

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
SUGAR CITY COUNCIL  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

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

Present: Mayor Lamont Merrill; Clerk-Treasurer Wendy McLaughlin; Councilmen Bruce King, Burch Drake, Bruce Arnell, and Matt Garner; and Vice Chair Christine “Sam” Lines of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mayor Merrill asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 12, 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:** Vice Chair Sam Lines:

**Agri-Service Addition** – Jason Riley met with the P&Z (Planning and Zoning) Commission to review a proposed addition to their existing building. The business lies within city limits. Agri-Service wanted a firm approval from the commission before expending several thousand dollars needed to go ahead. However, the business first needs to apply for a design review and building permit.

**Comprehensive Plan Review** – The commission has been working on changes to the city's comprehensive plan to help accommodate proposed future growth in and outside the city. Commissioners will review the plan for any additional changes in the next few weeks before holding a public hearing. Copies of accurate and current maps are needed for each commissioner as well as larger maps for the conference room. Dating the maps will help reduce the confusion about which maps are current. Impact area boundary and zoning maps accepted with Ordinance #307 are current. However, the ordinance is still in the process of being adopted by Madison County.

**River Bend Ranch** – A public hearing is on schedule for March 5, 2015, on the application to change the zoning of the River Bend Ranch property north of the North Fork of the Teton River from R1 and O to R3. The commission is prepared to move forward with the hearing with a full quorum. Commissioners are mindful of open meeting laws and will strive to avoid any missteps. The council is concerned with “indiscriminate growth.” How does one or two homes produce enough sewage volume to get to the end of the pipe? asked Councilman Arnell. These and similar concerns of over-extending city services need to be addressed, he said.

**UPDATE LAND USE AND ZONING MAPS:** - Addressed in P&Z discussion.

**ANIMAL ORDINANCE REVISION:** The council will receive proposed changes to the animal ordinance through email before the next council meeting in order to be prepared to respond with thoughtful consideration. The council will have time to send in recommendations, which will be considered at the next council meeting. Some questions that arose:

- ^ Are rabbits a nuisance animal?
- ^ Will cats need to be tagged similar to dogs?
- ^ What does it mean to be grandfathered with respect to animals?

**SOCCER GOALS:** Councilman Garner reported that there is space for only one soccer field in Smith Park instead of two as previously thought. The plan is to alternate weekly soccer practices between Smith Park, Heritage Park, and the school soccer fields. Alternating practice between the three fields should alleviate any turf damage like last year. Instead of three sets of goals, the city will need only two sets of moveable goals. Eventually, the permanent goals in Heritage Park may be taken out, since they present a safety issue when players kick balls into the roads. Councilman Garner will discuss the size of the goals with Coach Dayley. The legal goal width is 24 feet, although a smaller 18-foot goal can be used for practices.

**MAILBOX PLACEMENT:** June 1 is the deadline for those on a mailbox route to either install a box or start paying for a post office box. The city has been concerned about haphazard mailbox placement, which raises liability issues given snow-removal and other city services, and detracts from attractive neighborhoods. The city may choose not to write a mailbox ordinance, but it will provide directions to residents on where to place mailboxes to avoid damaging utility lines and to minimize potential snowplow damage during snow removal. With the help of City Attorney Bill Forsberg, Councilman Arnell will draft a placement guideline for the March newsletter. The city wishes to emphasize that it is not liable for mailbox damages resulting from misplaced boxes.

**ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHT:** Residents have requested an additional street light on Buckskin Court, which they say is dark at one end. The council felt that this is not a city responsibility, although council members supported paying for electricity once homeowners bear the expense of installing a street light, estimated to cost \$2,000.

**FORSGREN'S WATER STUDY REPORT:** Councilman Arnell and Mayor Merrill will meet with Forsgren and Associates to work out the final details for receiving the completed water study report, which could prove valuable to the current city water and sewer infrastructure study under way by The Dyer Group.

**DYER GROUP WATER STUDY:** City Engineer Dick Dyer of The Dyer Group is aware of the possibility of a conflict of interest in simultaneously representing the city and a developer of property in the city. It is understood that the city will appoint a temporary city engineer if such a situation arises.

**AGENDA AMENDED:** It was moved by Councilman Drake and seconded by Councilman Arnell to amend the agenda to include discussion on PSI's proposed 2% rate increase for the city's garbage collection services, proposed to take effect March 1, 2015. A letter from PSI was read (see Attachment 1). The consensus of the council was to authorize the rate increase this year, but if fuel prices remain low due to low oil prices to frown on a rate increase next year. PSI District Manager Todd Hanson will be invited to meet with the council.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Councilman Arnell and seconded by Councilman Drake to accept the 2% increase. The motion passed.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

### **COUNCILMAN KING:**

**Website and Envision Madison** – No report.

**Mailboxes Along State Highways** – Those installing mailboxes along state highways in state right of way should complete an encroachment application available from District 6 of the Idaho Transportation Department south of Rigby and pay the required one-time fee of \$50.

**COUNCILMAN DRAKE:**

**Mayor Dalling's Retirement:** Mayor Dalling's retirement party is scheduled for March 13 in the high school commons and will be announced in the *Standard Journal* as well as in the city newsletter. Councilman Drake asked the council for help in finalizing an inscription to go on a plaque for the former mayor.

**3rd South Parking by High School:** The gates have been unlocked and left open, which encourages parking along 3rd South adjacent to the ball field. Mayor Merrill will contact the school on the matter.

**COUNCILMAN ARNELL:**

**Urban Renewal District (URD) North Rexburg Exchange** – Sugar City officials have been invited to and acknowledged at the meetings.

**COUNCILMAN GARNER:**

**Easter Egg Hunt, Teton Dam Marathon** – The annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2015, at 9 a.m. at Smith Park. There is no report yet on the upcoming Teton Dam Marathon.

**MAYOR'S BUSINESS:**

**Digital Recorder:** The city is looking into purchasing another digital recorder for public hearings and other important events.

**Old Farm Estates Sidewalk Placement:** The development agreement for Old Farm Estates requires that there be a 4' mow strip, with a minimum 48" wide sidewalk, but the developer has opted for a 5' wide sidewalk.

**Cloud Seeding:** The city will continue to contribute \$150 annually to support cloud-seeding in the area.

**CHC Grant for Business Park Walking Path:** The grant application is due March 19. The city will apply again for a grant to help pave the walking path. The base has been built up and the weeds removed, and the path is now ready to be paved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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

Attested: Wendy McLaughlin  
Wendy McLaughlin, Clerk-Treasurer