

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SUGAR CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

Presiding: Mayor Adams

Meeting Via Internet and at City Hall Convened at 6:34 p.m.

Prayer: Mayor Adams

Pledge of Allegiance: Councilman Stanford

Present at City Hall and Online: Mayor Adams; Councilors Joy M. Ball, Glenn Dayley, Catherine Nielsen, Carter Stanford; City Clerk-Treasurer Wendy McLaughlin; Office Assistant Vickie Robertson and husband Shawn Robertson; Public Works Director Arlynn Jacobson; Planning and Zoning Administrator Kurt Hibbert; Planning and Zoning Chairman Derik Taylor; City Attorney Chase Hendricks; Building Inspector Quentin Owens; Rink 99 Owner Jeff A. McClure; Madison County Commissioner Brent Mendenhall; City Fiber Project Manager Dave Thompson; City Information Technologist Spencer Cook; Fiber Committee Paul Jeppson; Madison County Information Technology Manager Paul Sorensen; Fybercom CEO Jared Stowell and Chief Human Resources Officer George Swanson; Sugar Salem Residents Reese Butikofer, Bruce Shirley, and Rick and Kathryn Robertson; Bradley Petersen 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.

OATH OF OFFICE:

MOTION: It was moved by Councilman Dayley and seconded by Councilwoman Nielsen to ratify the appointments of Rick Robertson of Salem to the Sugar City Planning and Zoning Commission and Vickie Robertson to the office of Deputy Clerk-Treasurer; motion carried.

Mayor Adams swore in both candidates. Mr. Robertson will serve a 3-year term on the commission in a new seat as planned for Salem representation. Vickie Robertson is a daughter-in-law to Rick Robertson.

RINK 99 CONTRACT: Rink 99 Owner, Jeff McClure, asked the council for a possible five-year contract to lease the Niebaur Park tennis courts area for an ice-skating rink during the winter months. He has invested in a chiller that would allow skating from October through April despite weather conditions. The council agreed to consider a contract and felt the ice-skating rink was well used and appreciated by the community. He will work with City Attorney Chase Hendricks for a contract to be considered at the next council meeting.

SUGAR SALEM DISTRICT REVISED DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT: Tabled until the next regular council meeting in March for continued district review.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No report.

POCATELLO SURFACE WATER COALITION ANNUAL AGGREMENT:

MOTION: It was moved by Council President Nielsen and seconded by Councilman Dayley to approve the participation in the annual Pocatello Surface Water Coalition. Thereupon, the clerk called roll upon the motion.

Those voting aye: Councilors Ball, Dayley, Nielsen, and Stanford

Those voting nay: None

Motion carried.

PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT: Derik Taylor reported on the following items:

City Area of Impact County's Ruling: Commission Chairman Taylor reported that they recently held their first meeting since the County made their decision on the city's Impact Area. The commission was disappointed and alarmed that four areas around the city weren't given an impact area and that part of the newly annexed Salem properties weren't acknowledged as part of Sugar City. However, they look forward to more dialogue with the county under the new Annexation Agreement and are happy with the ground gained.

Rural Ranchette: Salem wants to add a Rural Ranchette zone to maintain rural life in Salem. They are working with P&Z to add it to the city code.

Kurt Hibbert reported on the following item:

Development north of Jr. High: Several businesses are working with Kurt to develop the properties north of the Sugar Salem Jr. High. The city approved Madison County's Transportation Plan last year, but each development should submit a road plan with their application. P&Z is currently working on a site and road plan for the development. Grants are being sought to help with the infrastructure improvements.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Jacobson reported on the following items:

S Curve: The bids have been published for the S Curve project. They will be opened April 1 with Q&A on April 25th. The city must accept the lowest bid and hopes that they come in under the grant award of \$550,000. The project is planned to begin in April and end in August and will also include revisions to the bike path.

Overpass Lights: The state fixed the overpass lights which had been out for a while.

Clogged Sewer Pump: The South Lift Station pump has been pulled twice in as many weeks after being clogged with flushable wipes and other materials that jam the pump. It is a serious problem that could cost the city several thousand dollars to replace the pump. The city does not have grinder pumps.

Sugar Mill: Their lift station is live now. New residents are scheduled to move in this weekend.

Snow Removal: The city has plowed eight times this season.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Council Roles - the council discussed their roles in city events and departments and if they would like to switch the roles around. They would like to keep their responsibilities the same and asked if Councilman Stanford would replace Councilwoman Fogle's roles to which he agreed. Council assignments are summarized below:

- Councilman Dayley – Parks and Recreation – Sugar Days

- Councilwoman Ball – Tree and Beautification Committee, The Sugar City Area Historical Society – Arbor Day
- Council President Nielsen – City water/sewer – Easter Egg Hunt
- Councilman Stanford – City/County Emergency Planning meetings – 4th of July

CITY FIBER: The City moved to disapprove the three submitted RFPs as non-responsive or non-complete and to move forward piggy-backing on Madison County’s agreement with Fibercom. The fiber committee reviewing the RFPs was split in their recommendations. Two of the three committee members thought that an open-access or city-owned system was not attainable or desirable due to the funding challenges of installing and maintaining a multi-million-dollar system. Below is a summary of the items discussed:

- 3 RFP responses—Brightline: install a city-owned fiber network; Entry Point: mainly a software and administration program and consultation; Fibercom: installation of an independent company-owned network
- 600 hookups are a challenge (residents must choose to buy-in to the system) to make a city-owned system cost effective
- City does not currently qualify for fiber grants to underserved residents
- \$50,000 grant available to apply for to possibly remap city depending on internet speeds to qualify for grants
- Cost and installation are biggest issues for a city-owned network—relying on grants, bonds, or levies, which take time to apply for and implement
- Unlike the RFPs, the current Madison County agreement with Fibercom is solid and already in place—project will begin immediately and be completed by December; city could piggyback on County’s agreement/project as previously suggested months back
- The Madison County agreement with Fibercom will not cost the consumer unless they opt in after initial installation on their street; cost to the city would be \$300,000 (ARPA funds already available) with \$300,000 match from County
- The Fibercom agreement with County is a “hybrid” open network with an open “middle mile”—fiber loops that don’t connect directly to residents are open to all fiber companies to lease; closed “last mile”—lines that go directly to households or businesses
- The “middle mile” opens the door to all competing companies
- Fibercom CEO Jared Stole says the goal of the County project is to provide affordable high-speed broadband to every resident. They do not want a monopoly.
- Residents would have the choice of high-speed internet at affordable prices; Fibercom should be most affordable—market driven
- Fibercom would commit to providing city offices, school district, and sheriff’s office high speed internet at no cost
- Councilman Dayley did extensive research on city-owned versus company-owned internet service. Below are his recommendations:
 - Better to let fiber companies manage industry upgrades and implementation
 - City better suited to focus on water/sewer and road services and maintenance
 - Piggybacking on County’s Fibercom agreement is the best option

MOTION: It was moved by Councilman Dayley and seconded by Councilman Stanford to disapprove the RFPs as non-responsive or non-complete and to move forward piggybacking on the Madison County/Fibercom agreement. Thereupon, the clerk called roll upon the motion.

Those voting aye: Councilors Ball, Dayley, and Stanford

Those voting nay: Councilor Nielsen

Thereupon, the mayor declared the motion passed. The mayor will meet with Fibercom, Madison County, and the Fiber Committee to work out the details of the contract.

CALENDARED ITEMS:

City Fiber Ordinance – No report.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

Communications Seminar: Mayor Adams reported he received an invitation from the school district for all public leaders on a communications seminar in August. All are invited. August 28, 2024 2pm – 4pm.

Easter Egg Hunt: Councilwoman Nielsen reported that the Easter Egg Hunt is ready to go. Scheduled for Saturday, March 30, 10am at the old Jr. High building. City staff and Council members volunteered to help.

Arbor Day: Councilwoman Ball reported that Arbor Days Celebration will be held on May 10. They are working with Arlynn on where to plant the tree. The city did not get a grant this year since it received one for the past two years. “The Power of Trees” is the theme this year. Third through sixth grades will have an art contest with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. A scavenger hunt for nature items with a treat at city hall is also planned. The choir will also sing. Mr. Bates retired this year and will not attend the event as in past years.

Tree and Beatification: The committee would like a bigger budget for the yard awards. They plan on only two awards – one from the east part of town and one from the west part. Mr. Jacobson reported that the city flowers were ordered and the flower barrels delivered to the nursery.

Sugar Days: Councilman Dayley reported that the inflatables have been reserved, a Friday night live band is planned again this year, and he asked that an “alley” pattern be provided for the vendor booths.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: No report

Motion was made for adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Signed: _____
Mayor, Steven Adams

Attested: _____
Wendy McLaughlin, Clerk-Treasurer