

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SUGAR CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023

Presiding: Mayor Adams
Meeting Via Internet and at City Hall Convened at 6:30 p.m.
Prayer: Councilman Baird
Pledge of Allegiance: Councilwoman Nielsen

Present at City Hall and Online: Mayor Adams; Councilors Joy M. Ball, Daniel Baird, Glenn Dayley, and Catherine Nielsen; City Clerk-Treasurer Wendy McLaughlin; Public Works Director Arlynn Jacobson; Planning and Zoning Administrator Kurt Hibbert; Building Inspector Quinton Owens, City Attorney Chase Hendricks; County Commissioner Brent Mendenhall; Tennis Court Chairman Jason Flaig; Citizens Alan Beagley, Cheryl Dayley, Pete and Socorro Gonzalez, Linda Jex, and others who may have joined electronically or otherwise but not identified.

CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION: It was moved by Councilwoman Nielsen and seconded by Councilwoman Ball to approve the Consent Agenda; motion carried.

TENNIS COURTS UPDATE: Chairman Jason Flaig and committee recommended a new agreement approved by the School District for the tennis courts. The council received a red-line copy at the meeting summarized below:

- Six post tension tennis courts built at the High School which include 12 pickleball courts jointly shared between the City and School District
- City to contribute \$300,000 for initial construction of courts, lighting, and fencing by August 31, 2024
- School District will be responsible for all remainder costs and future maintenance
- City to pay the School District \$3,000 each year for usual maintenance with 2% annual inflation increase
- Major reconstruction - School shall contribute 66%, the City 34%
- Restricted access with School given priority use over the public

The \$300,000 will come from existing designated funds as summarized below:

- Parks and Rec Capital Improvement - \$144,000
- Future Legal Reserve - \$80,000
- Contingency Fund - \$60,000
- Engineering Budget Surplus - \$16,000
- Option 2 – ARPA Funds - \$300,000

The mayor recommends the new proposal as fair and reasonable. The courts will benefit the City and reduce the City's liability. The Council elected to review the proposal and be ready for a decision at the next Council meeting. They would like more public input and ways to benefit those who don't play tennis.

MOTION: It was moved by Councilwoman Ball and seconded by Councilwoman Nielsen to table the action until next meeting; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Meet The Candidates – two running for Council Two Year Seat

Mark Oliphant – Grew up in Sugar City. Moved back in 2011 to raise his family. He is concerned about growth and citizens having a vested interest in the well-being of the City.

Carter Stanford – Native of Sugar City. Wants to be a voice for young families.

Passionate about government and wants to be involved.

Several questions were asked of the candidates summarized below:

- How would you balance the rising utility costs to keep the City running smoothly?
 - Mark – believes the Council is doing a good job of balancing rising costs with needs and looks forward to learn from his fellow Council Members and study
 - Carter – feels the same. A good City fiber backbone is needed. Look ahead.
- How would you involve the public in the decision-making process?
 - Carter – Fix the City’s Zoom. Encourage public comment and questions.
 - Mark – provide public access to meetings. Invite and encourage participation.
- How would you make the City more self-sustaining and attractive?
 - Mark – Encourage self-reliance. Provide safe, secure and beautiful places.
 - Carter – Provide community activities and places for pickleball, ice skating, and frisbee golf.
- What is the number one priority the City should be working on and how would you do that?
 - Carter – Bring back the City dumpster and annual clean-up!
 - Mark – encourage self-sufficiency. Be self-supporting.
- If the City were given a million dollars, how would you spend it?
 - Mark – would seek public input to benefit all.
 - Carter – Improve emergency services – police and fire departments. Encourage more business.
- What skills do you have that would benefit the city?
 - Carter – Leadership and communication skills. Learn from experiences of others. Foster relationships with neighboring cities.
 - Mark – has a broad perspective, an appreciation for money and ways to make a living. Communication and listening skills are important.
- How would you revitalize the down town area?
 - Mark – Bring back the community grocery store. Make whole staples available, encourage self-reliance.
 - Carter – Encourage more fast food, restaurants, grocery store.
- How would you provide affordable housing?
 - Carter – encourage lower rents
 - Mark – the City already provides enough diverse housing which is more affordable than residential housing.
- What type of policies support Sugar City’s heritage?
 - Mark – those that encourage self-reliance. Try to maintain the small-town feel.
 - Carter – support our museum – showcase our history.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Public Works Director Arlynn Jacobson reported on the following items.

Grant Opportunities: there are several grants available the City can use to help with ongoing needs.

- Child Pedestrian – additional sidewalks to connect to schools

- Small Urban – straighten S curve
- TAPP – transportation alternative – pathway over Highway 20

Third South Sidewalk: Construction began Monday on the Third South sidewalk. A snow delay slowed down the project some. Received many compliments from citizens.

Street Project Updates: Old Farm roads – 6th South, South Cutler, and South Austin; Teton Island roads are being paved and mostly complete. South 7th West will be finished next week with turning lanes.

Main Sewer Line to Rexburg: the project will begin in 2024 and finish in 2025. A new lift station is the first phase. Rexburg plans on routing the pipe around road ways. Council needs to consider ways to fund the project.

Equipment:

- Durapatcher Machine – dropped off and paid today
- Sweeper Truck – available to the City now. Need \$100,000. Will look at different options for the Council to consider next meeting.

Well #5: Well #5 is live. A slight chlorine taste will dissipate. The SCADA system still has some minor issues that are being worked out. The generator is not working right.

PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT: Kurt Hibbert reported on the following:

Annexations: The public hearing is scheduled. There are several areas that are valuable to the City. They will be annexed as a Category A. The Harris property next to Walmart is one of those properties. The Hacienda Event Center property will not be annexed.

Tiny Home Subdivision: The commission is working on code for a Tiny Home Subdivision. The County applauds the effort.

Accessory Dwelling Units: Council is encouraged to contribute to discussion before the public hearing. Owner must live on property.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Ball reported on the following:

Tree and Beautification: a father son activity is planned for next May to help complete the bigger projects on the Memorial Garden.

Historic Preservations Commission: They held a special meeting and elected Josh Bingham to be their Treasurer. They can now open a bank account. They made \$400 at Treats in the Street and have \$30,000 of their \$50,000 goal before the end of the year! Arden Bell will loan them free storage space in his granary.

Treats in the Street: Great success. Bigger than last year.

Holiday Schedule: one meeting each in November and December.

Tennis Court Input: Councilman Dayley will post a tennis update on his weekly blog.

Motion was made for adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Signed: _____
Mayor Steven Adams

Attested: _____
Wendy McLaughlin, Clerk-Treasurer