
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 SCOTT K. GAMBLES

EXCUSED: ROBERT M. LAU

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Steele Alan Skinner, Director Paul Gritton Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk Robert & Karen Johnson Clyde Nelson, Attorney via telephone Allen Johnson Scott Shaw II

The invocation was given by Paul Gritton, Mayor Robinson then led everyone in the ‘Pledge of Allegiance’.

The Mayor noted that Councilmember Lau was absent and excused.

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Goode stated he had reviewed the minutes and moved to accept as presented and dispense with the reading of the July 5th, 2018 minutes. Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The pre-paid accounts payable for July, 2018 were reviewed. Councilmember Hart moved to approve the accounts payable for July 1st through July 16th, 2018, seconded by Councilmember Gamble. All in favor, motion carried

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER FOR DETAIL)

The City expressed sincere thanks and recognized Mr. Robert Johnson as a Soda Springs Super Hero for his many years of volunteering to do maintenance to the City’s treasured merry-go-rounds at City Park. He regularly replaced boards and repainted the merry-go-rounds and recently helped relocate them to Hooper Park so they can continue to be enjoyed by generations to come. The Mayor stated it is members of our community like Mr. Johnson that make Soda Springs a special place to live.

Paul Gritton, representing the Caribou County Search & Rescue gave a brief update on the upcoming salmon feed event and invited all to attend. He mentioned the Shooting Club will be helping and the event will be scaled down a little as far as activities going on. There will not be a band or dance but Air Methods will be landing in the park, the VFW will hold a flag ceremony at 11:00am and the dinner will be from noon to 6:00pm. Director Skinner
mentioned that he has spoken with Air Methods and okayed the life flight helicopter landing in the park and also explained that the crane to display the flag needs to be located on the North baseball diamond to avoid damage to the sprinkler heads. Mr. Gritton reported they had raised $1500 in donations and thanked the City for the largest single cash donation and also thanked Patterson Quik Stop for their large support of the event. There will be raffle prizes with tickets selling at the door and they hope for 700 people. The Mayor and Council expressed support for the good community event and thanked all involved for their efforts.

The Mayor asked the Council if anyone had attended the Renaissance Faire and Director Skinner reported it seemed to be fairly well attended and the organizers had thanked the City reporting the event went well and they hoped to be back again next year.

It was mentioned that the City Crews will be busy next week with the Monsanto picnic, the Envirothon, and then the Salmon Feed.

Director Skinner presented an estimate for sod to finish-up the landscaping around the new playground. Councilmember Hart moved to approve proceeding with purchasing the sod for approximately $2,520 plus or minus $200 with the Parks Crew installing. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The South 1st East project was reviewed. The notice to proceed has been issued to the contractor, the preconstruction meeting was held and most of the materials have been approved. The contractor is working on the storm water prevention plan and full crews will be here by July 30th. The full project is scheduled to take 90 days and the goal is to complete the 4th South intersection work before school starts. Director Skinner mentioned that when the spring on 4th South dried up and the shooting range water receded, the flow at the wastewater treatment plant also decreased confirming the increase was due to ground water infiltration.

There was no citizen input at the designated time.

The ongoing projects were discussed. Three estimates for steel fabrication for the Hooper Spring cover were considered. The low estimate was $24,500 and it was suggested that the Director double check with the local vendor to see if they can be more competitive. Director Skinner explained the cost is under the required amount and does not require formal bids and he expressed his desire to get the project moving forward. Councilmember Goode moved to approve authorizing the City Director to expend up to $24,500 for the fabrication of the Hooper Spring cover subject to a review of the local contractors bid. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The bids submitted for the lift station project were reviewed in detail. Ambient H20 was the low bid at $65,978 for an above ground system. Director Skinner mentioned there would still be some below ground piping. Councilmember Goode supported the Sensaphone notification system for the additional cost of $1,743 which may be a low cost
risk management tool. Councilmember Goode moved to approve accepting the Ambiente H20 bid for the above ground lift station system in the amount of $65,978 plus the $1,743 for the Sensaphone notification system subject to the Director's discretion of the applicability for risk management purposes. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Director Skinner reported that the County is scheduled to help with chip-n-seal for three Fridays in a row starting July 27th. The County's distributer truck will be used cutting the City's cost by about $4,000.

A quick update on grants was given by the Clerk spelling out the proposed schedule for applying for the BUILD planning and construction grant. She also mentioned the possibility that the Child Pedestrian Safety Grant funds would be available again. A steps process for pursuing and applying for grants is being drafted.

Councilmember Goode reviewed with the Mayor and Council a proposal being considered by the Planning and Zoning Commission (P & Z) to amend the City's sign code. The issue was raised by a business that wanted to advertise on an adjoining lot owned by them but the code only allows a sign to be placed on the same premises as the business it is advertising. The City of Preston code for signs was reviewed and is being used as a guide to draft the amendment to the City's code. Councilmember Goode stated the Commission would like to know if the Mayor and Council support the proposal before they expend further time refining the amendment and scheduling public hearings. An email submitted to Director Skinner from Councilmember Lau in his absence was reviewed. Councilmember Lau suggested the P & Z focus on the completion of the Comprehensive Plan update instead of a sign code amendment. The Council discussed at length. The Council agreed the main focus should be on finishing the Comprehensive Plan update but Councilmember Hart suggested also wanting to address the sign issue so it doesn't become a pressing issue in the future. Councilmember Hart also suggested being cautious with the sign amendment to not invite unintended consequences. The Mayor and Council supported moving forward with the sign amendment but the main focus of the P & Z should be on the Comprehensive Plan.

The proposed 2019 fiscal year budget was briefly reviewed. The Clerk reported the previous health insurance option presented by the City's agent was not going to work out due to what they considered a high risk group. Other options being pursued include Blue Cross and Aetna. The Clerk suggested increasing the estimated premiums in the proposed budget by 20%. She also pointed out the changes in grant funding and the addition of $50,000 for the 1st East Street bridge/culvert repair requested by Director Skinner. The Mayor, Council and Staff discussed at length options for repairing the bridge. To replace the culvert and rebuild the retaining wall in order to preserve the Lovers Delight Park could be a $250,000 project. Concerns over the utilities that go across the culvert were discussed and the fact that the bridge and utilities serve only one home. Director Skinner stated they plan to view the actual damage as soon as the water flow gets to the lowest point. Councilmember Hart suggested investigating the abandonment of the bridge and the
cost to relocate the utilities and provide access to the house another way. Other neighbors' concerns about the water erosion will also be investigated.

The Mayor and Council further reviewed Councilmember Lau’s comments submitted in the email. The Council agreed that the type of studies for power, police, fire, parks and recreation that Councilmember Lau suggested are not appropriately part of the Comprehensive Plan update process. The Council discussed at length what type of studies or improvements were needed to the power system. Director Skinner suggested funds would be better spent on smaller inspections like having the sub-station switches evaluated and getting recommendations on improvements and updated technology. Councilmember Goode expressed support for spending $5,000 to $10,000 to identify risks in the system and the Director suggested Wasatch Electric may provide an audit of the sub-station improvements needed as part of their current maintenance contract. Councilmember Hart and Director Skinner agreed there is $10,000 to $15,000 already in the budget to cover a power review.

Councilmember Hart briefly commented on his review of the Cascade Policing Cost Analysis previously shared with the Mayor and Council. In his opinion the analysis showed that Cascade’s cost per unit basis to provide law enforcement was considerably higher than the average cost per unit basis and the City’s costs fall within the average. He also expressed his strong concern about the level of service the City would receive if contracted for police and or fire protection. He mentioned that the City may be able to save a little but once the department’s assets were liquidated there would be no way the City could ever afford to start up the departments again. Councilmember Goode expressed his total agreement with Councilmember Hart’s assessment. Items included in the proposed budget were reviewed. Councilmember Hart stressed the need to hold the cost of living employee wage allowance (COLA) at the 3% to help attract and retain valuable employees. Councilmember Goode did not argue about the COLA and he and Councilmember Gambles agreed with Councilmember Hart. Mayor Robinson expressed concern about increasing the utility rates because it is a financial struggle for the citizens and he suggested taking a break on the rate increases. Councilmember Hart agreed there is a group of citizens that it hurts but offered a historical review explaining if we take a break then it catches up to us and we end up having to do a larger increase. He supports keeping the annual increases modest while continuing to try and ramp up utility replacements. The Mayor also suggested due to the increasing and high cost of materials that the City consider smaller projects for the next couple years until costs stabilize. Councilmember Goode expressed his opinion that in order for the City to manage the risk of the major aging infrastructure we need to keep chipping away with the $500,000 project each year and he is not comfortable postponing the improvements and the option of borrowing large amounts for upgrades is not feasible. Councilmember Hart pointed out that the City’s rates are very economical compared to other areas.

Councilmember Goode moved to approve, based on the uncertainty of the cost, an additional 15% increase for health insurance and adopt the tentative budget as presented. Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The budget
hearing was scheduled for August 15th, 2018.

Councilmember Goode, seconded by Councilmember Hart moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 1ST DAY OF AUGUST, 2018.

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Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk