

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD AUGUST 19TH, 2020.

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 via telephone	Alan Skinner, Engineer
Mary Jensen	Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk
Chief Scott Shaw II	Gregg Haney, Attorney

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

The Mayor noted all the Council was in attendance except Councilmember Lau who may be able to call in but was otherwise excused.

Engineer Skinner asked to add to the agenda a report on the Wastewater Treatment Plant reporting and a sampling violation. The Council approved the addition.

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 August 5th, 2020 minutes in their current draft form. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. Engineer Skinner questioned a reference in the minutes regarding weeds growing in the upper Kelly Park fish pond which he thought was meant to say the lower pond. Councilmember Goode clarified he was talking about the upper pond and the minutes were correct. A vote on the motion was called. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable were reviewed. Councilmember Gambles moved to approve the accounts payable for August 1st through August 17th, 2020, seconded by Councilmember Hart. Councilmember Hart asked how often the skid steer brooms have to be replaced. Engineer Skinner stated he thought they lasted over five years. Also reviewed were the Kelly Park sprinkler system repairs and a transformer replacement at the hospital that was just routine maintenance. A vote on the motion to approve the accounts payable was called. All in favor, motion carried.

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER FOR DETAIL)

Engineer Skinner reported that on the first new discharge monitoring report (DMR) the plant exceeded the limit for zinc. When it was resampled it was well below the limit. Operator Kelly Hill met the 24 hour notification requirement and Engineer Skinner spoke with the regulatory agency that had questions about what may have caused the violation and steps that were being taken to plan to prevent it from happening again. Engineer Skinner stated they don't really know what caused it and they will be watching it in the

future. He noted the violation will take the monthly average up which he assumes will show as a second violation which he will be clarifying. He mentioned the new permit requires testing for zinc twice a month and they used to only have to sample when receiving septage. The Council discussed at length the process of taking the samples and the new reporting system.

Mayor Robinson declared a public hearing open to consider an amendment to the 2020 fiscal year budget. The clerk reported that no written comments were received regarding the proposed amendment. The Mayor asked for comments from those in attendance of which there were none. The public hearing was closed. The City Council briefly reviewed. Councilmember Hart introduced Ordinance #680 entitled 'AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, IDAHO AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 676, THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING THE FIRST DAY OF OCTOBER, 2019 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2020. A motion was then made by Councilmember Gambles and seconded by Councilmember Goode that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three separate occasions be dispensed with and that the ordinance be read once by title. A roll call showed the following vote:

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

Motion Carried.

Clerk Vorwaller read Ordinance #680 by title. Councilmember Goode then moved to approve the adoption of Ordinance #680 amending the 2020 fiscal year budget. Councilmember Hart seconded the motion for adoption. A roll call showed the following vote:

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

Motion Carried.

(SEE ATTACHED COPY OF ORDINANCE #680 - ORIGINAL ON FILE)

Engineer Skinner reviewed the project and comprehensive plan spread sheets and noted the changes made based on Councilmember Hart's suggestions. Councilmember Hart pointed out the clear distinction between policy issues and capital projects and explained that an owner for each was assigned to lead the progress. He noted the owner can be changed if someone else needs to be involved.

The Mayor briefly noted the current number of COVID-19 cases in Caribou and surrounding counties.

Mayor Robinson declared the public hearing open at 5:30pm to take public comment on the proposed 2021 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. The Mayor expressed his concern that no written comments were received and noted that it was disheartening that no one was in attendance to comment. He asked for comments or discussion by the Council. It was noted that it was a pretty flat budget at

approximately \$300,000 less than last year due to less street and water projects. The discussion regarding the proposed FY 2021 budget continued later in the meeting.

Clerk Vorwaller presented a proposed draft master fee schedule. The Clerk explained the need to establish a schedule of all the fees the City charges and asked the Mayor and Council to review. She noted some of the current fees have no official resolution adopting them and others were established many years ago. The Council reviewed and discussed and the Clerk noted the public hearing requirement. Engineer Skinner expressed his opposition to the proposed increases to the hook-up rates which he felt would deter development. Councilmember Goode felt the 3 to 4% increase was reasonable. The amount charged for mobile home parking rental was reviewed. Engineer Skinner noted the low cost used to be a trade for security in the parks but doesn't currently apply. The jump in the planning and zoning filing fee was noted by Councilmember Gambles. Councilmember Goode explained it was a lot of work for the very low fee currently charged. Councilmember Goode also suggested the airport fees were extremely low which were set by the Airport Commission 10 to 11 years ago. Councilmember Hart asked if the airport fees needed to differentiate between city residents and county residents adding that the City provides a lot of services to non-taxpayers. Councilmember Goode noted the Airport was supported by City taxes and he supported a higher fee for use by County residents. Councilmember Goode also suggested charging fees for the use of the park pavilions to help cover repair and maintenance. Engineer Skinner noted a lot of people are surprised we don't charge. The Council suggested basing it on the number of users. The Council agreed to have the proposed changes incorporated and publish a notice of hearing to establish the master fee schedule.

During Citizen Input Mary Jensen, owner of the Formation Spring property emphasized the need to have the gates in place before archery season weekend which is the weekend before Labor Day. She appreciated the City getting the plywood up to protect anything from falling in the hole but stated the water was still spilling over into the pond.

Project updates were given by Engineer Skinner. The Council viewed pictures of the Hooper Spring cover and it was noted the chip and sealing and the tree trimming for the year was complete. The next step on the Hooper Spring cover will be to grout to the top of each pier, finish the wood covers over the ends, put the top lettering on and then stain.

Regarding the Formation well project, Engineer Skinner reported meeting with regulatory agency representatives regarding the samples, the well completion report and disconnecting the well from the spring. The electrical equipment is on order and Engineer Skinner stated he is waiting to hear back from the estimator and scheduler for Rocky Mountain Power.

The new road construction and the Ledger Creek cleaning have both been delayed by a week. Councilmember Hart asked what arrangement we have with Babe's Dirt Works regarding the cleaning and suggested we make sure he is volunteering his time and equipment and isn't going to expect reimbursement. He noted Nutrien and NuWest have agreed to help offset costs.

The Mayor, Council and Staff reviewed the Governor's Public Safety/Property Tax Relief proposal. Councilmember Goode stated it was confusing but after reviewing in depth it is his understanding that the proposal will provide the citizens \$257,000 reduction in property taxes. The grant from the State of \$235,000 will offset the City's public safety budget and allow for the decreased property tax revenue. The grant requires the City to forego the allowed 3% increase of \$29,268 this year but it can be reserved and recaptured the next year. Councilmember Goode's personal opinion is the City should proceed with the proposal which will provide a \$200 or more decrease in property taxes for the citizens and the City should take advantage of the Federal funds. Councilmember Gambles thanked Councilmember Goode for his analysis. Councilmember Hart agreed it was a good news item for this year but clarified the benefit will only be good for this year. It is a onetime decrease and then everyone's taxes will go back up next year along with the City needing to take the annual 3% increase and recoup the forgone. Councilmember Goode also pointed out for residents of Soda Springs this decrease only effects the City taxes and will not decrease the county or school portions. The Council agreed the money was available and it was the right thing to do. Councilmember Hart suggested this was the type of unusual circumstance the funds balance was there for and recommended not decreasing the current budget instead just reduce the funds balance to cover the shortfall of not taking the 3% property tax increase. The Clerk will confirm the exact amounts of the grant and the City's forgone. Councilmember Hart noted he is puzzled why the other surrounding cities and counties didn't at least get the numbers to look at. Councilmember Hart moved to proceed with the next steps to confirm the City's desire to participate in the Public Safety/Property Tax Relief proposal, reserving the forgone amount and absorbing the shortage to the FY2021 budget with the funds balance. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Clerk Vorwaller noted the appropriations ordinance for FY2021 will be considered for final approval next meeting after the grant and forgone amounts are clarified. Councilmember Goode and Hart agreed it was a solid, conservative budget and the \$257,000 property tax benefit for taxpayers is a positive thing.

Councilmember Gambles noted he may be absent for the meetings in September unless he is needed to make a quorum. Councilmember Goode stated he will be out of town on September 16th.

Councilmember Goode moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:15pm, seconded by Councilmember Hart. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 2ND DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020.

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk