
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00PM BY JAMES R. SMITH, MAYOR.

ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:  
JAMES R. SMITH, MAYOR  
MITCHELL J. HART, PRES.  
JON D. GOODE  
ROBERT M. LAU  
SCOTT K. GAMBLES

EXCUSED:  
ALSO PRESENT:  
Mark Steele  
Louis & Terrisa Berg  
Rainie & Heath Hopkins  
Celeste Billman  
Marilyn & Bob Kukachka  
Rachel Gelsier  
Ann Hamm  
Rosli Gier  
Chris Gentry  
Veda Mascarenas  
Alan Skinner, Director  
Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk  
Clyde Nelson, Attorney via telephone  
Nancy Hydzik  
Sandy Rawlins  
Marjean Duren  
Jeri Lin Sturm  
Kaye Moore

The invocation was given by Rosli Geir, Mayor Smith then led everyone in the ‘Pledge of Allegiance’.

Mayor Smith noted that Attorney Nelson was in attendance via telephone.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. Councilmember Goode noted no changes to the minutes and moved to dispense with the reading of the February 15th, 2017 minutes and approve them as presented. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable and payroll for February, 2017 were reviewed. Councilmember Gambles moved to approve the accounts payable for the period February 14th through February 28th, and the payroll for the month of February, 2017 seconded by Councilmember Goode. The axle repair to a large piece of equipment was discussed. Director Skinner explained he thinks it was the backhoe which was originally thought to have a brake problem but ended up needing an axle rebuilt. The overtime due to snow removal, water monitoring and the police department was also reviewed. A vote on the motion to approve the accounts payable and payroll was called. All in favor, motion carried.

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND PAYROLL REGISTERS FOR DETAIL)

Mayor Smith pointed out that rarely are there fun things about being a Mayor but recognizing people that do good things for the community is one of those rare things.
The Mayor stated he was pleased to recognize the Beta Sigma Phi as “Soda Springs Super Heroes”. He pointed out that there was rarely a community event where you do not see some of these ladies involved. The roots of this group began during the Great Depression in hopes of bringing women together to perform service and expand social relationships. The Soda Springs Chapter of the Beta Sigma Phi was started in the 70’s and since then they have been active community supporters. The Mayor and City Council thanked all the past and present members of the Beta Sigma Phi for their continued service to the community.

Mayor Smith administered the oath of office to two new Parks and Recreation Commission members, Rainie Hopkins and Celeste Billman. He expressed his appreciation for their interest in serving as part of an important group that provides input to the City regarding recreational activities. The two appointments are for three year terms.

Mayor Smith declared a Public Hearing open at 5:15pm to consider a zoning reclassification to property owned by Louis & Terrisa Berg at 690 West Highway 30, which is approximately 16.9 acres in the City of Soda Springs Area of Impact. The amendment will reclassify the property from a (C-2) Community Commercial Zone to an (A-1) Agricultural Zone. The proposed reclassification has been previously approved by the Caribou County Commissioners. The Clerk reported that no written comments were received regarding the reclassification. Mr. Louis Berg explained that the piece of property abuts other agricultural land and a wetland making it appropriate to rezone it to an agricultural zone. There were no other comments from the audience and the public hearing was closed.

Director Skinner reviewed the Area of Impact zoning amendment process clarifying the need for the City to hold a public hearing to amend the Area of Impact zoning map along with the County. Councilmember Goode reported the City Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved to recommend the rezone. Councilmember Lau moved to approve the zone change as presented based on the County’s approval and City Planning and Zoning Commission’s recommendation. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Goode introduced Ordinance #664 entitled ‘AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, IDAHO, AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE AREA OF CITY IMPACT TO CLASSIFY CERTAIN PROPERTY PRESENTLY DESIGNATED AS C-2 (COMMERCIAL) TO A-1 (AGRICULTURAL); DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO CAUSE THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE AREA OF CITY IMPACT TO BE AMENDED TO REFLECT THE ZONING DISTRICT CHANGE; A motion was then made by Councilmember Hart and seconded by Councilmember Lau that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three separate occasions be dispensed with and that the ordinance be read once by title only. A roll call showed the following vote:

Those voting aye:       Mitch Hart
                        Jon Goode
                        Robert Lau
                        Scott Gambles

Those voting nay:      none

Absent:               none

Motion Carried.
Clerk Vorwaller read Ordinance #664 by title. Councilmember Lau then moved to approve the adoption of Ordinance #664. Councilmember Hart seconded the motion for adoption. A roll call showed the following vote:

Those voting aye:  Mitch Hart  
Jon Goode  
Robert Lau  
Scott Gambles  

Those voting nay:  none  

Absent:  none  

Motion Carried.

(SEE ATTACHED COPY OF ORDINANCE #664 - ORIGINAL ON FILE)

Attorney Nelson explained that the County will need to adopt a similar ordinance and the City and County will both publish the ordinance with a revised map.

Director Skinner reported on the Idaho Energy Authority (IDEA) meeting he attended in Burley. Idaho Falls Power and United Electric plan to withdraw from the energy efficiency group but not IDEA. The energy efficiency group provides home inspections which Idaho Falls and United Electric feel they can do their own inspections more cost effective and they have developed special software that gives the home owner a report of the inspection. The increased cost to the other cities will be minimal because Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS) will also reduce their fees. The programs offered through the membership were discussed. Home inspections and rebates are offered for energy saving lighting and appliance replacement which could be publicized more. Director Skinner reviewed some estimated costs to replace the overpass lights and the rebate which would cover approximately 70%. He also presented some LED light bulbs which are part of a program through IDEA that could be offered to residents at no cost in hopes of encouraging them to then purchase more for their home through local businesses. Mayor Smith pointed that this is just another tool to try and help residents lower utility costs and clarified that the City is not trying to replace the local vendors in town but just make people aware of a new product.

There was no citizen input at the designated time.

The engineer's prints for utility reconstruction projects scheduled for the current fiscal year were presented for review. The two small projects budgeted for include replacing a portion of the water mainline on 1st South Street and a water and sewer mainline replacement in the alley between 3rd and 4th South Street. These prints have been submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for a 30 day review and approval. The other project is the construction of the new water mainline connecting north of Highway 30, crossing the highway and extending south on 3rd West Street that will service the proposed new hotel. This is the first review of the prints and they have not been finalized yet. Councilmember Lau asked if we planned to do these projects with the City crew. Director Skinner explained that the projects were budgeted to be contracted out but it would depend on the availability of the crew. Councilmember Hart pointed out that it’s great to do it ourselves if everything goes smooth but if we run into issues and have to call in a contractor at the last minute the cost will be premium. Director Skinner also
mentioned that the line on 1st North Street is bedded in slag which takes more than a backhoe to excavate. The Council discussed concerns with boring under the highway. The Mayor also pointed out that the City doesn’t staff for special projects and with new employees it’s hard to handle big projects. The Mayor mentioned that he has asked the Department Heads to make a list of current and future building repairs and infrastructure needs.

Mayor Smith presented a proposed parking ordinance for Caribou Street. The Mayor asked the City Council to review, give opinions and identify any issues or concerns. Attorney Nelson reviewed the details of the ordinance which will provide limited public parking on Caribou Street. The Mayor asked if we were required to designate one spot as handicap parking. Director Skinner will research what the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) rules are for this type of parking.

Director Skinner requested wage increases for two Water Department employees and presented letters of support from the Supervisor, Kelly Hill. Zac Caudill and Larry Smith were instrumental in snow removal this year with both having the commercial drivers license required. Larry has passed his class 1 sewer collection certification and is working on the water test. Zac is also working toward his certifications. The requested increase would be 4 steps and approximately 60 cents. Councilmember Hart moved to approve the requested increases as presented by Director Skinner to be effective as of March 1st, 2017. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Clerk Vorwaller reported that a Workplace Harassment Prevention training was held for all City employees. The training was provided by the Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP) and was attended by 29 City employees and 4 County employees. There were only 7 City employees absent and a make-up session is scheduled. The Mayor suggested repeating the training on a regular basis and asked the HR Committee to review and make a recommendation. Director Skinner stated it can also become part of the new employee orientation.

Councilmember Goode moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:50pm, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 23RD DAY OF MARCH, 2017.

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James R. Smith, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk