

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD AUGUST 7TH, 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
Sam Winward Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk
Chris Thomas Gregg Haney, Attorney
Austin & Jackie Robinson
CeJay Golightly Chief Scott Shaw II
Marjean Duren Rodger Sorensen via telephone
Heidi Thompson

The invocation was given by Sam Winward, Mayor Robinson then led everyone in the 'Pledge of Allegiance'.

Mayor Robinson welcomed the Greater Soda Springs Community Development Committee members that were in attendance to renew their terms on the Committee and thanked them for their willingness to serve. He then administered the oath of office to Heidi Thompson, Marjean Duren and Rodger Sorensen who was in attendance via telephone.

The Mayor introduced Drew Erickson and thanked him for being interested in serving on the Planning & Zoning Committee. He then administered the oath of office to Mr. Erickson who will serve a six year term.

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review along with the accounts payable and payroll. Councilmember Goode stated he noted no changes needed to the minutes and moved to dispense with the reading and approve the July 17th, 2019 minutes as currently drafted along with the accounts payable for July 16th through July 31st and the payroll for the month of July 2019. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

(SEE ATTACHED PAYROLL & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS FOR DETAIL)

A brief report on the Formation Well drilling progress was given. The 4th well is showing possibly 400 gallons a minute at 85 feet and another 150 gallons at 110 feet but it seemed to affect and match up with well #3 between 85 - 110 feet. They will continue through the bedrock to 150 feet and then will pump test and if an appropriate amount cannot be attained the City will have to start to consider other options.

The ongoing infrastructure projects were reviewed. The first Friday of chip-n-seal was

completed but the County is not available the next Friday so the schedule will be pushed back a week and continue on August 16th & 23rd. Director Skinner reported the new black chips look good but are going to cause some issues with locating manholes with the metal detector due to the iron in the chips. The City will need to be careful to map and get some permanent records for locations of the manholes and valves. The sidewalk project will start Friday and the final prints for the Lovers Delight bridge project have been given out to three bidders. The bridge has been closed to traffic and hopefully we can get a contractor on it in the next two weeks. It was discussed and clarified that no permitting is necessary. The Mayor asked if we were still on track to start the new road construction behind Point S Tire. The Director stated yes they will start taking the back stop out in between other projects.

The Clerk presented information about the State of Idaho 457b Plan that is available to City and County employees. Councilmember Goode reported he had reviewed the benefits of the plan and the differences from a 401k and felt it would be a good additional retirement investment option for employees. Councilmember Goode moved to approve the adoption of Resolution 2019-2 offering the State 457b Plan to the City employees. Councilmember Lau seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

(See attached copy of Resolution 2019-2 - original on file.)

Sam Winward the City's insurance agent reviewed with the Mayor and Council the upcoming policy renewals. He reported slight cost increases to the group life insurance and the dental insurance and an approximate 8% increase to the Blue Cross Health Insurance. He explained he did look into other policies and carriers but nothing else was available that was even close to better. He recommended staying with the current plans. Councilmember Lau moved to approve accepting the insurance renewals, seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried.

The Council discussed the request received to hold the 30th Annual Caribou Mud/Sand Races at Kelly Park on August 17th, 2019. Councilmember Hart moved to approve the authorizing the mud/sand races at Kelly Park contingent on receiving the required liability insurance and the review and approval by the City Attorney of the participant waivers. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Chris Thomas representing the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) gave a preliminary report on the community survey that was held. 367 responses were received after keeping the submittal period open an additional week. The raw data was briefly reviewed and she pointed out that the results will not be complete until the analysis is done by the Smart Growth group. She requested an extension from the City to make their recommendations on the Comp Plan and pointed out a positive note coming out of the survey is that the majority of those that completed the survey are willing to pay more fees and taxes for improvements. The Council discussed and requested the CPAC make a goal to report back by the first of November.

Chief Scott Shaw II thanked the Mayor and Council for their time. He reported one of his

new officers had resigned as of July 30th and he would like to proceed with replacing him as soon as possible. He also requested approval to purchase new bullet proof vests for his officers and make a major vehicle repair out of the current budget. He explained that he had reviewed his current budget and the funds are available for these items that were budgeted for in the upcoming fiscal year. This would allow the Council to decrease the proposed 2020 fiscal year budget. The Mayor supported the requests and Chief Shaw explained the vests are only guaranteed for 5 years and require replacement and they may get a grant to reimburse the cost. The vests will cost \$7,700 and the transmission and transfer case replacement is estimated to be \$6,500. The Council asked about the vehicle which has about 80,000 miles on it but has a two year old engine that was replaced under factory warranty. The Chief mentioned the State of Idaho recommends trading out vehicles with 85,000 miles but the City usually runs them longer. He noted his goal is to replace one vehicle a year. Councilmember Goode moved to approve the purchase of the new police vests and the vehicle repair cost out of the 2019 Police Department budget along with proceeding to search for a replacement officer. Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

A brief discussion on the proposed budget for the 2020 fiscal year was held. The budget hearing is August 21st. Councilmember Hart clarified that an increase in the City's total property value could decrease the levy rate even though the City budgets for the full 3% property tax increase that is allowed. The Council discussed decreasing the Police Departments (PD) proposed budget as mentioned. Councilmember Lau suggested leaving those funds in the budget to use toward implementing the recommendations for the Comprehensive Plan. The funds would need to be shifted from the PD budget to the Planning and Zoning (P & Z) budget. Councilmember Lau noted there are other items in the proposed budget he would like to see put on hold and look at using those funds also to implement the Comprehensive Plan objectives. He suggested really thinking about it before spending some of the budgeted funds. The Council agreed to shift the Police Department funds to P & Z and consider other items next meeting before the final budget is approved.

During the time for citizen input Austin E. Robinson of 235 West 4th South pointed out the City was having a run of bad luck with the Formation Well drilling not going as planned and then right after the chip-n-seal is done the street has to be dug up for a water leak. The Mayor thanked Mr. Robinson for his observation.

The Mayor and Council revisited the Industrial Park lease rate increase proposal. The proposal is to increase all leases that are due to be renewed by 2½% of the current base value of each lot and phase in an additional ½% increase in year two and three of the new lease term. Director Skinner clarified the new lease rates will not be based on a calculation using the levy rate but will just be a percentage increase to the current base value of the lot. Councilmember Goode noted that even with the full 3½% increase it brings the lease amounts to only half of the nationwide industrial capital rate on leases is which is reasonable and accomplishes the intent of the Industrial Park. Councilmember Lau moved to approve the new Industrial Park lease rates as presented, seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried.

Director Skinner reviewed the Friends of the Park's splash pad proposal. He explained they would like to know if the City wants them to continue to pursue it. The Friends of the Park's goal is to keep the project under \$80,000 and to complete the project with mostly grant funds and the City's support and not have to ask the community for donations. They would like to start the project next spring. Director Skinner detailed his cost estimate which includes site preparation, power, water, sewer and a more secure chlorine storage building than what is included in the Friends proposal. His estimate came to a total of \$120,500. The question is does the City want to fund the costs for the water, power and sewer. The Mayor, Council and Staff reviewed and discussed at length the design, size, maintenance and annual costs to operate. The monthly costs will include chlorine of \$2000 a month plus power. Director Skinner explained that he is not comfortable with not checking daily for contaminates and equipment failure which will take manpower. The filter system was discussed and the need to include a water softening system along with the possibility of having to deal with ground water during construction. The Friends are leaving the location selection up to the City Council. Councilmember Goode feels the annual costs could run from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and a better estimate of annual maintenance is needed. Councilmember Lau brought up the issue of the under concrete piping and the costs to repair. He suggested considering a concrete slab design that would allow easier access to the piping. Councilmember Hart recommended including the contracted cost of the concrete, a water softening system and increase the contingency percentage to 30%. That will bring the total estimated cost to about \$200,000. Mayor Robinson expressed his support for the project stating he really likes the idea but there are a lot of issues to solve.

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 Hart seconded the motion. A roll call showed the following vote:

Those voting aye:	Mitch Hart	Those voting nay:	none
	Robert Lau		
	Jon Goode	Absent:	none
	Scott Gambles		

Motion Carried.

Councilmember Hart moved to exit executive session, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Goode moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm, seconded by Council Lau. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 21ST DAY OF AUGUST, 2019.

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk