

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SUGAR CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

Presiding: Mayor W. Lamont Merrill
Meeting Convened at 6:35 p.m.
Prayer: Bruce King
Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Mayor Lamont Merrill; Clerk-Treasurer Wendy McLaughlin; Councilmen Bruce King, Bruce Bills, Bruce Arnell, and Matt Garner; Commissioner Brent Barrus of the Planning and Zoning Commission; Citizens Megan Amorino, Sarah Austin, Sarah Evans, Shaina Gould, Nttig Gi..., Madisen Harline, Brennan Harris, Dax Harris, Christiana Huish, Lisette Larson, Shaylene Sorrow, and Ginger Thomas. Chairman Dave Ogden of the Planning and Zoning Commission was excused.

Mayor Merrill asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 10, 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; motion carried.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Brent Barrus reported on several items of business:

Larsen/Pocock Special Use Permit: Planning and Zoning held a special meeting to set a public hearing date for October 15 ahead of Madison County's public hearing date of October 22. The commission needs to make a recommendation at the county's hearing. The proposed fertilizer plant is in the city's impact area. John Pocock introduced his brother Jeff Pocock as the manager of the proposed plant. He was given a few minutes to answer questions. Mr. Pocock reaffirmed that the plant would not be manufacturing the fertilizer and that no chemicals would be involved. The dry nitrogen would be mixed with pete moss. The dust caused by mixing would also be controlled by a vacuum type system. There were several concerns about the fertilizer plant, i.e., how safe is it? What rules are used to evaluate the application? Does it fit the city's Comprehensive Plan? The council advised the commission to be very careful as it proceeds and become familiar with Ordinance 307. A copy of the maps adopted with Ordinance 307 will be sent to the commission and the council.

Title 10 of the Sugar City Code, "Subdivision and Platting": The commission is still reviewing and revising the code, specifically Title 10.

Needs List: The commission is also working on entries for a needs list for the city. One item they feel strongly about is the city having its own sewage treatment plant instead of relying upon Rexburg's plant.

Joint Commission on City Impact Area Meeting: The joint meeting scheduled for today was cancelled. No reason given, and no future date was set to meet again.

CONSTITUTION WEEK PROCLAMATION RESOLUTION: Motion to adopt

Proclamation 2015-1, which sets aside September 17 – 23, 2015, as city “Constitution Week,” was moved by Councilman Arnell and seconded by Councilman Garner. Although the week has already passed before it was established and set aside by proclamation of the mayor, the council felt it beneficial to “ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained” (see Attachment #1). Councilman Bills introduced the document and read it in full. Thereupon the clerk called roll upon said motion.

Those voting aye: Councilman King, Bills, Garner, and Arnell

Those voting nay: none

Thereupon the mayor declared the motion passed

LIST OF CITY NEEDS: Councilman King asked that a needs list be compiled from each of the council members, departments and committees. Several items were brought forward, i.e.,

- Clear laws based on the Comprehensive Plan
- Enforcement of city laws
- Code improvement
- *Misdemeanor* changed to *infraction* in the city code, where viable
- Road maintenance
- Safe Routes to School grants
- Third South question settled
- Alleyway issues west of Front Street settled
- Water needs addressed
- Sewer needs addressed
- Historic sugar factory marker renovated
- Software updates for utilities and meters
- City hiring and benefits needs
- Storm drain maintenance
- New chairs for Planning and Zoning commissioners
- Radio read meters

The list will be compiled, numbered and presented to the council at the next meeting.

CITY CODE REVISIONS: It has been determined that there are several items in the city code that are either not enforced or not complied with regarding the utility billing procedures. The council asked that the mayor and city clerk go through the identified items and propose revisions to the code in writing to address them for review at the next council meeting.

ASSOCIATION OF IDAHO CITIES (AIC) CONFERENCE REPORT: Wendy McLaughlin reported on the training conference for Idaho clerks and treasurers. Several items of interest at the conference included annexation. A training video produced by AIC Attorney Jerry Mason is available and will be presented at future meetings for the benefit of the council and commission.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

COUNCILMAN KING: No report

COUNCILMAN BILLS: Asked that Grant and Linda Johnson be reimbursed for use of their vehicle to water city flowers.

MOTION: It was moved by Councilman Bills and seconded by Councilman King to reimburse the Johnsons for 216 miles of personal vehicle use at the federal mileage reimbursement rate; motion carried.

Tree & Beautification Committee: Mr. Bills asked that the mayor send a thank you note to the committee for their work in encouraging yard and garden upkeep. They have put up signs to recognize residents whose yards stand out.

COUNCILMAN ARNELL:

Food Bank Distribution: Councilman Arnell reported that the food bank, which was proposed to be held in our Business Park, was cancelled due to inadequate temporary storage space.

COUNCILMAN GARNER: No report.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS:

Water Update: Mayor Merrill reported that the city was given approval to transfer its existing unused water rights to other distribution points within River Bend Ranch and Old Farm Estates. The expense to drill new wells to distribute the water will be borne by the developers.

Historic Bridge Update: Mayor Merrill reported that the city will have to pave about 300 feet of roadway leading up to the new bridge on 1000 East (7th West) in Sugar City. Bridge renovations and engineering were based on a 60-foot right of way, of which the County cannot provide proof. The city does not have the legal right to encroach on the eight feet of the Toscano property owned by Steve Young needed along the east side of the right of way. State code defaults to 52-foot easements for roads. The situation is not yet resolved, and work on the south side of the bridge and road has been temporarily suspended.

Old Farm Estates Update: Jeff and Ryan Lerwill, new owners of the Old Farm Estates subdivision, have applied and received two new building permits and are planning on up to eight more by January.

Salt Lake Express: Salt Lake Express has paid for the sewer hookup and buy in, and is currently working on the connection.

Digital Meters: The city is looking at the feasibility of changing to radio read meters. With the new developments within the city, radio read meters would simplify the meter-reading task each month. The existing meters would be changed over gradually. The new developments would install the new meters with the radio read capabilities.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Curb Side Ramps Update: The city received a grant to update most of the Center Street intersections in town to ADA ramp requirements. The city will receive about \$59,000 to complete the update. Bids will be sought.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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

Attested: Wendy McLaughlin
Wendy McLaughlin, Clerk-Treasurer

PROCLAMATION 2015-1

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUGAR CITY, IDAHO, THAT:

WHEREAS, September 17, 2015, marks the 228th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary; and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, W. Lamont Merrill, Mayor of the City of Sugar City, do hereby proclaim the week of September 17 through 23 as

CONSTITUTION WEEK

AND ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained.

In the City of Sugar City, Madison County, State of Idaho.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR THIS 24th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2015.

W. Lamont Merrill

W. Lamont Merrill, Mayor

Wendy McLaughlin

Wendy McLaughlin, City Clerk-Treasurer

(SEAL)