

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD JUNE 5TH, 2019.

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:

Mark Steele	Alan Skinner, Director
Dale & Sue Mason	Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk
Bill Horsley	Gregg Haney, Attorney
Myrna McCullough	
Austin & Jackie Robinson	Chief Scott Shaw II
Craig Shuler	CeJay Golightly
Selena Foley	Justin Hansen
Preston Rutter	Kelly Hill
Natalie Petersen	Celeste Billman
Cindy Erickson	Chief Dan Squires
Dan Lau	

The invocation was given by Dan Lau, 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 no changes he then moved to dispense with the reading and approve the May 15th, 2019 minutes in their current draft form. Councilmember Lau seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable and payroll were reviewed. Councilmember Hart moved to approve the accounts payable for May 14th through May 31st, 2019 and the payroll for the month of May, 2019. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Councilmember Hart questioned the high amount of overtime hours and when the two new police officers would be on duty. The Mayor stated he thought it would be soon.

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL REGISTERS FOR DETAIL)

Myrna McCullough, representing the Ender's Building Community Committee, presented the Committee's recommendations. She referred to the committee as a think tank which included herself and; former Mayor, Kirk Hansen, Linda Anderson, Bill Horsley, Dan Lau and Preston Phelps. She also received input from; Randy Budge, Craig Call, Bill Corbett, Al Kackley and Dan Moldenhaur. The Committee's recommendation is that the City does not sell the Ender's Building. They recommended advertising the restaurant for lease by a

competent chef, close off access to the hotel and museum; use the first apartment as the restroom for the restaurant. Mrs. McCullough detailed many of the ideas that were considered including the installation of an elevator which they felt was too costly and they also feel the maintenance, cleaning and employment to run the hotel is not feasible at this time. The Committee recommended that all the historic items in the hotel and museum be cataloged and suggested selling the items in the gift shop to help cover current costs. The gift shop could then be leased out to also help cover costs. Mrs. McCullough expressed the Committee's opinion that the Geysers is the hub of the town and the Enders Building is right there where a lot is going on. She expressed support for having the tour buses stop and suggested reaching out to the tour bus companies making them aware of what we have to see and do. They feel the Enders Building was a gift of a lifetime and don't want to see the City let it go. Councilmember Hart pointed out it is costing the City \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year to maintain the building right now. Mayor Robinson expressed his support for the Committee's recommendation. Mr. Bill Horsley added his opinion that the museum is really special and the items need to be kept and not sold with the building. The Mayor and Council thanked Mrs. McCullough for her efforts and presentation.

Katy Bergholm, reported on the progress of the Comp Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC). She again explained that the group was formed to help create short, midterm and long range goals with actions items to be included in the proposed new comprehensive plan. She mentioned there are several wonderful groups all working in separate directions and they hope a clear vision in the comp plan can help bring everyone together. Their goal is to provide recommendations by the end of September based on community input received through exercises like the recent community meeting held with the help of the Smart Growth group. Next they plan to do interviews with local groups and clubs and send out a survey around the 4th of July. They will also be in the park on the 4th doing the surveys. Mrs. Bergholm requested a City sponsored incentive to help increase the percentage of surveys submitted. The CPAC suggested a \$15 power credit for City residents that complete the survey. The incentive options and number of utility customers were discussed. Councilmember Hart suggested a drawing for gift cards instead in order to control the overall cost to the City. Councilmember Lau moved to approve a maximum budget of \$2500 to be used as a survey incentive, seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried.

During the designated time for citizen input Mr. Dale Mason, County Resident and owner of the former Budweiser distributor business located in the City Industrial Park, expressed his concern about the City considering auctioning off the Industrial Park property. He mentioned that they are not a big company and fear they could lose the land underneath their building and a new land owner could increase the rent to where they won't be able to stay in business. Mr. Mason clarified that he is opposed to the idea of the City auctioning off the Industrial Park property and he thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to voice his concern.

Also during citizen input, Mr. Craig Shuler of 255 West 4th South and Vice President of the Caribou Historical Society expressed his support for the Enders Committee's

recommendations and also commented that he is saddened about the change in the Hooper Spring water which he feels has lost its strong mineral effervescent properties due to the City's lack of attention. He stated, the Hooper Spring along with the Enders Building is an icon and the identity of the City. He feels the City should never sell the Enders.

The City Department Supervisors reported to the Mayor and Council and discussed upcoming budget items. Director Skinner reviewed the Park's Department items which included the need to budget for a new commercial mower and replace the older trucks with newer 4 wheel drives that can pull trailers. The need to increase summer help wages was suggested because of the difficulty in getting enough seasonal workers.

The Recreation Director, Celeste Billman mentioned that she would really like to get a digital information sign for in front of City Hall that is used for recreation and lots of community announcements. She explained the cost was higher than expected and she is still researching options. She also requested to replace the recreation truck at least by 2021 because it has maintenance issues and is 15 years old. She commended the City Crew for the work on the ball diamond at Kelly Park and their help with getting sand in the volleyball pits. The Mayor and Council commended Mrs. Billman for doing a great job and being well organized.

Cindy Erickson, Head Librarian, reported that summer reading was underway and they had broken two attendance records. She thanked Bayer/Monsanto for sponsoring summer reading and also mentioned they were just awarded another \$10,000 grant to upgrade the computers. The Idaho Community Foundation (ICF) held a workshop at the Library and donated \$100. The ICF was very impressed with the new playground. She mentioned the new stone sign will be ready to be installed soon with the help from the city crew and the Library currently has \$10,000 in the budget to continue to work on some of the outer building improvements. The Mayor expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the Library staff and all the programs offered to the community.

Public Works Supervisor, Justin Hansen, on behalf of himself and his crew thanked the Mayor and Council for their support and commitment to giving them the tools they need to provide the services wanted by the taxpayers. He hopes they are representing the City well and they strive to become more efficient. He reviewed several items requested in the upcoming budgets. A cover for the street cinders and salt would cut back on equipment maintenance and help them provide faster road maintenance in the winter. He explained he is looking into smaller cinders and adding more salt for a possibly better road treatment. He also suggested the benefits of using the metal frame donated to the City to construct an equipment storage building. He has discussed with Director Skinner and agrees the power transmission line upgrade south of town is needed. He explained he is going to try a new kind of chip the County has been using for chip and seal. They are a slag chip from Nucor and a lot of counties are using them. They are half the price and more porous to stick to the oil better. Councilmember Gambles commended Mr. Hansen and his department for doing a good job and stated he was glad he was here.

Kelly Hill, Water/Wastewater Department Supervisor stated he felt there have been some important upgrades and improvements made in all areas over the last couple of years. He stressed the importance of doing a City wide pressure reducing valve (PRV) study in order to improve and install new valves in the proper locations. The current budget includes funds to do the engineering study and start the improvements. He recommended purchasing spare parts for the lift stations along with building the needed wall to protect Lift Station #2. He asked that the current funds budgeted for a traveling crane at the WWTP be utilized to have the crane engineered and installed. He also mentioned the need to purchase spare mixers, chain and sprockets. The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Hill for the good job he is doing and the confidence he provides.

Fire Chief Dan Squires reviewed the Fire Department's needs. By December of 2021 they will have to replace 25 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) bottles per the 15 year life requirement of the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA). He doesn't agree with the requirement and feels the life of the SCBA's is much longer but has no choice but to comply with the NFPA guideline. Chief Squires stated he feels he has some of the best guys and best equipment and what they're lacking is a better building. He suggested they really needed the building improved and remodeled. He has considered a lot of options but feels their current location is the best place for the Fire Department and he would like to see an addition and remodel of the building they are in. He noted that the new training has been working well and no increase to the budget is needed for the annual trainings. Councilmember Hart commended the Chief and noted how fortunate the City was to have a fully staffed Department of good volunteers.

Chief of Police, Scott Shaw II thanked the Mayor and Council for taking the time to consider the Departments needs. He pointed out the most important budget request he has is to increase wages in order to compete with the County. The supply and demand for trained officers is making it very hard to find new officers. He reported his two new hires would not be able to cover a shift alone until the end of August and January. The Chief explained that their bullet proof vests only have a 5 year guarantee and will need to be replaced. They have applied for a grant that will cover about half of the cost. He suggested continuing the replacement of one vehicle annually and noted the program started by the previous chief has worked well by saving almost \$10,000 a vehicle by getting the 2 year old units that are already equipped. He mentioned the need for a \$6500 repair to one of the current vehicles that he will have done if enough in the current budget. The Mayor commended the Department on the recent bank robbery investigation. Officer Golightly stated it really helped to have the support of the community.

Selena Foley of 311 South 3rd East expressed concerns about the daycare center next door to her that was approved last year and she was opposed to. She has resigned herself that the daycare will be there but they need to be made to be in compliance by the State and the City Council. She detailed her concerns which included; junk cars, trash, weeds, a leaning garage, broken window and use of the property after hours that is only supposed to be used as a daycare from 8am to 8pm as approved. She also noted a concern about the fire hazard of an uncultivated field directly behind her property. She asked the City, in the

future, to give more thought to the process and instructions to applicants when these types of applications are considered and approved. She also suggested the Police Department, when driving around, make a list of all the regulations being broken around town and post a notice of violations in the paper in order to address the problems. Mrs. Foley asked what the city plans to do. Attorney Haney addressed Mrs. Foley's comment regarding the use of the property after hours and explained that the property is still a residential property and can be used as such in conjunction with the conditional use as a daycare center. Councilmember Hart mentioned it was the City's practice to send out letter notices of violations and the City will do what it can within its jurisdiction.

Craig Shuler, representing the Caribou Historical Society presented the groups idea to promote the community's history and help celebrate the Caribou County Centennial. The group is requesting local businesses to sponsor a window display depicting historical pictures of the community. They would also like to place a brochure dispenser at the Geyser to promote a walking and driving tour. The Historical Society also hopes the program will be used by the schools to build a sense of heritage with the students. The window displays would be 3' x 4 ½' and cost from \$160 to \$192. The Council discussed. Councilmember Lau suggested a larger display on City Hall that would fill up the three middle panes of the front windows. Councilmember Goode moved to approve the request to place the posts and brochure dispenser at the Geyser Park along with the larger window display for City Hall as suggested. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The Mayor and Council viewed a video of the Formation Spring well and installation. The well is drilled and the casing is in. The well is 18 inches and sealed to 103 feet. The Director reported so far the water volume looks good and is scheduled for a pump test this week. The well house will be set on June 18th and then Vaughn Smith Construction will start running the transmission piping. He requested approval to pay for the following materials for the project; manhole, ring and covers-\$1975 & \$1040, \$23,838 for piping inside the well house, and the flow meter for \$9,000 that is approved by Water Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality and includes a battery back-up with a 10 year life, and the final item is the \$7500 estimate from WM Services Crane to set the well house. The Director stated the remaining items to finish the project include the electrical and the stairs. He expects the current year's expenses for the project to be under the \$700,000 budget. Councilmember Hart moved to approve the expenditures to Old Castle, Ferguson, Rocky Mountain Valves and WM Services as requested by Director Skinner. Councilmember Lau seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The ongoing projects were reviewed. Director Skinner mentioned he is working on bids for the recreation fencing and noted the Kelly Park diamond repairs were done in house and will not need to be budgeted next year. They are working on the list of streets for chip and seal and the Child Pedestrian Safety Grant has been advertised for bids with the bid opening on June 25th. The materials have been ordered for the 1st West Street sewer project and he is trying to find a contractor to do the Hooper Spring roof replacement.

Clerk Vorwaller mentioned she had not heard from any groups interested in running the 4th of July Carnival and the inflatables may need to be canceled. She will continue to put the word out about the fundraising opportunity and the Mayor and Council will also. A decision will have to be made at the next meeting.

Director Skinner informed the Council that a City wide water outage would be necessary for some system maintenance and is scheduled to be done June 12th from 6am to 10am. They will make it as short as possible and have resolved the concerns expressed by one business owner. The outage will not affect Finlayson Subdivision, Rose Avenue or Mountain View Avenue.

A Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) meeting will be held June 12th at 9:30 am at the Main Street Diner. The Director invited anyone who was available to attend the informational meeting.

Councilmember Hart nominated and moved to approve Mayor Robinson as the voting delegate for the upcoming Association of Idaho Cities Conference, seconded by Councilmember Lau. All in favor, motion carried. Councilmember Lau then nominated and moved to approve Councilmember Hart as the alternate, seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried.

Director Skinner reviewed several items he feels are priorities to be included in the upcoming budget and started with the current year's budget if possible. He detailed the power pole testing and schedule to repair and replace poles. He also suggested moving forward with the transmission line replacement in conjunction with the pole maintenance.

He showed pictures and reviewed the engineer's cost estimate to replace the Lover's Delight Bridge. The bridge is currently in serious condition and requiring the home owner to take an alternate route to their home. The Director recommends starting as soon as possible to rebuild the bridge as engineered; extending the two culverts, building an interlocking brick wall on the park side and create a sloped earth support on the other side. The estimated cost is \$150,000 with a \$30,000 contingency. There are water, sewer and gas lines that run across the bridge. The Council agreed they would like to try and get it done as soon as possible. The Clerk and Director will review the budget and come up with a funding plan.

The Director presented some cost estimates for use of the donated steel frame. The Fire Station 40' x 50' addition proposal is \$170,000 to \$220,000. To use the remaining frame which would be a 40' x 70' building for equipment storage would cost \$200,000 to \$260,000. He mentioned having the frame is a savings of \$80,000 to \$100,000. The estimates include all the materials, siding and insulation but not utilities. Councilmember Lau suggested combining the Fire Department and Public Works into one building erected at the City yard.

The Clerk reviewed the proposed budget for FY2020. Airport improvements were

discussed and upcoming grants, which matching City funds should be budgeted when the grants are available. The Formation Well project cost, interfund loans and payment schedule was reviewed. The Mayor and Council agreed they were not going to include a pay increase for themselves this year. The Director mentioned he would like to carry forward un-used utility project funds in order to be able to do a larger project in an upcoming year. The Clerk will make adjustments to the proposed budget based on the discussions held for further review at the next meeting.

Councilmember Goode moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm, seconded by Councilmember Lau. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 17TH DAY OF JUNE, 2019.

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk