
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00PM BY AUSTIN W. ROBINSON, MAYOR.

ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT: AUSTIN W. ROBINSON, MAYOR
MITCHELL J. HART, PRES.
JON D. GOODE
ROBERT M. LAU
SCOTT K. GAMBLE

EXCUSED:

ALSO PRESENT: Rodney Fraser
Jack Sturm
Austin & Jackie Robinson
Ryan & LaNae Carpenter
CeJay Golightly

Alan Skinner, Director
Tausha Vorwall, Clerk
Clyde Nelson, Attorney via telephone
Chief Scott Shaw II

The invocation was given by Rodney Frasure, Mayor Robinson then led everyone in the 'Pledge of Allegiance'.

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Goode stated he had reviewed and saw nothing that needed modified or amended, he then moved to dispense with the reading and approve the January 2nd, 2019 minutes as presented. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable were reviewed. Councilmember Goode moved to approve the accounts payable for January 1st through January 14th, 2019, seconded by Councilmember Hart. Councilmember Goode expressed his disagreement with having to pay the American Society of Composers and what the fee covers was questioned by Mayor Robinson. The Clerk explained it is required due to copy write laws in order for any music to be played publicly. A vote on the motion was called. All in favor, motion carried

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER FOR DETAIL)

Mayor Robinson recognized Rex and Brent Maughan as “Soda Springs Super Heroes” for their most generous gift to the City of the Historic Enders Building. He thanked Rex for the beautiful renovation of the treasured building that has become an icon of pride in the community, and also thanked Brent for his loyalty, hard work and standard of excellence in operating the Enders Restaurant and Hotel for these many years. Mr. Brent Maughan accepted on behalf of himself and his brother Rex Maughan.

Jack Sturm of the Soda Springs Nordic Ski Association (SSNSA) detailed their volunteer efforts to maintain the Kelly Park ski trails. This year’s volunteers include himself, Mike Nally, Roger Freeman, Rod Fraser and Brad Ford. Mr. Sturm expressed his appreciation for the City’s work that was done on the trails this spring dealing with the flooding and stated
the City crew did a great job. Mr. Sturm explained there are 7K of trails including the upper and lower sections that are groomed. They groom 35 to 40 days a year and it takes 2 to 3 hours usually. The SSNSA currently has about $2800 in reserve and they get $500 from City each year and received about $180 in donations this year. He mentioned that their reserve funds will cover most equipment repairs but would not be able to cover the replacement of a snowmobile or the grooming equipment. They currently have a 2001 Skidoo they can use to pack the trails but it overheats if used to groom at slow speeds. They have a newer Yamaha that does a good job with the grooming and has a little over 5000 miles on it and is still running good. The grooming equipment consists of a homemade roller which is wearing out and a Ginzu Groomer which is in good shape but currently needs some alignment adjustments. The cost of a new roller is $1800 and instead they are going to try and repair the old one. They also put out wands to mark the trails. Mr. Sturm addressed some concerns causing frustration with the skiers and the City Crews. He understands the City needs to access their facilities but hopes they can continue to work together. He mentioned the need to have an 8 to 10 foot strip of snow maintained in the area near the pump house for the grooming equipment to be able to pass and also wondered if something other than cinders could be used on the road to help mitigate it from ending up on the ski trail and damaging skis. He also mentioned that it was not likely that the skiers would use the parking lot and preferred to park by the trail heads. Councilmember Hart commented that the parking wasn’t a problem this time of year only when sport activities are going on at the park. Mr. Sturm also shared compliments about the trails from a couple visiting from Alaska. The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Sturm for the great job they do and expressed appreciation for their time.

