

*CITY OF ST. ANTHONY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 24, 2016, 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, Rick Hill, Rodnie Nichols, Russ Rubert and Rod Willmore.

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk/Treasurer Patty Parkinson, Attorney Bill Forsberg, Chief of Police 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 Councilmember Rubert. (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 Boy Scout Tanner Dupree.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Request from Dan's Ace Hardware to lease a portion of the parking lot for a greenhouse – Mayor Thueson said Dan's Ace Hardware is requesting to lease a portion of the parking lot for their greenhouse as they have in past years. There wasn't a representative from Dan's Ace Hardware present. A motion to lease a portion of the parking lot to Dan's Ace Hardware for a greenhouse for the spring and summer season for \$100 was made by Councilmember Rubert and seconded by Councilmember Nichols. All council members present were in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

Review Draft Dog Fees / Harris – Chief Harris reviewed a proposed resolution for establishing annual fees for the keeping of dogs. Harris said dogs running at large are a problem and people that own dogs should help in financing some of the problems the city faces with dogs. This fee would be nominal. Harris compared it with the \$12 annual dog licensing fee in Sugar City. The proposal provides an annual fee of \$5 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$10 if they are not. The fee for a Senior Citizen would be \$3 for a spayed or neutered dog. Once council reviews the fees then there will be a public hearing at the next council meeting scheduled for April 14th. Councilmember Nichols asked about the pricing for a Senior Citizen's dog and giving them a discount for an unsterilized dog at \$8. Council thought that would be okay and asked for it to be added to the draft resolution. Councilmember Erickson asked about a Kennel license and what that means. Harris said if a person owns more than two dogs then a Kennel license is required. This entails contacting the neighbors and allowing for inspections. Councilmember Willmore said he didn't know how it would be enforced. Saying responsible pet owners will license their dog and irresponsible ones will not. Harris said as they capture dogs they will have the ability to make those not licensing their dogs, license them. Clerk Parkinson reported the new software which the city recently acquired will assist the police department. Willmore asked if notices will be sent to the owners

to renew. Parkinson said the city would not. Instead, staff will use the monthly newsletter and marquee and water bills to remind people to license their dogs. Beginning January 1, 2017 the new annual tag will be issued. Parkinson will update the draft and prepare it for the next meeting and public hearing.

Resolution to Enter into Agreement for Ground Water Mitigation – Mayor Thueson said this is a resolution which would allow the city to enter into agreements for water mitigation. This past year there will be a curtailment of the pumping of ground water in either 12.5% or 13%. The Association of Idaho Cities (AIC) has put together a proposal which would spread this curtailment out among all the cities. However, it will cost everyone. To join this organization will cost \$400. Another group, the Fremont Madison Irrigation District, will include everyone north of the Snake River to have their own mitigation coalition. Fremont Madison Irrigation District will purchase enough storage water and make a commitment to recharge so many acre feet of water into the Egin Lakes area and nobody will have to shut down their well. This would cost about \$3600. We don't know what is going to happen with ground water. Councilmember Erickson asked who it is that is saying we need to cut back. Thueson said a group in Twin Falls, already organized, is saying they need the water there. Councilmember Nichols said there is a big trout farm with long standing water rights demanding their water. They monitor the flow. Thueson said they want to recharge the aquifer and one way to do this is to curtail the water being pumped out. Thueson said our effect isn't that much. Councilmember Rubert said the growers recharging here are the ones up on the Teton River further east. Rubert said he thought there was a monitor in the Thousand Springs area. Thueson said this resolution will give him the authorization to join these mitigation groups. The city is already paying, to the Eastern Idaho Water Rights Coalition, \$1400 this year and last year to help in mitigation. They are the ones that are supposed to represent us in case there is a water call. If the city joins Fremont Madison we may be the only city joining and they are willing to allow us to join and they would also represent us. This would be a yearly cost. Erickson asked if the cities have any priority. Attorney Forsberg said there is not, although cities have long advocated there should be. The Western Water Right's System is based upon a first diversion date. The call is based upon the date, if it is before or after the date decreed by the plan the State Department of Water Resources has worked out. The two major water calls which have occurred, one in 2009 and one 2010, effected only people in the Twin Falls and Burley area. The surface water call potentially effected all the cities up to Ucon. Our part of the valley has never been involved in a call. However, that has changed now due to some court decisions and we may be involved in a call. Our wells could be affected based on their priority dates. This is all subject to change, as science changes, plans can change. Thueson said he has attended all of the water meetings from Pocatello to here. They are working on a mitigation plan and Fremont Madison has an approved mitigation plan in place for five years. This will be reviewed each year to determine the city's obligation and it may cost more or less in subsequent years. Cities are focused on cities and Fremont Madison is focused on the fact we are all above a certain area. Forsberg said they are both approaching the problem in different ways and in his opinion they have excellent arguments in keeping the city out of any well recalls. Fremont Madison is charging farmers \$5 per acre and agreed to charge the city \$2.50 per acre, as cities have more concrete and streets. Thueson has been discussing this with them and they have estimated it will cost the city about \$3600 to join. Councilmember Hill said this has been a long ongoing problem and it is not going to go away. Forsberg said in the

scheme of things it is just not that much money to guarantee water. In addition, Fremont Madison is local and we are able to talk to them. A motion to pass Resolution 2016-03 to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement or agreements, as necessary to join in a municipal water use mitigation plan and/or join in with any group or coalition of cities organized for the purpose of furthering settlement of ground water calls, was made by Nichols and seconded by Rubert. All council members were in favor. Motion passed 6-0. A motion to authorize the Mayor to join the Fremont Madison Coalition and pay the dues was made by Nichols and seconded by Rubert. All council members were in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

Attorney Forsberg asked Mayor Thueson if he could be excused. Thueson excused Forsberg.

Discussion of Henry's Fork Greenway Master Access and Development Plan / Parkinson
– Clerk Parkinson reviewed the proposal made by JUB for the Henry's For Greenway Master Access and Development Plan. A detailed Scope of Work was provided in council member's packets for their review. The Plan has been broken down into smaller phases with the first phase being a "situational assessment". This would allow the city to stop at this point should they find, while in this phase, there isn't enough adequate support to complete the entire plan. Parkinson asked council if this is something they wanted to do. Mayor Thueson said JUB would contact all of those that might be interested and find out how serious they are about doing this. This will cost \$5900. After this, should it go forward and be approved, then a Master Plan would be created. The Master Plan would cost, according the JUB about \$79,000. Councilmember Willmore said he is willing to spend the \$5900 just to see if there really is enough interest. He said he didn't think this was too much to spend on something that could turn out to be a great asset to the community. He said he knows a lot of people use the Greenway as it is now. Councilmember Hill said we could ask the county to participate, once we determine in the first phase, to proceed on to the Master Plan. Councilmember Nichols said he has concerns about where people would park. Parkinson said this is exactly what the Master Plan would help the city plan for. Nichols said he likes it and is all for it. Councilmember Erickson said he has concerns. His concerns were related to the last application for a grant, which was denied and the city then had to come up with more money because the county didn't receive approval from HUD for the grant application. Erickson said if we spend \$5900 and no one does anything, then we've spent \$5900 for some nice paper work and nothing else. Erickson said he uses the Greenway and loves it and thinks it's a good idea, but doesn't want to spend \$5900 and that's it. He would like to have more of a guarantee or participation, or something more to show for the \$5900. Thueson said this is what the \$5900 will be doing, is finding out if there is enough interest in even pursuing a plan. Erickson said he just doesn't want to spend \$5900 for a study and that's it. Erickson said it's almost like putting the cart before the horse. Nichols said this money will be used to hire someone able to get everyone together and talk to them. Erickson said in the whole scheme of things, \$5900 isn't bad, but it's still \$5900. Parkinson said the City doesn't have a staff person with the knowledge or expertise to develop a Master Plan or to talk to the right people with the right questions and have the right contacts to see if there is enough interest to develop a plan. Some cities have people hired on as full time employees whose job it is to look at economic development. The city is only planning on hiring someone for a short time to do this. Erickson said he really thinks it is a good idea; he just wants to make sure we are getting the value out of this and it goes somewhere. Nichols said he thinks the value we will get is we won't be in

the situation we were before with the county. If we find out it isn't feasible, we find out at this price instead of at \$11,000 or \$12,000. The value is finding out if they have interest, if not then we got our value, finding out now instead of too late. Councilmember Bagley said she agrees with Erickson. She is not ready to throw money into something which isn't there yet. Councilmember Rubert said he thinks it's a good idea. However, we're the only entity with any "skin in the game" and it's a "\$6000 crap shoot." Rubert asked if this isn't something Parkinson can do, call people and find out if there is any interest. Thueson said we have had them together and they do like the idea. Bagley said she would much rather pay our employees overtime or something to do this. Rubert said he'd like to see some of the other entities involved by getting help with equal portions footing the bill. Thueson said he thinks you need to spend something to get to that point. Nichols said we are the one entity with the most to gain, should this go through. No one else has near enough to gain, other than the City of St. Anthony and its business owners. Rubert said that is what they will use against the whole project. Nichols said no one else will take the lead on it. Rubert said with that being said, if it comes to a vote, he would vote to proceed. Parkinson said it has always been the city taking the lead. Twenty years ago, when the Greenway was originally built, it was built on grant funding with the city taking the lead on all the grant applications. Thueson said it is a gamble, which is why he brought it to city council, to help decide if this is something they want to pursue. Nichols said government agency talk is a whole different language and if you go in and don't talk their language, then it's difficult. Nichols referred to the Idaho National Guard and how difficult it's been to work with them on a simple land transfer to build West Main Street. Nichols said he agrees it is expensive, but it may be the only avenue to get there. He said there may be less expensive ways, but he didn't think the city has the "horse power" representing the city to get it done. Nichols said sometimes you have to pay people for their expertise. A motion to accept JUB's offer to do Phase 1 only of the Henry's Fork Greenway Master Access and Development Plan for a total cost of \$5900 was made by Nichols and seconded by Hill. Five council members approved and one council member, Bagley, abstained from voting. Motion passed 5-0 with 1 abstention. Erickson said he voted yes, but with concerns. Willmore said we all have those concerns.

Safe Place Exchange / Bagley – Councilmember Bagley said there is a lot of social media lately where people can buy, sell or exchange property. A concern is having strangers meet at people's homes or enticing people to go somewhere when it may not be safe. Bagley had an example of someone with a long rap sheet of violations who was asking for assistance from the community. Bagley said the city of Logan has what they call a "Safe Exchange Zone". They have two parking spaces where they put signs up which say this area is under 24 hour surveillance. Emergency numbers and non-emergency numbers are listed. People can meet to buy, sell or exchange where it is being monitored. Bagley provided a photo copy to council members of such a sign. Bagley said she doesn't want an answer tonight, but just wants council to think about it and to see if it is something the city is interested in doing and to ask people what they think about it. Mayor Thueson asked Chief Harris about putting cameras up to view the parking lot. Harris said this is something they have talked about doing. Thueson thought it was a good idea and something the city can pursue. He asked Harris to look into it and see if it can be done. Bagley asked if some of the members from the Mayor's Youth Council could work together with the Police Department to get it going. Harris said that would be fine.

Tree Plotter / Gerry Bates / grant request for tree inventory – Clerk Parkinson asked if council recalls when Gerry Bates came to council and provided a demonstration of the Tree Plotting Software. The Parks and Recreation Committee wanted to know if council approved of the software and if they could get it. There was no resolution or motion to accept the software or to set aside funds for hiring someone to load the trees into the software. No one was present from the Parks and Recreation Committee. Parkinson said there isn't anyone on city staff capable of entering the required information and so the city would need to hire someone to do this. Parkinson asked council if this is something they want to do. The City of Shelley did this and had out of pocket expenses of \$2500. Councilmember Nichols asked what would be the advantage of plotting every tree in town. He said he would rather put money into the Greenway. Councilmember Erickson asked what you do with this information. Councilmember Hill said the Parks and Recreation Committee did, a number of years ago, an inventory of all the city's trees. Knowing which trees are diseased and need to be removed is useful. Nichols thought our public works would know when a tree needs to be removed or not. Hill said he thought Bates indicated to Parks and Recreation the \$2500 was there to help pay for someone to create the inventory of trees into the software. Councilmember Willmore thought maybe this item should be tabled until someone from the Parks and Recreation Committee can come to council to talk to them about it. Mayor Thueson agreed. Parkinson said the city has a tree ordinance. In fact, in council's packets is the announcement that the city has once again earned the recognition of being named a Tree City USA. Hill said he would be alright with doing it if the city received the \$2500 to have it done. Nichols asked what is done with it after it's all in the computer. He said the crew is out there every day looking at the trees and if one needs to come down or be trimmed it's done. Willmore asked how long before the \$2500 goes away. No one knew. Thueson asked for this item to be tabled.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Thueson opened the floor for public comment.

A man in the audience said he'd hate to see money go towards someone looking at trees when there already are so many people in the community that know trees and Public Works can determine which trees need to be removed or not.

There were a number of boy scouts present in the audience. Each took a turn and introduced themselves, indicating they were working on Citizenship in Community badges and Communications badges.

Sam Merrick, 243 N 1st W, said there is a house right next door to him, 239 N 1st W, which has been vacant for 10 years. It's had the flue from the chimney off for the last 5 years and it getting run down. Merrick wanted to know if there was anything that can be done to contact the owner or not or if there is something the city can do to give this property some attention. Mayor Thueson said it is difficult to do anything, but it will be looked in to. Merrick said he knows there have been kids playing in the sheds and he's only seen one person in 10 years come and do anything with the property.

Lila Holmstrom, 445 S Bridge St., #4, wrote a letter to City Council asking for pedestrian crossing signs to be placed at both entrances into the city. Mayor Thueson said he called Holmstrom and said there will be some flashing beacons installed. Councilmember Willmore thought these would be at the ramps on Bridge Street on the overpass. If this is the case, then this letter should go to the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) for their consideration. Thueson asked for Clerk Parkinson to send the letter to ITD.

There being no other comments, 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 Hill and seconded by Councilmember Bagley. All council members were in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

MINUTES - Regular Council Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2016 were presented to council. A motion to accept the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2016 was made by Councilmember Willmore and seconded by Councilmember Nichols. All council members were in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chief Harris reported last Saturday the Police Department had a joint exercise that involved them, the Sheriff's Office, the Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services. They all participated in an active shooter scenario. It was a very good exercise. Harris also reported last night a drug bust was completed on Highway 20, which shut down the Highway for about 20 minutes. There was a felony arrest. Harris said they hope to be doing more of this investigative work, as this is everywhere.

Clerk Parkinson provided council with the February Fund Summary. Parkinson said she is prepared to start working with the Finance Committee on next year's budget. The public hearing has been set for August. Councilmember Bagley said she has been P.O.S.T. certified to teach and will be out of commission the month of April. She would be available the first of May. Councilmember Hill said he felt where there has been a five year plan, there is a clear picture of where the city is heading. Parkinson suggested May 2, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Parkinson reported the city has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. The Annual Greenway Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 21, 2016. Kyle Babbitt will be organizing the cleanup along with Rod Chandler. The city wide cleanup is scheduled for May 9th through the 13th. Mayor Thueson said a list of projects needs to be created for the Greenway Cleanup day for the all the youth to work on. He asked for staff to start working on a list. Thueson said another thing he'd like to see, as an Eagle Scout Project, would be lights on our Welcome to St. Anthony Rocks. Parkinson also reminded council Friday, April 29th, is Arbor Day. The city will be planting trees at Cedar View Park with the first graders from Henry's Fork Elementary.

COUNCIL & MAYOR REPORTS

Councilmember Rubert had nothing to report.

Councilmember Bagley had nothing to report.

Councilmember Erickson said he really appreciates Mayor Thueson's efforts with getting a signature from the Idaho National Guard. Erickson said it is getting to the point where this project needs to get going. Thueson told the story of contacting the person who finally signed the needed document. Thueson is hoping the project will get into the April bidding process, but it might be May.

Councilmember Nichols had nothing to report.

Councilmember Hill said he sees there has been some work being done on the building located at 30 S Bridge Street. Clerk Parkinson reported a Code Enforcement letter was sent to the owner, which may be why. Parkinson said the owner came and visited with her, after the letter was sent, and reported he would be putting windows in. Hill said it is such an eyesore and such a focal point. Parkinson said she didn't know how many windows he said he would be doing as he indicated he didn't have enough money to do everything. She advised him he has 30 days to clean it up and then he may come to council.

Councilmember Willmore reported he received a forwarded email from Clerk Parkinson which said the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) will begin work on the Airport Study. Paul Scoresby has been hired by ITD to begin the work. This is something the state started and will be paying for. It's been in the works for about five years. Clerk Parkinson also reported the final payment was received from the state for last year's work on the taxiway grant. Willmore said the airport is in good shape.

Mayor Thueson had nothing to report.

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m. by Mayor Theuson.


Neils Thueson, Mayor

Attest:


Patty Unruh Parkinson, City Clerk-Treasurer

