

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SUGAR CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2015

Presiding: Mayor W. Lamont Merrill
Meeting Convened at 6:30 p.m.
Prayer: Burch Drake
Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Mayor Lamont Merrill; Clerk-Treasurer Wendy McLaughlin; Councilmen Bruce King, Burch Drake, Bruce Arnell, and Matt Garner, and Chairman Dave Ogden of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Citizens Bert McLaughlin, Lawrence and Catherine Nielsen, Robert Nielsen, and Linda Hemsley.

Mayor Merrill asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 28, 2015. Each councilman had a copy of the minutes prior to the meeting. It was moved by Councilman Arnell and seconded by Councilman Garner to accept the minutes, with attachments; motion carried.

RECONCILIATION REPORTS: Wendy presented the May reconciliation reports for the General Fund. It was moved by Councilman Arnell and seconded by Councilman Drake to accept the May reconciliation reports for the General Fund; motion carried. Wendy presented the May reconciliation reports for the Utility Fund. It was moved by Councilman Arnell and seconded by Councilman Garner to accept the May reconciliation reports for the Utility Fund; motion carried.

Wendy presented the current bills in the amount of \$51,994.58. It was moved by Councilman Drake and seconded by Councilman King to pay the current bills, together with all regular June bills; motion carried.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION REPORT: Dave Ogden reported that the commission met on June 4, 2015, to discuss items of business:

Comprehensive Plan Revisions Public Hearing: The commission will meet this next Thursday for the public hearing on the proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan. Maps and the proposed textual changes will be available to the public for review at the office. Dave Ogden thanked Councilman Bruce King for his help in revising the plan.

Ordinance No. 307: Monday, June 15, 2015, at 10 a.m., Madison County commissioners will review the findings of fact by the Madison County Planning and Zoning Commission regarding Ordinance No. 307 for possible approval. Dave will represent Sugar City at the meeting for other county commission business throughout the day that is relevant to Sugar City.

New P&Z Commissioner Recommended: The commission recommended, and Mayor Merrill appointed, Tyson Harris to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission. He would replace Tom Fleming, who serves as secretary to the commission. Secretary Fleming's term expires at the end of this year. Tyson Harris, who is educated in government, is willing to serve.

MOTION: It was moved by Councilman King and seconded by Councilman Drake to confirm the appointment of Tyson Harris to fill the vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Commission created by the resignation of Tom Fleming. Motion carried.

ANIMAL ORDINANCE FINAL DRAFT REVISIONS: The council will again invite public input on the revised animal ordinance, No. 304, once councilmen approve a final draft. Councilman King has entered the recent changes to the ordinance, which is entitled, “Animals Other than Canines,” in the master copy in response to public concerns and feels that this latest iteration is an excellent compromise given all the conflicting citizen viewpoints. Each councilman had a copy of the proposed changes prior to the meeting. The council is still undecided on which animals to allow in town and which to prohibit. Citizens who were present did not like the idea of licensing cats, which was under consideration. The council deliberated on several questions:

- Should Sugar City have its own animal-control officer?
- What qualifications should the ideal candidate possess?
- How would training be provided?
- How would animals be handled?
- How would complaints be processed?

The council decided that Councilman Arnell would draft a job description for a part-time animal-control officer for Sugar City, to be posted in the monthly newsletter. Councilman King would tweak the revised ordinance in response to citizen input at the meeting and would prepare to show all changes made to the ordinance since the council starting revising it in September of last year.

SALT LAKE EXPRESS SEWER HOOKUP: City Engineer Dick Dyer drafted an agreement for Salt Lake Express to hook into the city’s existing sewer line. The agreement was approved by the city attorney and includes buy-in, connection, and user fees. Grease traps will be installed in accordance with the city’s sewer agreement with Rexburg.

FYBERCOM WIRELESS INTERNET AGREEMENT: Mayor Merrill hesitates to sign the proposed agreement with Fibercom for several reasons:

- There are many more antennae to be placed on the tower than we first discussed.
- User fees of free Internet, plus \$100/month, seem low.
- The city should not jeopardize its contract with AT&T.

The mayor will contact officials of AT&T to see if Fibercom’s equipment will interfere with their equipment, some of which has not yet been installed. Any contract between Fibercom and the city will need to be of short duration to ensure fee updates are comparative to fees from similar companies using the city’s water tower.

2016 PRELIMINARY BUDGET: Clerk-Treasurer Wendy McLaughlin presented to the council the timeline for adoption of the 2016 fiscal year budget. Council members were asked to look over their department needs for the coming year and to bring suggestions on meeting those needs to the next council meeting.

- July 9 – First Budget Review
- July 23 – Second Budget Review
- Aug 13 – Adopt Tentative Budget
- Aug 15 & 22 – Publish Budget
- Aug 27 – Public Hearing
- Sept 9 – Budget Adoption

MAYOR & COUNCIL PAY: The council discussed the possibility of raising the salary of the mayor and council members. An increase can only be authorized during an election year. Although the mayor and council members cannot be fully recompensed for their time and abilities, the idea of

some raise was discussed. Currently, the mayor receives \$650/month and council members receive \$100/month, plus PERSI (state retirement benefits). Neither the mayor nor the council has received a pay raise since 2007. The council reviewed a survey handout from AIC (Association of Idaho Cities), which lists what other cities pay their mayors and council members. The council may make a decision at its next regular meeting on whether to raise salaries and by how much.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

COUNCILMAN KING: No report.

COUNCILMAN DRAKE: No report.

COUNCILMAN ARNELL: No report

COUNCILMAN GARNER:

Teton Dam Marathon: The marathon is scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2015. Two stations are planned, with several volunteers willing to help officiate. The popular event is well planned and should be successfully implemented.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS:

Historic River Bridge: The old bridge on 1000 East over the North Fork of the Teton River in northwest Sugar City is scheduled to be moved within the next few weeks. Developers of River Bend Ranch (RBR) wanted to hook water and sewer pipes to the bridge, but they cannot since it was not engineered into the plans. They will look at other cost-effective options for placing water and sewer lines over or under the river.

River Bend Ranch and City Water Rights: Sugar City may help RBR apply for a water right. The city likely has a greater chance of receiving a right sooner than a private firm, given concerns about the dropping water table of the East Snake River Plain Aquifer. The city potentially will pay Rocky Mountain Environmental to prepare and submit the application to the state, assuming River Bend Ranch agrees to reimburse the city. Mayor Merrill is working closely with City Attorney Bill Forsberg to ensure that the city's water is protected and that future water rights are secured for further development.

Rocky Mountain Power Agreement: Tim Solomon, Rocky Mountain Power customer and community manager for the area, will present a new 2016 agreement to the city at the next council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Signed: W. Lamont Merrill
W. Lamont Merrill, Mayor

Attested: Wendy McLaughlin
Wendy McLaughlin, Clerk-Treasurer