The request for support of the Oregon/California Trail Auto Tour was revisited. Director Skinner reported the Greater Soda Spring Community Development Committee (GSSCDC) recommended approval of a $500 contribution but the High County Travel Council and other local communities have declined to donate. Director Skinner spoke with the organizers who explained that if they did not raise the funds needed and couldn’t follow through with the event they would refund the donations. The Council discussed. Councilmember Goode moved to approve a $500 pledge from GSSCDC funds contingent on the Oregon/California Trail Auto Tour group achieving their funding target. Councilmember Lau seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Hart reported that Greenfield Trust representatives are planning to meet with the Mayor and Council to provide a report on their efforts as requested by the City. The first of two meetings will be a 2018 year-end review of their cleanup progress of the former Kerr McGee/Tronox site. The second meeting will be to go over what they have planned for the next year and provide the results of their water sampling data collection which won’t be available until about May. Councilmember Hart mentioned Greenfield spent over $20,000,000 in 2018 including demolition of buildings, installation of numerous ground water wells at multiple levels and the onsite depository removal. The Council suggested a meeting on February 20th at 3:30pm as the preferred time and date. A similar request to Bayer from the City was made to review their past year efforts and plans going forward.
During citizen input Austin E. Robinson made a brief comment based on discussions held at a recent public meeting before the City’s Planning and Zoning Commission. He expressed his disagreement with those individuals that believe the City should waive the hook-up fees for new developers. He doesn’t believe the City should have to waive fees to get someone to build and the cost of hook-ups is offset by the reasonable cost of the City’s utilities.

A brief update on the Ender’s building was given. The certified appraisal will be completed by the end of the month to use as a benchmark value if the City elects to sell the building. There are at least two interested parties in purchasing and/or leasing. If the City chooses to sell the property, specific steps will have to be taken per Idaho code. Councilmember Hart also mentioned there is potential of a grass roots committee to be established to help advise the City on what is best to do with the building. It is currently locked, maintained and checked on regularly. The City is blessed to have the asset and wants to proceed in the best interest of the benefactors, the citizens of the City and economic growth. Councilmember Gambles expressed his appreciation for Councilmember Hart’s work. Mayor Robinson stated he will have information on the committee for the next meeting.

Director Skinner requested approval to proceed with purchasing two new mixers for the wastewater treatment plant for $11,900 which $50,000 was budgeted for. He explained that these will be a different brand and lower horse power than the current ones but other plants are having better luck with them. The original mixers have lasted 4 years with a 3 year warranty. One is out of service and one is still running but a bearing is going out. The mixers are in operation 24/7. Councilmember Hart moved to approve purchasing the specified mixers for the WWTP per the proposal of $11,900, seconded by Councilmember Goode. Councilmember Lau asked what the costs of the original ones were. Director Skinner wasn’t sure but thinks they cost quite a bit more and were made overseas. The new ones are available through a local supplier. A vote on the motion was called. All in favor, motion carried.

The Mayor and Council reviewed an industrial/commercial wastewater user survey required by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DEQ recently sent a notice that the City did not have an industrial user master list on file and it was required for the completion of the new Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. Director Skinner explained that if the surveys are not completed it would also be a compliance violation during the next inspection. The surveys will be sent out to all non-residential sewer users which is approximately 175 customers. It requests information regarding what type of wastewater is deposited by the user into the City’s sewer system. Director Skinner suggested the surveys can be completed in 30 to 60 days to make sure and keep the permit process going. The City will retain the original surveys and send copies to DEQ. The master list will need to be updated as owners or operators change.

Councilmember Lau, seconded by Councilmember Goode moved to approve temporarily suspending the current meeting in order to hold the annual Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
The IDC meeting began at 5:50pm and adjourned at 6:05pm.

The regular City Council meeting was reconvened.

Councilmember Lau moved to approve entering into executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(1)(b) to consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of a public officer, employee or staff member. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. A roll call showed the following vote:

Those voting aye: Robert Lau
Jon Goode
Mitch Hart
Scott Gambles
Those voting nay: none
Absent: none

Motion Carried.

Councilmember Lau moved to exit executive session, seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Robinson recommended the appointment of Greg Haney as the City's civil attorney. Councilmember Hart moved to authorize Mayor Robinson to negotiate with Mr. Haney a contract to serve as the City’s civil attorney based on Option 2 of the proposal submitted and request Doug Wood to continue as the criminal attorney negotiating compensation within the current budget restrictions, and also discuss with Attorney Nelson if he desires to complete the current contractual obligations providing the 60 day notice of termination. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Gambles mentioned that he would be absent for the February 6th meeting.

Councilmember Hart moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm, seconded by Councilmember Lau. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 6TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2019.

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Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk