

have a presence in the Park on the 4th of July also. He requested approval for camping, having the upper lot mowed ahead of time for parking and management of the sprinklers at Hooper Park. He mentioned some difficulty with sprinklers last year that Director Skinner reported had been addressed. Mr. Weaver stated they will be carrying their own insurance because it will not be in conjunction with the Rotary Club's 4th of July event. Councilmember Goode confirmed the insurance would name the City as additionally insured and requested any new waiver be reviewed by the City Attorney. Councilmember Goode moved to approve the Dragon Fyre Faire at Hooper Park on July 9th through 12th subject to satisfactory insurance and review of the waivers. Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. All in favor except Councilmember Lau who abstained due to his involvement in the organization of the event, motion carried.

Mayor Robinson recommended the reappointment of Charles Fryar and Rod Worthington to the Planning and Zoning Commission and thanked them for their willingness to continue to serve. Councilmember Goode moved to approve the reappointments, seconded by Councilmember Lau. All in favor, motion carried. The Mayor administered the Oaths of Office and commented the City would be nothing without its volunteers.

The Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS) local congregation representatives Wade Clark, Ron Myers and Wade Harris informed the Mayor and City Council that the City recreation programs would no longer be able to utilize the church building gyms. Mr. Clark explained how the local leaders had allowed for many years the organized sports to practice in the church gyms to help out the community. It began under the assumptions that once a new middle school gym was built it would no longer be needed. Mr. Clark explained how the use is against church policy. He stated they want to help ease the transition if possible and the current leagues can continue through the 1st of May. Director Skinner stated the City Recreation programs had planned to stop using the gyms by the end of March. Councilmember Goode asked if the City provided liability insurance if that would help. Mr. Clark stated he could look into it but didn't think that would make a difference. Councilmember Hart mentioned how local leaders of the church had supported the decision to allow the use but understands that it cannot continue. The Mayor and Council expressed great appreciation to the LDS church for the many years of use.

State of Idaho airport grants were reviewed. The City is tentatively approved for up to \$40,670 in grants that require the same amount in matching funds which some could come from in-kind work. The previously submitted projects included apron maintenance, parallel taxiway maintenance, runway maintenance, runway lighting, pilot lounge improvements, runway end identification lighting (REIL) and visual aids/precision approach path indicator lighting (PAPI). Director Skinner said there may be flexibility to re-prioritize the projects. The funds are available July 2020 through June 2021 but the application is due by March 20th. The projects were discussed and the Director clarified the City doesn't technically offer night landing lights and the old system that could be activated by radio doesn't work. The Council agreed to ask the County to help support the airport projects by providing a portion of the matching funds. The Airport Board will review and prioritize the improvements and the County will be approached for support.

During the time for citizen input several City and County residents offered comments regarding no longer being able to use the church gyms. All in attendance expressed their thanks to the LDS Church and understood the need to discontinue using the gyms.

Katy Bergholm was curious what the City's plan was for losing that gym space. She understands the schools can only support so many programs but feels it is important to provide programs for kids during the long winters. She mentioned the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee's (CPAC) discussions about needing an indoor space to recreate. She suggested looking into converting the Mason Distributing building and putting together a committee to investigate the potential and other ways to come up with funds for a community center. She recommended starting the planning so we don't lose any of our programs. Mrs. Bergholm noted the results of the CPAC survey showed people are willing to pay more for improvements. She feels the majority of the community would be willing to pay to have a recreation center and maybe the time is right to pursue a recreation district.

Councilmember Hart commented that he had been in the Mason Distributing building and it is definitely a possibility. The current listing price is \$200,000 and it would probably be double that to convert it into a recreation use. Councilmember Hart stated the City understands the importance of the recreation programs but explained there are funding issues. The City has always provided the recreation programs to not only the city residents but also county and other nearby communities without any funding from the County. He noted the difficulty of getting a recreation district approved by the voters, and current legislation being considered that would freeze the City's property tax revenue. He mentioned the City was working on some things that may help but it could take one to two years. He asked Principals McMurray and Worthington who were in attendance if they are seeing an increase in students which they reported they were. He mentioned the cost to refurbish the tennis courts of \$100,000 for a dozen residents that use them and how it would be a better use of those funds for a community center. Principal Worthington shared the cost associated with the State prison system and how the youth are worth the investment compared to the cost of prison.

Councilmember Lau briefly reviewed his research regarding a recreation district. He explained the current school district value of \$650,000,000 could provide approximately \$300,000 a year in revenue. This may be able to support a recreation center long term but would not be able to provide the initial investment amount. He questioned whether the county residents were willing to pay more or if they are willing to give up something presently provided to have something new. He supported great minds collaborating toward a solution and also mentioned Hooper School could be an option.

Melissa Thompson, on behalf of her and her husband Cody, parents, local business owners and county residents, also expressed concern about losing the sports programs and the need to have a place for the youth to hang out. Living here is awesome and it is a huge benefit to have the sports programs which she feels really helps the high school programs. She thinks the fees are low and it would be okay to double the fees and raise the out of

town fees along with charging entry fees to the games to help offset the cost of a facility. She expressed her support of investigating the Mason Distributing building and is willing to help in any way.

Sid Davis, parent, coach and county resident shared his experience regarding the importance of sports and giving kids a reason to stay focused on keeping their grades up in order to be able to play sports. He appreciates the ideas that have been presented and really thinks if everyone gets together and makes a plan it is not impossible. Soda Springs is an incredible city with good jobs from the mines and industry and a lot of smart people that can do this. He mentioned the gigantic obstacles in his life and how it can seem impossible but it's not, you can make it happen. The new center should be for everyone based on community input and if you get enough people excited and it has a broad use it will get more support. He expressed his feeling that this is a very positive thing.

Matt Peck, coach and city resident expressed his thoughts on how to get a recreation center funded. He stated it is so simple and he used the example of companies in the oil industry providing funds to communities for things like recreation centers and schools because their company is having an environmental impact on the community and they want to keep the community happy. Mr. Peck pointed out that Soda Springs has similar industry that is impacting the community's environment and polluting our water and they should step up and help provide a community center. He suggested naming the center after the companies that help fund it. He also mentioned how the Mountain View Event Center (MEC) was built in Pocatello under a recreation district and they charge whoever wants to use it \$25 an hour. Mr. Peck stated it's time to hold the local industries feet to the fire. Those impacting our environment need to pay to play. He stated the environmental investigations that could go on are going to cost these companies a lot more than building a rec center.

LDS Representative, Wade Clark again expressed the churches desire to alleviate the issues with the lack of gym space but they have to be able to see an end to the use of their facilities coming. Councilmember Hart again expressed appreciation and reiterated that the City understands. The City has policies, the school has policies and we all understand the church has policies and we have to follow those.

High School Principal, Jess McMurray addressed the Mayor and Council to promote a working partnership with the City. Mr. McMurray explained how he would like to start a conversation on how the School, the City and local businesses could work together to provide programs to help get the students working in the community. He would welcome any ideas. Councilmember Hart suggested also working with the Chamber of Commerce, reaching out to Bayer and brainstorming with Katy Bergholm who helped spearhead the CPAC which is a group of community activists.

Mayor Robinson thanked everyone for their comments which are greatly appreciated.

Director Skinner presented security system estimates for the Ender's Building. They ranged in cost from \$9,500 to \$18,000 and include 14 to 21 cameras. He recommended the

City consider one of the EZ Access bids who provide all the systems at Bayer and the mines. He felt they tried to make it as affordable as possible. The lease contract says the lessee will pay for anything above \$1000. Councilmember Hart suggested a serious review of the detailed quote and mentioned the cost is way above what they had expected. He suggested Director Skinner meet with the Lancaster's and review the quotes. He also noted that he feels the City will have to cover more of the costs if it is determined one of these systems are wanted. The Council agreed.

The Council considered a request from Tracy Lakey, Caribou County Farm Bureau Secretary for permission to park educational trailers on the grass at City Park for the Agriculture Appreciation Day to be held June 16th. The Council and Staff discussed. Director Skinner suggested it would be okay as long as they work closely with the City on where to park in order to avoid damaging the sprinkler system. Councilmember Lau moved to approve the request asking the group to use the asphalted area as much as possible and coordinate with Director Skinner for parking on the grass. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Director Skinner highlighted the draft of the new Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) permit for the City's wastewater treatment plant. He noted the new plant was built to address a couple thousand ammonia violations and now there are no regulations on ammonia. The new phosphorus limit was evaluated and may require the plant to use the tertiary filter system two or three times a year due to the high volume of infiltration water certain times of the year. The biggest potential extra costs include whether we put in an effluent flow meter which the plant was built to accommodate and is just a matter of installing a \$30,000 to \$40,000 valve. The other thing that could raise costs is the zinc and copper studies and the best way to avoid that would be to not accept septage, but the County and the City invested quite a bit in the septage receiving station. The City received only one dump last year and it was for portable toilets. The zinc and copper testing is supposed to be done within 7 to 10 days of a septage dump once a quarter. With only one dump a year we would not be able to meet that requirement. Wastewater Plant Supervisor Kelly Hill is working on getting estimates for the additional testing and has also expressed his concern about the sampling schedule which would require tests to be delivered on Saturdays. These concerns can be addressed during the upcoming review period. Director Skinner explained the deadline to submit errors and omissions is tomorrow which he will respond to.

The City's Crop Reduction Program (CRP) on the 193.3 acres above Ledge Creek Springs was reviewed. The current contract expires in September. The State point system for signing up was reviewed and the City needs to decide by the end of February whether to renew. To insure approval the City can accept a reduction in payment. The contract is actually with the lessee and the payments are split 50/50. Councilmember Goode suggested considering a cash lease for the farm land which hasn't been farmed for over 30 years. The protection of the City's water supply and the potential of nitrates were briefly considered. The Council agreed to go ahead and apply for renewal of the CRP contract and still pursue other options.

The next meeting on February 19th was discussed. Councilmember Gambles will be unavailable, Councilmember Goode can call in and Councilmember Lau may be late. The Council agreed to move the starting time to 5:30pm to be sure to have a quorum.

Councilmember Goode moved to approve entering into executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(1)(f) to communicate with legal counsel regarding probable litigation. Councilmember Lau seconded the motion. A roll call showed the following vote:

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

Motion Carried.

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

Councilmember Lau moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm, seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 19TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020.

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk