

Mayor Robinson recognized Heidi Thompson as a “Soda Springs Super Hero”. He expressed the City’s gratitude to Heidi for her many years of dedication and service to the citizens of Soda Springs as part of the Greater Soda Springs Community Development Committee. He thanked her for her willingness and excellent abilities as the treasurer and for being a valuable member of the community. The Mayor assured her she would be sorely missed and he wished her and husband Chris the very best in their new adventures. The Council also thanked her. Councilmember Lau noted recognition of her community efforts was overdue. Mrs. Thompson thanked the Mayor and Council and noted it has been a great team and she is excited about their future projects. She stated she appreciates the acknowledgment.

Engineer Skinner confirmed the Rotary Club’s decision to hold this year’s 4th of July celebration on Saturday, July 3rd, 2021. All the regular activities will be on Saturday with foam in the park on Friday afternoon.

Engineer Skinner reported on an issue with the boiler at the Ender’s building. The boiler company was called and the restaurant was temporarily closed. The Diamond Heart staff was good to work with. Some piping may need to be changed but it is up and running. Councilmember Hart asked what the estimated cost was. Engineer Skinner explained it will be a rewind or replacement of a 3 to 5 HP pump motor and seals & bearings. He estimates less than \$1000 even if we have to buy a new motor.

Josh Hansen, a County Resident addressed the City Council to request a permanent waiver of curb, gutter, sidewalk and asphalt on a proposed development north of Lewis Subdivision off of Formation Avenue. Mr. Hansen explained that he and his wife Amity would like to buy a three acre lot to build a home on. He explained there is a ditch and other water on the property that he is working with the Army Corp of Engineers to be able to put in culverts and/or relocate. He proposes to use the undeveloped platted extension of Formation Avenue as the way to accesses the property. He understands City ordinances require the improvements but points out several other streets that don’t have curb, gutter and sidewalk. He plans to put in good road base but does not want to have to pave the street. The Council suggested the difficulty of getting the Army Corp to approve such projects. Councilmember Goode also expressed concern and stated he is very hesitant to consider waiving curb, gutter and asphalt. He explained that the City has been more of a stickler on requiring the curb and gutter and receives lots of complaints about not having it everywhere. Councilmember Lau pointed out the City owns the Formation Avenue road right-of-way. The Council and staff discussed where the improvements would be required and how it is the developer’s responsibility to put in the improvements. Mr. Hansen stated his purchase of the property will be contingent on the Army Corp’s approvals and the cost of the improvements required. Councilmember Hart suggested that Mr. Hansen see if the seller would share in the cost of the improvements. The Council agreed to further review the details of the proposal and have more dialogue next meeting on February 17th.

During the time for citizen input Councilmember Gambles recognized Chief Shaw for being the master snow blower in his neighborhood. It is very awesome for him to help out the

neighbors who really appreciate it. Paige Byram who was connected to the meeting via telephone asked how many people will be able to attend the upcoming public hearings regarding storage containers. The Council and Staff discussed and agreed there would be room for up to 6 people in addition to the staff and still be able to maintain the social distancing requirements. The Mayor noted more will be allowed to filter in as others leave also. Mayor Robinson again encouraged the community to shop at home and support the local businesses who are members of our community and who also support many local groups.

The project list was briefly reviewed. Engineer Skinner went over the airport grant currently in effect. The State grant of \$20,000 requires a \$20,000 match by the City for a total project of \$40,000. Engineer Skinner stated his intent was to crack seal and seal coat the main runway. The City's match would be a combination of materials and in-kind work. The grant funds are available through June 2024 but the plan is to complete the project this year noting the need to repaint the lettering. Councilmember Gambles asked if the project would take the total \$40,000. Engineer Skinner believes so and reviewed his estimated man hours and cost of materials. He suggested it would be nice to do the auxiliary runway but there are never enough funds. It is a little shorter but would still be \$30,000. The State grant cycle is about every three years and the funds are usually needed to just keep up on the main runway.

Mayor Robinson and Councilmember Hart opened the discussion regarding a cost of living allowance (COLA) wage increase for the employees. Councilmember Hart noted he reviewed the discussions held during the budget last year. Considering the City's financial situation he does not feel the City has been hurt by the pandemic. Councilmember Hart moved to approve a 1 ½% COLA for all employees and authorized the Mayor to work with Department Heads to review who should get an additional 1 ½% merit bonus. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. Councilmember Goode added he agreed the City had not been affected by the pandemic and also noted social security gave a 1.3% increase. Councilmember Lau mentioned proposed legislation that may freeze budgets and the tremendous pressure coming about lowering the property tax. He suggested the City be cautious because the upcoming changes may affect the City's ability to increase taxes and fees. A vote on the motion to approve the COLA was called. All in favor, motion carried. The increases will take place on the next full pay period.

Councilmember Lau moved to approve entering into executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(1)(f) to communicate with legal counsel regarding probable litigation.

Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. A roll call showed the following vote:

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

Motion Carried.

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

Councilmember Lau moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm, seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk