

*CITY OF ST. ANTHONY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES*

November 12, 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 8:00 p.m.), Tom Erickson, Rick Hill, Rodnie Nichols, and Rod Willmore.

ABSENT: Council Member Russ Rubert.

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk/Treasurer Patty Parkinson, City Attorney Bill Forsberg, Public Works Superintendent Scott Butigan, Police Chief Terry Harris and 12 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 Attorney Forsberg. (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 Clerk Parkinson.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Report from Boy Scout James Bagley on the St. Anthony Welcome Rocks – Boy Scout James Bagley said he is working on his Eagle Project, the Welcome to St. Anthony rocks located on the off ramps from the highway. He reported raising \$1,381. The rocks were purchased from Idaho Travertine at a cost of \$1,600 for both rocks. The footings and other costs made the total around \$3,200. Bagley asked if each council member could hand out a letter to anyone willing to donate some money towards the project. They can do this at any meeting they might attend, like the Lions Club or Chamber of Commerce. Bagley said people are very pleased with the rocks. Councilmember Erickson said this is a really great project and praised Bagley for doing a good job.

Lifetime Achievement Award / VFW / American Legion / City of St. Anthony – Tim Hinseth, member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), said they are the Veterans Association in the South Fremont area. One of the things they participate in are military funerals. For many years, Gary Bidwell, of Bidwell Funeral Home, has served the community in many ways supporting Veterans. He is the bugler for many military funerals and goes out of his way in many instances. One example was today, where a military funeral took place in Wilford, and the family had not procured a flag. Bidwell provided the family with a flag. He is always someone VFW can call on and count on. Hinseth and Mayor Thueson presented Bidwell with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the VFW, American Legion and the City of St. Anthony. Bidwell said he has been in St. Anthony for 45 years and, as far as playing taps, he just celebrated with his class a 50th

class reunion, and he's been playing taps before he graduated from high school.

Sand Bar Park equipment request / Donna Forsberg – Donna Forsberg, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee, said the wooden play equipment at the Sand Bar Park needs to be replaced, as it is falling apart and too close to the river. There have also been reported injuries sustained on the equipment. Forsberg provided a photo copy of the type of play equipment the committee would like to replace it with. It is called "Conifer Climbers", a forest themed climber with modular footholds and handles. They would be getting the item from LuckyDog Recreation out of Ashton and should come under the \$10,000 budget remaining for this year. Forsberg also provided an update on building the garbage can enclosures in all the parks. All of the enclosures will have lids and will contain the garbage cans inside, preventing animals getting into the garbage or having the wind blow garbage out of an open container. PWS Butigan said if you buy one of these enclosures from a company it costs \$1500 apiece. Butigan thought the public works department could build them for a cost of \$350 apiece. This is just for materials. If the winter is slow, this is when they will build them. Mayor Thueson thanked Forsberg for all her hard work.

Grain Bin Property near 100 E 7th S / Wade Trost – Wade Trost, owner of Trost Feed & Seed, said he had his property surveyed two years ago, as he wanted to make sure he was in line with the railroad property. He said there was once a flour mill before he owned it. The flour mill was shut down in 1968 and he purchased the property in 1974. They wanted to use the vertical storage. A fire started and it burned down and they didn't do anything with the property. In 1977 they needed to move the coal yard and they moved it to where the old fire was, thinking it was their property. Then in the 80s they built a number of bins. After the survey he learned the coal yard was not his property and, in fact, is street right of way, belonging to the city. Trost said he doesn't know what happened and there doesn't appear to be any recorded vacations or deeds. Trost said they have always thought the property belonged to them. Trost showed council a copy of the survey. Attorney Forsberg said if this were private property, Trost could have a valid claim for adverse possession, perhaps, or some other means of title. However, where it is owned by the city the law specifically accepts that you can't adversely possess against the city. This leaves a couple of options for the city. They may vacate the property, which requires a public hearing. The statute allows for the property owners on each side of the street to each have half of the street. This may not be the optimal way for Trost. The other option is to just determine the property is surplus and not needed by the city, which may be the case. A price would be determined, a notice of sale made, then after that, the property could be sold, either by auction, listing or exchange. The last option would be to lease the property. Trost said he would like to own the property. Mayor Thueson said he may have to bid against others. Forsberg said once a market valuation was completed it could be offered to an individual. A motion to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to get a property valuation for the section of property where the old coal bins are located on the city street and provide this value to council was made by Councilmember Hill and seconded by Councilmember Nichols. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Code Violation Radio Road Add Lot 2 / Tall Grass – PWS Butigan said the front half of the lot was mowed down. The first 20 feet was knocked down and the rest is still up. Clerk Parkinson said she spoke to the owner and this is what he has done. Butigan said it still needs to be mowed. Council instructed Clerk Parkinson to phone him again and give him another two weeks to complete the job. Parkinson said she phone him prior to this giving him until today to clean it up, after which, the city would take care of it and bill him. Parkinson said she'd call him again.

Lease Violation 406 W 1st S – Clerk Parkinson said she spoke to Kasey Hull and asked her to make her payment on the lease and there still has been no payment. They have usually paid for this in the past. Councilmember Willmore asked about charging late fees. Parkinson didn't believe the lease allowed for charging late fees. Attorney Forsberg wanted to know if this property might be something the city would like to sell, as it is on a street where it runs into the canal (not a through street). A motion to obtain a market valuation for this property was made by Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Nichols. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 4-0. Mayor Thueson instructed Parkinson to obtain a market valuation.

Lease Violation 116 N Bridge – Clerk Parkinson said this lease still is unpaid and now Ace Hardware is storing property behind the Roxy. Mayor Thueson asked how long it would take to remove the barriers. PWS Butigan said it wouldn't take long. Mayor Thueson said to give them one week to pay and then have the barriers removed.

Vacate alley way block Block 51 to trade for West Main Street Project – Mayor Thueson said this is the property in front of the National Guard Armory needed in the reconstruction of West Main Street. The National Guard doesn't want to sell or give the property to the city. So, the city will exchange the alley, which their building is currently built on, for the property needed for West Main. A public hearing will need to be scheduled, property owners within 300 feet notified, and an ordinance will need to be passed. A motion to schedule a public hearing for the next council meeting, Thursday, December 10, 2015 at 7:00 to hear from the public on this exchange was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Erickson. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Review & Accept Election Results / Parkinson – Clerk Parkinson said the election was held last week for the three seats on council. The results were as follows: Tom Erickson, 192 votes; Rick "G" Hill, 186 votes; Russell S. Rubert, 166 votes; and Lyndon Rinehart II, 93 votes. The City of St. Anthony at the cutoff time had 1,342 registered voters with 6 registrants on Election Day for a total of 1,348. The number of ballots cast was 224. This means 16.6% of registered voters voted. Erickson, Hill and Rubert will be sworn in at the first meeting in January 2016. A motion to accept the election results was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Nichols. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Councilmember Bagley arrived.

Surplus Folding Chairs from Council Chambers & Marquee / Parkinson – Clerk Parkinson said now that the council chambers has new chairs it's time to get rid of the old folding chairs. The new marquee will be arriving shortly after the New Year. The City of Chester is interested in the old marquee. Mayor Thueson said the old marquee should be given to the City of Chester. She would like a motion to surplus the old folding chairs and the marquee. A motion to surplus the folding chairs and the old marquee was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Bagley. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

Shop With A Cop Request for Assistance / Bagley – Councilmember Bagley said Shop With A Cop is a program involving all of the upper valley including Clark County, Fremont County, Madison County and Teton County. The program selects children who normally wouldn't have a Christmas. It's not necessarily children in trouble, it's our neighbors. All agencies submit names and the board reviews each name and background checks are completed. They start out at 5:00 a.m. with a parade and breakfast at McDonald's. Breakfast is donated by McDonald's to all the children and officers. Children are paired up with an officer and they go shopping at Walmart for their gifts for the families. These kids meet Santa Claus, get their picture taken, go home with a turkey dinner for their family and they get haircuts for the holiday. All of this is done by donation. Bagley said last year the City of St. Anthony gave \$700 towards the program and asked they give the same amount this year. A motion to approve giving \$700 towards Shop With A Cop was made by Councilmember Erickson and seconded by Councilmember Hill. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 5-0. Bagley thanked council and reported the Mayor's Youth Council will be donating time as "Elves". There are also "Giving Trees", which will be around town, including one in city hall, where people can take a tag and donate the requested item on the tag. Mayor Thueson shared a story of shopping with a young man and thanked Bagley for her work on this community event.

Approve/confirm appointment of Clerk Parkinson and Alternate Councilmember Nichols to the Idaho Independent Intergovernmental Authority Board – Mayor Thueson said Clerk Parkinson has been appointed as a board member to the Idaho Independent Intergovernmental Authority (III-A). This is the insurance group the city belongs to. Council must confirm her appointment and an alternative by motion. A motion to confirm Parkinson as a board member to the III-A and Councilmember Nichols as an alternate was made by Councilmember Erickson and seconded by Willmore. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

Discuss Insuring Dependents and Affordable Care Act / Parkinson – Clerk Parkinson reported there are some employees finding it difficult to obtain insurance for their dependents at a reasonable premium cost. Currently, the city allows employees to add their dependents to the city's insurance plan, but doesn't provide any help in covering the costs of the premiums. Those premiums are currently \$737 per month for a spouse and around \$1200 per month for a spouse and child. No employee has chosen to add dependents because of the premium pricing. Councilmember Erickson asked if this is a \$500 deductible. Parkinson said yes, this is the city's plan. Some

employees are going to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to obtain insurance for their dependents and are being told they cannot sign up because the city provides insurance for dependents, even though the cost is considered unaffordable for the employees' wages. Rather than try to fight the different brokers' interpretation of the ACA, it may be in the best interest of our employees to discontinue allowing the addition of dependents. This would make it easier for employees to obtain health insurance for their dependents through the ACA and be approved for any subsidy they might qualify for. Mayor Thueson asked if the city could change their deductible on the plan, thereby reducing the premiums, and then add dependents. Parkinson said she reviewed doing this and the savings was only around \$200 per month, which was still not enough for employees to consider. In addition, a change would have to occur at the open enrollment period which was in August. This might be something the Finance Committee can review next year when they first get together and meet in the spring. Attorney Forsberg said because dependents have access to insurance through the city they don't qualify for ACA. The city has a "Cadillac Plan", it's not one you can find on the open market anymore, unless you go to the Gold Plan in the ACA. If the city didn't offer the plan they have now, then they could qualify for ACA and this is when their income and family size kick in and they can get a sizeable subsidy or discount, knocking the rate down to either nothing or an affordable rate so the family could be insured. Councilmember Nichols said the key here to benefit the employees would be to deny them insurance for their dependents. Forsberg said as strange as it sounds, the city will be opening up a whole new area for them so they can afford to insure their dependents. Councilmember Erickson asked if this is what the city employees want council to do. Clerk Parkinson said the employees would rather see the city insure their dependents and pay for the premiums, as they do with the employees. Mayor Thueson said the city can maintain it the way it currently is and just deny the insurance for dependents so they find it cheaper. The city currently has no dependents on the health insurance plan and 12 employees on the plan. Council discussed some of the possibilities on insuring spouses and not children. Councilmember Nichols said if the city can afford to insure the dependents it's making a strong statement to the employee that the city wants to keep them. Councilmember Willmore said that's \$102,000 a year. Nichols said something should be done for the families. Willmore said council should not offer it to employees, so they can get on the ACA. Nichols said this could then benefit the families. Thueson said this is what the ACA is supposed to be for, to provide affordable health care. Councilmember Hill said this can be something they do now and then have the Finance Committee review for next year to see if there are some alternatives to consider which could benefit the employees and their families. Councilmember Bagley agreed it should go to the Finance Committee for them to review. A motion to amend the personnel policy to remove any reference to offering health insurance to dependents of city employees to better enable employees the ability to find health insurance for their dependents at better premiums than the city is able to offer was made by Erickson and seconded by Willmore. All council members present approved. Motion passed 5-0. Hill requested Parkinson provide some other options in regards to health insurance when the Finance Committee next meets. Parkinson said she would work on it. Thueson asked the department heads to speak to their employees about it. Erickson said there a lot of things that can be done, different deductibles, etc.

Councilmember Bagley stepped out of the meeting.

Approve updated Regular Bill List / Parkinson – Clerk Parkinson reported this is an updated list. When invoices are received for these, Parkinson pays and the checks are released so late fees don't occur. Council will then ratify those payments and are included in the total listed bills at each council meeting. A motion to approve this updated Regular Bill List was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Nichols. All council members present approved. Motion passed 4-0.

Cancel Regularly Scheduled Meetings November 26, 2015 and December 24, 2015 – A motion to cancel the regularly scheduled council meetings set for November 26, 2015, because it's Thanksgiving and December 24, 2015, because it's Christmas Eve was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Nichols. All council members present approved. Motion passed 4-0.

Councilmember Bagley returned to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Thueson opened the floor for public comment.

Jim Hobbs, member of the Planning & Zoning Commission, said fees have not been evaluated in a number of years and they are currently set so low they don't even pay the publishing fees. Notification to the public costs staff time and postage. These costs should be charged to the applicant and not to the entire city. Hobbs said P&Z will look at them and provide a recommendation to council. Hobbs said he really likes the new chairs in the Council Chambers and suggested there be no food or drink allowed in order to keep the chairs and room looking nice.

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 Nichols and seconded by Councilmember Bagley. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

MINUTES - Regular Council Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2015 were presented to council. A motion to accept the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2015 was made by Councilmember Bagley and seconded by Councilmember Willmore. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chief Harris said the furnace in the police department has been down and a new one

has been ordered.

Public Works Superintendent Butigan reported the difference in the loader prices was one had some different accessories. One loader had a set of forks and the other had a grapple. Butigan reported Christmas decorations are up downtown. There will be lights on the trees out front of the city building. Crews are preparing for winter, getting the trucks serviced. Councilmember Nichols asked about street sweeping. Butigan said they sweep when they can keep the sweeper running.

Attorney Forsberg reported Planning and Zoning has also been tackling the issue with the infill on the lots in town. Clerk Parkinson had to turn down two requests for zoning permits on properties because it just wasn't big enough to build on. P&Z discussed some ways to have a more flexible approach to those lots. By infill lots, Forsberg means those lots that exist which are vacant and don't meet the current zoning standard for building. At their next meeting, they may consider whether or not to recommend an ordinance which requires the building on the lot conform to all the setbacks so that it looks appropriate for the neighborhood it's in. This may affect the size of the building, but will allow building on lots which otherwise couldn't be built on.

Clerk Parkinson reported the Federal Access Lands Program (FLAP) Grant the city applied for with the Bureau of Land Management ranked below the cut off for available funding. This grant was to plan for a bridge to connect the north and south sides of the Greenway. Parkinson anticipates preparing another proposal in 2017. The Idaho Independent Intergovernmental Authority (III-A) sent the city back its first refund of the initial start-up funds provided for administrative expenses when the III-A formed. The total refund was for \$453.00. III-A continues to improve financially and expand the benefits available. Members were able to benefit from a 1% rate decrease which began October 1 of this year and the surplus continues to grow. In addition, another member, Power County Highway District, is the newest Member of the III-A.

COUNCIL & MAYOR REPORTS

Councilmember Bagley had nothing to report.

Councilmember Erickson had nothing to report.

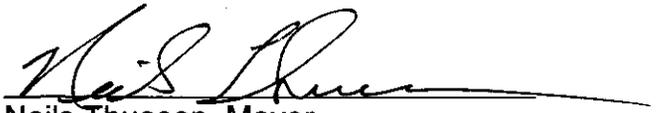
Councilmember Nichols had nothing to report.

Councilmember Hill had nothing to report.

Councilmember Willmore asked if there will be a Christmas Party this year. Clerk Parkinson said she completely forgot and will get something arranged. Parkinson said the city provides employees, volunteers and their spouses a Christmas Dinner each year as an award for the employees and council members completing their annual Risk Management Courses through ICRMP (Idaho Counties Risk Management Program).

Mayor Thueson reported he attended a meeting with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) in Rigby and made a request for Bridge Street to be re-striped down to two lanes with a center turn lane. The city and ITD agree doing this will make the street safer for pedestrian traffic. The city had, just last spring three children hit in the cross walk, with a crossing guard on duty. Luckily, no one was seriously injured. ITD will be resurfacing the street next year and so may re-stripe. Thueson said the request has been made to ITD and he'll report back whether or not they will do this and when.

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


Neils Thueson, Mayor

Attest:


Patty Unruh Parkinson, City Clerk-Treasurer

