MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD MAY 2ND, 2018.

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. GAMBLES

EXCUSED:

ALSO PRESENT: Kathy Ray Alan Skinner, Director

Austin & Jackie Robinson Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk

Dee McCullough Clyde Nelson, Attorney via telephone

Laretta Davis

The invocation was given by Kathy Ray, 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 noted one minor word correction he then moved to dispense with the reading and approve the April 18^{th} , 2018 minutes as corrected in the originals by the Clerk. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable and payroll for April, 2018 were reviewed. Councilmember Hart moved to approve the accounts payable dated April 17th through April 30th and the payroll for the month of April, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL REGISTERS FOR DETAIL)

Kathy Ray, Economic Development Director for the 4 County Alliance of Southeast Idaho (4-CASI) reported that she was ready to close out the Gem Grant for the Cobblestone Hotel project and presented the final reimbursement document for the Mayor's signature. Councilmember Goode moved to approve authorizing the Mayor to sign the Gem Grant request for reimbursement. Councilmember Lau seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. She mentioned that the project went well except for hitting solid rock, it gained state wide attention and is one of the few grants available to help with public infrastructure. Mrs. Ray detailed several incentive programs available for new or expanding businesses. Most require higher than average wages and establishment of new jobs and some must be approved by the County Commissioners. Mrs. Ray also asked for the City's annual funding of \$3000 for the 4-CASI program. Director Skinner mentioned that it was his understanding that the County agreed last year to pay the full \$6000 contribution to the 4-CASI program moving forward. Mrs. Ray stated she had met with the County and they did not mention it. Councilmember Hart moved to approve the \$3000

CITY COUNCIL MAY 2, 2018 PAGE **2** OF **6**

support for the 4-CASI program based on the near term conversation with the County clarifying if they plan to pay the full contribution to the program or not. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The Mayor and Council thanked Mrs. Ray for her efforts.

Chief Bunderson requested a wage increase for Officer Conley who holds the Detective position for the Department. The Chief detailed the success of the newly created position over the last four years and the spike in the completion results. The Chief commended Officer Conley for being forward thinking, self-motivated, tech savvy and a valuable employee. He explained that the position is a straight 40 hour a week job and because he doesn't work the rotating schedule like the other officers he isn't eligible for regular overtime pay. The Chief expressed his desire to reward Officer Conley for his efforts and increase his wage from a PS5-15 to a PS7-9 which is a 92 cent increase. Councilmember Hart moved to approve the increase in salary as requested, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. Councilmember Goode stated he feels it is a worthwhile investment and the Mayor agreed. A vote on the motion was called. All in favor, motion carried.

The County All Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP) was revisited. Attorney Nelson reported he had reviewed the document and did not find anything requiring the City to expend funds for mitigation items within any certain time frame. Councilmember Hart moved to approve authorizing the Mayor and Council to execute Resolution 2018-1 accepting the Caribou County AHMP. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion and then asked if accepting the Plan obligated the City to have to go out and build new systems just to try and prevent disasters. Attorney Nelson agreed he didn't care for the language in the Plan but didn't feel it obligated the City. Councilmember Hart also mentioned that he felt comfortable because there was no time line. Clerk Vorwaller pointed out the addition she made to the resolution clarifying that the County had provided notice and public hearings for the Plan and not the City. A vote on the motion to approve Resolution 2018-1 was called. All in favor, motion carried.

Director Skinner reported that the City Crew has removed the old playground equipment from the City Park for the new playground project. He mentioned he has been contacted by individuals with interest in buying the old equipment. Councilmember Hart suggested having the parks crew and committee review where the equipment could be reused. Director Skinner stated he has done that already and will be putting the two merry-gorounds at Hooper Park. Councilmember Hart moved to approve Director Skinner to consult with the Parks Committee on what equipment can be utilized and any extra can then be offered up as surplus. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Director Skinner also mentioned bad soil; the native clay was under the top soil which had to be removed and will require additional backfill. A couple storage boxes will be showing up to put tools and supplies in and the security fence will be going up. Mayor Robinson reported the community is excited to the see the project happening.

Clerk Vorwaller mentioned the City's previous pledge of 5,500 as a grant match for the playground project which was pledged as 50% in-kind and 50% cash which would be

CITY COUNCIL MAY 2, 2018 PAGE **3** OF **6**

\$2,750. She explained that the particular grant was not received for the project and asked if the Council still wanted to provide \$2,750 cash as pledged. The Council discussed. Councilmember Hart stated in light of the commitment, even though the grant was not awarded he moved to approve the donation of \$2,750 regardless. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Director Skinner reported on the used steel frame building being torn down at the former Kerr McGee/Tronox site by the Greenfield Trust. The 40 x 122 foot building is available to purchase for \$20,600 if the City is interested. Director Skinner explained that the siding is probably not salvageable and it would end up being just the steel frame. One idea for use of the building would be for the Fire Department to accommodate the 19 foot long trucks currently stored in a 20 foot wide building along with limited training space. The Council discussed at length. Councilman Goode asked about cost compared to purchasing new. Councilmember Hart expressed concerns about retro fitting the frame and also how long it would be stored before funds were available to reconstruct and use it. Councilmember Hart stated the only incentive for the City to take it and have it sitting around would be if they gave it to us. Councilmember Goode agreed. Mayor Robinson suggested then that we need to consider and plan ahead for a new fire department building. Councilmember Hart agreed but also pointed out that no matter how much we need and appreciate the Fire Department it is a volunteer department that gets limited calls a year. The Council agreed to pass on purchasing the steel frame building unless the Greenfield Trust was willing to give it to the City in lieu of the City's cooperation of allowing the test wells on City property.

At the time of citizen input, Austin E. Robinson expressed his agreement with Councilmember Hart regarding the Greenfield Trust building.

Also during citizen input Laretta Davis of 321 Gagon Drive again explained the difficulty with keeping the Gagon Park watered and weed free due to her age and the need for a new hose. She expressed appreciation for the City's help in mowing. The Mayor, Council and Staff revisited the situation at length. The park consists of two lots actually owned by the residents of the Lakeview Subdivision. Taxes are not being assessed on the lots and the water is being provided by the City for free. The Council discussed at length whether the City should try to take ownership of the lots or whether the care of the park should fall on the Subdivision residents. Options considered included a tax deed after three years of assessed taxes not paid or a homeowners association to assess fees to install sprinklers or sell the property. The Mayor suggested the Parks Crew could help run the hoses. Director Skinner mentioned how shorthanded and overloaded the Parks Crew already is. The Council all agreed it is not city property. Councilmember Lau suggested that the Subdivision residents start being charged taxes and water for the lots to push the home owners association to take responsibility. And he suggested the City could draft a letter explaining the situation. Attorney Nelson agreed and stated the City will need to request the County to put the property back on the tax rolls and send out the 100 plus small tax bills along with the City billing for the water and mowing. The Mayor stated that the residents need to be informed that they are the land owners. In the meantime Director Skinner will get Mrs. Davis a new hose.

The on-going improvement projects were reviewed. The trash rake has been running for 10 days and works great and they are working on getting a chain link fence installed around it for safety. The tree trimming has been started and four trees will be coming down in City Park. Director Skinner also mentioned that the yard debris and trees are really piling up on the curb for clean-up week. He also presented a \$1000 estimate for the sewer mainline replacement on 1st West Street servicing the Caribou County Sun. The \$1000 would cover materials with the City Crew doing the work and then the asphalt cost would be additional.

Mayor Robinson reported on attending a resident meeting he was invited to regarding ground water issues in the southeast corner of town. He toured one resident's basement and saw the water flow and solution they had come up with. The residents pointed out historically there has been a lot of water in that area and several homes currently have sump pumps in their basements. The Mayor stated he attended to let the citizens know the City was aware of the issues they were having and he felt it was a positive meeting. Councilmember Hart mentioned that he and Mayor Robinson along with one of the residents also walked and viewed the water flow from Kelly Park and discussed the historic ditch system. Councilmember Hart mentioned the ditch system has not been functioning for over 25 years and he does not feel there is enough information to make any conclusions. Director Skinner mentioned that the Department of Environmental Quality will be sending out a hydrologist to collect and summarize the available data. Councilmember Lau expressed his theory that water that used to flow through the ditch system is now going into the ground and raising the water table. Director Skinner explained the water flowing out of the lower Kelly Park pond is considered a waterway of the United States which requires approval from the Army Corp of Engineers and a permit from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to be able to disturb the soil of the ditches. Councilmember Lau stated if there is a way the City can stop the water from going underground he thinks it should be done. The question was raised as to who owns the water and who initially established the ditches. Councilmember Hart stated and he did not feel it was a good use of funds to reestablish a ditch system when there was no evidence it was related to or would fix the ground water issues. He stated it is a complex issue and he questions whether it is the City's responsibility. The Mayor asked for Attorney Nelson's advice who explained the City is not responsible for ground water or for the water that leaves Kelly Park after utilizing the City's water right.

The South 1st East utility replacement project bids were reviewed. Two bids were received both considerably higher than the projects estimated cost. The Mayor, Council and Staff reviewed and discussed the details of the bids. Director Skinner offered alternate options for the project that could be rebid in an effort to bring the project within the budgeted amount. Councilmember Goode supported rebidding the project with alternate options. Councilmember Lau moved to approve to reject the two bids received and rebid the project with two additional options as presented by Director Skinner. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Director Skinner presented a proposal from an interested party to lease an Industrial Park lot to place a sawmill business. He mentioned three phase power will be needed and eventually water and sewer connections. The basic plan explains that the developer owns the sawmill, has a log source and will be family operated providing custom cut lumber to local contractors and builders. The Council discussed permitting requirements and dust and noise control due to the close proximity to a residential area. Councilmember Lau expressed his support for the proposal. The Council agreed that Director Skinner should provide an example of the lease requirements and work with the developer. The Council discussed the property tax benefits of the proposed sawmill. Councilmember Lau explained the first \$100,000 of personal property is not taxable. Director Skinner mentioned there was also another possible lessee interested in a 6 acre lot at the Industrial Park. He explained he was contacted by a realtor but had no further information.

Director Skinner explained how the County Workers provide invaluable assistance to the City for the annual chip-n- sealing along with use of the County's equipment at no charge. The County Workers have asked the City to go back to the previous pay system where the City pays them each directly and not per the new agreement through the County payroll. The Council and Staff discussed and agreed they could be considered independent contractors and required to sign a release of liability document. Councilmember Goode moved to approve to modify the agreement with the County and consider their employees as independent contractors, seconded by Councilmember Lau. All in favor, motion carried.

Clerk Vorwaller presented the Dex Yellow Pages advertising for review. She explained the Electric Department listing costs the City \$490 a year. Councilmember Lau moved to cancel the Yellow Page listing, seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried.

Clerk Vorwaller briefly reviewed budget items including an estimate of the new construction effect on the property tax revenue and levy, the liability insurance increase and the workman's compensation insurance claims.

The Council and staff discussed the need for seasonal employees and the lack of applications submitted. The Council authorized Director Skinner to hire a temporary employee to help in the Street Department.

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

Ion Goode Absent: none

Scott Gambles

Motion Carried.

CITY COUNCIL MAY 2, 2018 PAGE **6** OF **6**

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

Councilmember Lau, seconded by Councilmember Goode moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 16^{TH} DAY OF MAY, 2018.

	Austin W. Robinson, Mayor
ATTEST:	
Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk	