

somewhere if needed up to a total of \$50,000. Mrs. Ray mentioned she can get the grant written and submitted but will be retiring the end of the month and won't be around to administer the grant and do the final reports. She asked if someone from the City would be able to do the follow-up. Clerk Vorwaller stated she would be able to help with the grant if needed. Councilmember Lau moved to approve sponsoring the Gem Grant for the Custom Iron power upgrade, seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried. Mrs. Ray asked if staff could get her the bid for the work as soon as possible.

Engineer Skinner presented the Department of Environmental Quality approval for the South 2nd East utility project. He suggested moving forward with advertising and bidding. The Council asked and Engineer Skinner clarified it is mainly a water line replacement project, curb and gutter and one short section of sewer line. Councilmember Lau, seconded by Councilmember Gambles moved to approve moving forward with the project. All in favor, motion carried.

The Clerk noted the September meeting date changes. Councilmember Gambles updated the date changes stating he will have to be absent the second meeting in September anyway so the Council can go ahead and leave the meeting on Wednesday. The first meeting in September will be on Thursday, September 2nd.

Engineer Skinner reported on rate changes being issued by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). The purchased power rates will decrease 3.37% and the transmission rates will increase 12½%. Engineer Skinner noted the budget amounts for purchased power and transmission and the rate changes will result in about a \$12,000 annual savings to the City.

Mayor Robinson declared the public hearing open at 5:15pm to take public comment on the proposed 2022 fiscal year budget. The Clerk reported that no written comments were received. There were also no comments from those in attendance. The public hearing was closed. Councilmember Hart introduced Ordinance #689 entitled 'AN ORDINANCE TERMED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL, APPROPRIATING MONEY IN SUCH SUM AND SUMS AS IS DEEMED NECESSARY TO DEFRAY ALL PROPER EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, IDAHO NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING THE FIRST DAY OF OCTOBER, 2021 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 50-1002, IDAHO CODE and requested the ordinance be read in its entirety. A motion was then made by Councilmember Lau and seconded by Councilmember Goode that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three separate occasions be dispensed with and the ordinance be read once by title only. A roll call showed the following vote:

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

Motion Carried. Councilmember Hart clarified he would like the ordinance read in its entirety. Clerk Vorwaller read Ordinance #689 at length. Councilmember Lau then moved to approve the adoption of Ordinance #689. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion for adoption. Councilmember Goode noted the interfund transfer amount reflects the

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds receipted into General Fund that will be transferred to the Water and Sewer Funds to complete an infrastructure project. A roll call showed the following vote:

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

Motion Carried.

(SEE ATTACHED COPY OF ORDINANCE #689 - ORIGINAL ON FILE)

Councilmember Hart reported on an amenable meeting he had with the Byram's regarding the plan for the Soda Sip egress. Councilmember Hart detailed the proposal as was previously suggested by the State Transportation representative. The Byrams were in attendance and agreeable to the plan as detailed as long it doesn't block the entrance to Soda Sip. Councilmember Hart suggested painting a line for visual recognition prior to getting the pylon sets ordered and installed. The Mayor and Council discussed and agreed to have an official plan drawn up by Forsgren Engineers and create a simple agreement to memorialize the design. Engineer Skinner will proceed with getting the drawing and agreement ready.

Mayor Robinson was pleased to recommend the appointment of Chris Gonzales to the Greater Soda Springs Community Development Committee (GSSCDC). He thanked Mr. Gonzales for the hard work and great project of the bike course at Kelly Park. The Mayor noted without volunteers we would not have the wonderful community we have. Councilmember Goode moved to accept the Mayor's recommendation and appoint Chris Gonzales to the GSSCDC, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. All in favor except Councilmember Lau who had stepped away from the meeting. Motion carried. Mayor Robinson then administered the oath of office to Mr. Gonzales.

During the time for Citizen input Mayor Robinson again encouraged all to seek out clubs and volunteer and to support local businesses. The Council agreed and thanked the Mayor.

Brenda Pierson, representing the Rise & Shine day care newly opened on Main Street, requested approval from the City to establish a school bus stop on Caribou Street. The bus stop would be behind the day care which is located at 130 South Main. Mrs. Pierson reported they had spoken with the owner of the Eastman Drug store who was not opposed to the bus pulling through his parking lot and stopping in the alley/Caribou Street behind his business. She also mentioned they have spoken to the school bus barn employees who recommended the bus stopping in the back for safety, opposed to it stopping on Main Street. The Council and Staff discussed whether Caribou Street was private property or a City Street. It was determined and agreed it is a City Street. Mrs. Pierson noted it is their understanding they will have to help maintain the road in the winter. Councilmembers Goode and Lau suggested Mrs. Pierson get approval from the School Board. Councilmember Lau, seconded by Councilmember Goode moved to approve and support the bus stop on Caribou Street behind the Rise & Shine day care. All in favor, motion carried.

The Mayor and Council discussed at length the employee benefit renewals. Councilmember Goode noted he felt they had done their due diligence in reviewing the option of changing from Blue Cross to the proposed new health insurance carrier, PacificSource.

Councilmember Lau also felt encouraged given the feedback received from other groups using PacificSource and switching will be a huge benefit to taxpayers and employees with the decreased rates. Mayor Robinson asked if the Council was 100% convinced this change is best for the employees. The Clerk explained all employees were given the opportunity to search out their doctors to be sure they were in network and she only heard back from a couple employees and only one doctor that couldn't be found in network. The Council agreed they had questions and concerns and the Clerk reached out to other groups which all had positive responses stating PacificSource was reliable and responsive.

Councilmember Goode added the PacificSource high deductible health plan (HDHP) will be better than the current plan with Blue Cross because once the deductible is reached everything is paid 100% and there will be no co-insurance share, which he feels is a definite plus and hopes this may encourage more to get on the HDHP. Councilmember Lau suggested considering using some of the savings to increase the health savings account (HSA) contribution as a onetime incentive to switch to the HDHP. The Mayor paused the insurance discussion to allow the next appointment to be held at the designated time.

Mr. Barry Oates presented the final plat for Phase I of the Park Ridge Subdivision. Mr. Oates mentioned he had received approval for the preliminary plat the third week of June but the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) approval took longer than normal because of all the construction going on. He requested approval from the City of the final plat and stated once approved and signed by the City representatives it would then be submitted to the County for recording. The Council reviewed and discussed the DEQ approval. Mr. Oates noted the 1st phase will be facing 700 East Street and include six buildings and 12 units with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and the option of either an extended single car garage or a covered patio. Next year they will build a road between Phase I and the next set of buildings. He stated they plan to immediately start working on utilities and have really appreciated working with the City Council and City employees. They are trying to be good neighbors and have mowed down their lot and have had some positive interest expressed already. Councilmember Goode moved to approve the Mayor and City Staff to execute the final plat for Park Ridge Subdivision Phase I, seconded by Councilmember Lau. All in favor, motion carried.

The Mayor and Council continued the employee benefits review and discussion. Councilmember Hart moved to approve transitioning away from the Blues to PacificSource Health Plans for the employee health insurance to be effective October 1st, 2021. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The other benefits for dental, vision, life insurance and short- and long-term disability were also reviewed and it was noted all the costs would go down with the new proposed carriers. Councilmember Lau moved to approve switching the group life insurance and the disabilities to Mutual of Omaha as presented, seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried. Councilmember Lau asked if the proposed new dental insurance was accepted by local dentists? The Clerk noted the agents had checked and confirmed coverage with the local providers. Councilmember Lau moved to approve the new dental

and vision insurance policies with DentalSelect as presented. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Councilmember Lau pointed out the changes will result in over \$60,000 in savings to the City over the renewal rates and a decrease in costs to employees which is a big deal because usually you don't ever get to decrease benefit costs.

The Clerk presented a draft of the employee pay plan which included options for the cost-of-living allowance (COLA) up to 3% which is built into the approved budget. The Council briefly reviewed the timing and how the COLA was delayed last year because of the uncertainty due to the pandemic. The Council will review and discuss at the next meeting.

The final item to complete the FY2022 Budget approval was a resolution to be included with the property tax certification. The resolution will allow the recovery of the forgone amount from last year which was the 3% increase not taken due to the Governor's Public Safety Initiative. Councilmember Lau moved to approve Resolution 2021-1 setting forth the intention to recover the total existing forgone balance of \$29,268. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Lau moved to approve entering into executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(1)(b)&(f) to consider evaluation or dismissal of public employee and 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
	Jon Goode		
	Robert Lau	Absent:	none
	Scott Gambles		

Motion Carried.

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

Councilmember Goode moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm, seconded by Council Lau. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 2ND DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk