

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD JUNE 2ND, 2021.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00PM BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, MITCH HART.

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

EXCUSED: Alan Skinner, Engineer

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Steele Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk
 Brock & Paige Byram Gregg Haney, Attorney
 Shane Talbot
 Justin Hansen Chief Scott Shaw II

The invocation was given by Justin Hansen, Councilmember Lau then led everyone in the 'Pledge of Allegiance'.

Council President Hart, via conference call, opened the meeting in the Mayor's absence who would be joining the meeting later due to another commitment. Everyone else was in attendance except Engineer Skinner who was undergoing a medical procedure and Council President Hart expressed that his thoughts and prayers were with him.

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Goode stated he had reviewed and didn't note any changes needed. He then moved to approve the minutes of May 19th, 2021 as presented and dispense with the reading. Councilmember Lau seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable and payroll were reviewed. Councilmember Gambles moved to accept the accounts payable dated May 18th through May 31st, 2021 and the payroll for the month of May, 2021. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL REGISTERS FOR DETAIL)

Shane Talbot, Vice President of Operations for John Adams Ford met with the City Council to seek approval to move the annual 4th of July fireworks to the Alexander Reservoir from Kelly Park. He mentioned they plan to sponsor a larger show; twice as much as last year. Mr. Talbot stated he had support from the Mayor, Chief of Police and the Rotary Club. The City Council all agreed it was not up to the City to give permission and it would not be on City property. They recommended Mr. Talbot make sure they have talked to the Rotary Club and the County. Mr. Talbot explained the Rotary Club had asked him to run it by the City. The Council and Mr. Talbot discussed the details. Mr. Talbot believes the Rotary Club plans to move the concert to the City Park. Attorney Haney reported Engineer Skinner was not under the same understanding and he suggested hearing from the Rotary Club. The Council reiterated it was not the City's place to approve or deny and Mr. Talbot needed to

make sure he had approval from the Rotary Club. The Council thanked Mr. Talbot for coming and John Adams for expanding the fireworks and supporting the community.

The Council asked for an update on the lease review and maintenance issues of the Ender's Building. Attorney Haney explained Engineer Skinner's difficulty in getting a meeting set up with the lessee, Mariah Lancaster and he did not have a report on the maintenance issues. The Council suggested setting a deadline for the meeting and stressed it needed to be held as soon as possible.

Regarding ongoing projects Attorney Haney reported Engineer Skinner said everything was moving forward and should be good to keep going for the next four weeks. Councilmember Lau asked about the project on South 2nd East Street which now includes a sewer service replacement but is mostly a water project. Attorney Haney had no additional information.

The Council discussed and agreed to schedule a budget work meeting for Thursday, June 10th to be held from 4pm to 6pm. Council President Hart asked everyone to email him the items they want to review in order to establish an agenda for the meeting.

The Council reviewed correspondence from the Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP) regarding the City building valuations. ICRMP is suggesting increasing the values by 25% which will not affect City premiums until 2023. Councilmember Lau moved to approve adjusting the building values as it relates to our liability insurance in line with ICRMP's recommendation, seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried.

The FY2022 budget information was briefly reviewed. The Council considered the necessary rate increases for Water, Power and Sewer Funds. Councilmember Goode suggested due to increased costs overall that at least 3% was needed. Councilmember Lau reminded everyone of the clear message received from the citizens who don't want to be surprised with a large increase and would rather receive smaller increases annually. Councilmember Goode asked Director Hansen if the cost of chlorine had gone up significantly. Director Hansen noted the price had went up but the bigger issue is availability. He noted Kelly Hill, Director of Public Works, did a good job of having supply on hand for the City's needs. The Council discussed and agreed they hate to increase rates but it is needed.

There was no citizen input at the designated time.

Director of City Services, Justin Hansen reviewed the budget requests for his departments. He thanked the Mayor and City Council for support and guidance; he and his crew appreciate it. Director Hansen mentioned the difficulty in finding summer employees. He noted there were not as many applications received as he had hoped and feels the reason are several other seasonal jobs offering higher wages. He suggested a need to increase pay for summer help to get more interest and bump up the pay for return workers. He noted he is short a couple but feels what he has is a good crew so far. The Parks Department capital

purchase requests include fixing the Hooper Spring parking lot and new playground equipment at Kelly Park along with removing the grass and sand under the equipment and replacing with wood chips like at City Park. He shared he was surprised at the cost of playground equipment. The Council discussed the Hooper Springs parking lot and the speed bump which they suggested needed to be painted. Councilmember Lau suggested seeing if there were funds this year to fix the parking lot and also suggested trying to keep and refurbish some of the old play equipment at Kelly Park and just add something new if possible.

The Streets Department budget items included the need to replace several valley gutters, street marking and new points of interest signage. Director Hansen shared his desire to update the signage in town making it all consistent and consolidated which he feels would be more appealing and really add to the look of town. Councilmember Lau noted Idaho Falls is currently updating their signs over a four-year project. He suggested working with the Greater Soda Springs Community Development Committee and the Carriboo Development Foundation who have worked on sign projects in the past. Director Hansen also requested some new winter snow maintenance equipment to increase efficiency and alleviate the biggest complaints. The snow removal processes were reviewed and the Council supported the requested snow pushers for the loader, and one for the skid-steer along with a snowblower attachment for the skid-steer. All agreed it is money well spent and great suggestions.

Director Hansen noted there were not a lot of cost changes in the Power Fund and annual maintenance is generally under budget including the Rocky Mountain Power service contract. He stressed his desire to move forward with the transmission line replacement that has been budgeted for the past several years. It is his understanding that four poles need to be replaced and he would like to be proactive with the upgrade before it fails and causes an emergency. He has been in contact with the Rocky Mt. Power estimator and will report back. He pointed out the #4 Hydro Plant is still out of operation and would also like to move forward with replacing the original circuit breaker that was installed in 1964. The #4 building is in good shape, brand new turbine and trash rake; a lot has been invested and we need to get it running. Engineer Skinner had someone look at it but as far as he knows we haven't heard back. The Council all agreed they wanted to push to get the transmission line and the hydro plant repairs done as soon as possible. The Council thanked Director Hansen.

Police Chief Shaw thanked the Council for their time and efforts. The Chief reported his department is finally fully staffed and all their training is completed. He mentioned it has been a monster of a year and shared some recent investigations and arrests that have kept them very busy. He commended his officers on doing a really good job. Chief Shaw reviewed his budget requests for the upcoming year. His biggest need is to replace the remaining four vehicles and get them on the lease program. He mentioned his current budget may be able to cover the cost to get two more of the vehicles replaced this year and noted it would be good to lock in the cost now before prices go up. There are seven total in the fleet and the condition of the remaining cars were reviewed. The Chief discussed canceling their Idaho Public Safety Information System (ILETS) connection which allows

the Officers, from their car, to run registrations, driver's license, warrant and stolen vehicle checks but this is already being double checked through dispatch. Attorney Haney asked if the Sheriff is aware of more demand on dispatch. The Chief explained they are already using dispatch and it won't change how things are currently. Other budget items include wage increases for the three new officers who will all come off probation. The Chief mentioned one of their older vehicles was passed down to upgrade the animal control vehicle.

Mayor Robinson joined the meeting.

The Chief and Director Hansen also requested approval to purchase a seized vehicle from the Prosecuting Attorney who handles the asset forfeiture fund. The vehicle is a 2013 Ford two-wheel drive truck with a value of \$10,000 to \$12,000. Director Hansen explained it will be used for Parks and Recreation and there is money in the budget for a park's vehicle. Councilmember Goode moved to approve the expenditure to purchase the truck from the Prosecuting Attorney for the parks, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. All in favor, motion carried.

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:

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| 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 Goode then moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm, seconded by Councilmember Lau. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 23RD DAY OF JUNE, 2021.

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk