Department of Aeronautics, regarding the airport study. Statham said they will begin on the project soon and it's underway. Scoresby said it should begin next week.

Councilmember Hill asked what the timeframe is for West Main. Scoresby said at this point ITD is still planning on construction to begin in May or the spring of next year. Thueson said he would like the construction engineer picked this year and go to bid with it this fall.

**Horrocks Engineers Report on 2<sup>nd</sup> West Bridge** – Kelly Hoopes of Horrocks Engineers said he has visited with the city about 18 months ago regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge and the options and condition of the bridge. It was decided to rehab the bridge as much as possible to hold it over until actual funding came for the replacement of the bridge. Now that the funding is getting closer, Hoopes said he is here to remind council they are interested in designing the bridge. This funding for design will begin October 1, of 2016. Hoopes said he would really like to have Horrocks represent the city and be part of the team when it comes time for the city to make their selection.

**Surplus Loaders/Butigan** – PWS Butigan said a request was made for two new loaders in the 2015/16 budget. This was under the stipulation the sweeper could be sold and the two current loaders be sold for the prices needed. The sweeper was sold for \$62,000 and was picked up last night by the buyer. This leaves a balance of \$43,000 required to purchase the two new loaders. The estimate on selling the old loaders is conservative. John Deere believes the oldest loader could sell for \$47,000 and Butigan estimated at \$42,000. The newer loader John Deere estimated at \$179,000 and Butigan estimated \$168,000. If they sell at John Deere's price then the total needed would be \$33,000. It really depends on what the old loaders sell for. If the loaders were traded to John Deere they city would lose roughly \$51,000. These are good prices. It just might take some time to sell. Butigan is requesting the city surplus the two loaders, so they can be sold, and order two new loaders since they are 60 to 90 days out and so is winter. Councilmember Hill asked what if they don't sell. Butigan said they would sell. The city doesn't need to pay for the new loaders until they are received. Worse case is the city would have to put up \$215,000 for two new loaders before the old loaders sell. Councilmember Erickson said they just have to stay within the \$50,000 mark or less. Butigan said the loaders won't be sold for anything less than Butigan's estimate. What this does, is it may be possible to trade the two new loaders in after two years for two new loaders without costing the city anything. This won't be known until the next two years have passed. It'll depend on the market. However, this is the goal. Thueson said the City of Rexburg has been doing this and it works for them. Butigan said even if the loaders won't be sold in two years, the way the city takes care of the loaders they will last 15 years. Councilmember Willmore asked how soon Butigan needs to order the loaders. Butigan said they are 60 to 90 days out. Willmore said he wishes we had 30 days to see if the two old loaders will sell. Butigan said they will sell, in 30 or 90 days. Willmore said it's a gamble and we don't want to end up with four loaders. Butigan said he has been asking around and there seems to be some interest. They are in good shape and one has less than 1,000 hours. A motion to

surplus the two loaders for sale and to allow Butigan to order two new loaders was made by Hill and seconded by Erickson. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

**Cancel next meeting for Summer Fest** – A motion to cancel the next regular council meeting for Thursday, August 27, 2015 was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Rubert. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

**Lytle Signs Presentation on Electronic Signs** – Jack Yasaitis represents Lytle Signs. Yasaitis said he understands the city might be interested in a lighted LED sign and this is why they are here tonight to show the city what a sign might look like. Yasaitis spent several minutes discussing the product he sells from the company “Watchfire Signs”. They brought along a sign on a truck, which council stepped outside to view. (The meeting was adjourned briefly to see the sign outside in the parking lot.) The sign had two different sides with different sizes of lights and colors. One side had 12mm lights the other 16mm. This demonstrated how the sign would show images. Jacob Tilton, the local representative of Watchfire Signs, spoke about the software program and how it works. Tilton provided Clerk Parkinson with a demo disk to be reviewed later. He said the signs are for a special niche meant to provide a way for schools and small businesses the ability to run right from their office computers. Councilmember Erickson asked if this sign can work with our offices in one location and the sign in another. Tilton said the sign works with a broadband cellular connection. A modem is included in the cost the first year. It ranges in cost from about \$20 to \$15 per month. Mayor Thueson said it is costing the city more than that to have someone change the letters at the current sign. Tilton said the sign is designed to be maintenance free. South Fremont has one of their signs and they haven’t had a problem with it since they’ve owned it. Usually, should a problem occur it happens in the first month or two and they warranty it with parts dispatched overnight for the first six months. Mayor Thueson said the city will be getting a number of quotes from vendors to help in making their decision. Tilton said he would be happy to provide references from cities currently using their signs and software. Tilton said they currently have 50,000 of these signs around the country in use. The city will work on a specifications list to provide to other vendors to get a good price comparison. Thueson said he will let Councilmember Haeberle continue to work on this. Rubert said it is important the comparisons are apples to apples and comparing exactly the same things.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Thueson opened the floor for public comment.

Councilmember Willmore asked Joyce Lewis, who was in the audience, what she thought about the city spending money on an electronic sign. Lewis said she works for a number of non-profit organizations and a sign like this would be “very, very good.” Mayor Thueson said he could see how much the sign could get used. Councilmember Rubert said especially with flexibility and the functionality of it.

There being no other comments Mayor Thueson closed the public comment period.

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

**MINUTES** - Regular Council Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2015 were presented to council. A motion to accept the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2015 was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Bagley. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Chief Harris** reported the department had to spend just over \$1,000 on one of the Crown Vic's as it was having overheating issues. Harris said he thinks the cars are getting rotated out at the proper time as they are beginning to cost a lot of money. The department now has five officers. The newest officer, Beverly, has previous work experience as a Felony Probation Officer and three years as a County Sheriff in Nebraska. The department was lucky in finding an officer able to go right out on to the road without a lot of training.

**PWS Butigan** reported crews have been working with the county chip sealing this last week. There is about three more tankers to do and those will get done Monday and Tuesday. This side of town is completely done with every street finished. Every street on this side north and south and First and Second East, Teton Highway, and if there is any more then he'll see what's left to do. They've accomplished a lot this year. Mayor Thueson agreed. Thueson said this has been an ongoing project for the last four years. Fog coating is scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. It'll take about two weeks just to sweep up the chips.

**Clerk Parkinson** reported she is reviewing this year's budget and will need to meet with the Finance Committee to review current budget items and recommends the budget be revised to spend some additional grant money for the police department as well as the creation of another fund for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge. Council instructed her to go ahead and work out the details and present them to council for a scheduled hearing at the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Parkinson also provided council with an invitation from the Fremont County Sportsmen's Club to their grand opening of the shooting range north of town. A thank you note was also given to council from Citizen Beatrice Blain for taking care of the weeds by the airport. A public notice was also provided to council regarding the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act from the Department of Labor. Mayor Thueson said the Fremont County Commissioners have decided not to pay the \$3000 invoice the city sent to them regarding the airport. Thueson said Commissioner Stoddard told him the county has provided the city with a lot of help chipping and

sealing the streets and have felt they have done a lot over the last two or three years. They almost turned the city down to help out this year chipping and sealing. Thueson said this is the only airport Fremont County has and it's inside the city limits. The city may own it; however, most of the traffic is county traffic. There are agricultural sprayers and the county benefits from this. This year the city won't ask for the money, but next year they will. Thueson said he also reminded them they haven't done anything to help out the city in the past 15 or 20 years. Parkinson also reported members of the Planning and Zoning Commission met for a work/training meeting conducted by Attorney Forsberg. Forsberg did some training on what it means to be a Planning and Zoning member and the job duties and functions. He talked about open meetings and Parkinson will be providing each member with a manual on the State of Idaho Planning and Zoning or a guide to growth management for small cities. Thueson said he attended that meeting and he said the members learned exactly how important their job is to the future of the city and their responsibilities to the city. The new zoning, just recently passed, allows the members to make decisions on certain aspects of the new zoning.

### **COUNCIL & MAYOR REPORTS**

**Councilmember Rubert** had nothing to report

**Councilmember Bagley** had nothing to report

**Councilmember Erickson** had nothing to report.

**Councilmember Hill** said he has heard a lot of really positive comments regarding the tank and the new paint job it received. It looks really nice.

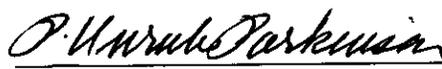
**Councilmember Willmore** had nothing to report.

**Mayor Thueson** said he received a lot of positive comments regarding the Pioneer Days Parade. It was a really wonderful parade.

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m. by Mayor Thueson.

  
Neil Thueson, Mayor

Attest:

  
Patty Unruh Parkinson, City Clerk-Treasurer

