
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00PM BY AUSTIN W. ROBINSON, MAYOR.

ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT: AUSTIN W. ROBINSON, MAYOR MITCH HART, PRES. via telephone JON D. GOODE ROBERT M. LAU SCOTT K. GAMBLES

EXCUSED: 

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Steele Alan Skinner, Director
Austin & Jackie Robinson Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk
Ted Young Clyde Nelson, Attorney via telephone
Chief Shaw

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

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Director Skinner pointed out a deletion of words in the sentence clarifying that the LDS Church was okay with the City removing the old baseball backstop behind the Stake Center. Councilmember Goode stated he had reviewed and noted no changes needed except as explained by the Director, he then moved to dispense with the reading and approve the September 19th, 2018 minutes as amended. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable and payroll were reviewed. Councilmember Gambles moved to approve the accounts payable dated September 18th through September 28th, 2018 and payroll for the month of September, 2018, seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL REGISTERS FOR DETAIL)

Chief Shaw addressed the Mayor and Council presenting a request to promote Officer Spencer Hughes to Sergeant. He explained that one of his goals as Chief was to always have a supervisor on shift every day of the week. He started the implementation of this with the promotion of Officer Golightly and would like to continue with Officer Hughes. He also pointed out the need to have supervisors for the two brand new officers that will be hired. The promotion of Officer Hughes will move him from a PS5-11 to a PS5-13. Mayor Robinson expressed his support and recommended approval. Councilmember Goode moved to approve the Chief’s recommendation for promotion, seconded by Councilmember Hart. All in favor, motion carried.

Chief Shaw gave a brief report on the hiring status. The application period closed on September 22nd and 13 applications were received. The Chief explained that most likely the new officers will be required to go through the Peace Officers Standards and Training
(POST) Academy which requires they pass a physical fitness test, so part of the Department’s requirement will be to pass the physical fitness test before they are interviewed by the hiring board. Mayor Robinson commended Chief Shaw for recognizing and implementing the best hiring process and mentioned that he looked forward to being involved. He expressed his confidence in the leadership that will be provided to the new hires.

Mayor Robinson then read a letter of commendation from Caribou County Sheriff, Kelly Wells regarding the actions of City Officer, Taylor Peck who clearly went above and beyond during the recent fire out Eight Mile that required notifying residents to evacuate. Sheriff Wells pointed out how well Officer Peck worked and communicated with the other first responders and also detailed his selfless act to help the dispatcher, whose home was in the evacuation area, by getting her dogs out of her house. The Sheriff thanked the Soda Springs Police Department for working with his agency.

The South 1st East project pay application #4 was presented and discussed. Director Skinner explained in order to stay within the budget this final pay application for fiscal year 2018 will need to be adjusted to $260,000. $53,000 will be from the sewer budget and the rest will be water. All of the connections are completed but still have the curb & gutter, the sewer manhole and asphalt to complete the project by the 26th of October. The Director reviewed the final costs to complete the project of approximately $223,000 which will come out of the 2019 fiscal year budget of which $100,000 will be covered by the Street Grant. Councilmember Goode moved to approve pay application #4 to Bear Lake Construction not to exceed $260,000 from the 2018 fiscal year budget. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The ongoing improvement projects were reviewed along with the Formation Well approval letter from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The approval asked for clarifications on the well seal, casing and disinfection standards and, the Preliminary Engineering Report approval was pending the signed agreement for the land purchase. Director Skinner presented the signed land purchase agreement and reviewed the water source transfer. There will be a protest period but the Director did not expect any to be filed because he has spoken to all other water right owners.

The Mayor reviewed the recent comment received by a visitor to the Geyser regarding safety and damage to the attraction by letting people walk on the geyser mound and near the geyser. The current signage was reviewed and the Mayor suggested signage changes. Attorney Nelson recommended a barricade and prohibiting entry on the geyser mound. Director Skinner explained that some damage may occur to the mound during routine maintenance of the drainage canal. Councilmember Hart expressed his opinion that he didn’t want to over regulate and take away the element of tradition and fun. He also mentioned that the boardwalk is usually slicker and more dangerous than the mound. The Council discussed and agreed some new signage may be appropriate for liability issues and the Mayor asked everyone to consider what wording would be best to be discussed at the next meeting.
Citizen input was provided by resident Austin Robinson of 235 West 4th South. He informed the Chief of Police that Mayor Robinson has a week’s training at the POST academy. The Mayor acknowledged the statement and thanked Mr. Robinson for sharing that information.

Ted Young of 339 Monsanto Blvd. addressed the Mayor and Council as Boy Scout Master of Troop 503. Mr. Young requested permission to bring his troop to a City Council meeting to make them aware of how city government works and encourage them to be good citizens and get involved. The Mayor and Council welcomed them to come.

Clerk Vorwaller expressed Fire Chief Squires’ desire to provide the Air Methods membership to his volunteer firemen as a benefit in lieu of an increase to their annual expense allowance. The Clerk suggested also providing the membership to all the City employees. The membership covers the costs associated with an emergency life-flight service covering the portion an individual’s health insurance doesn’t cover. The Council was in support of the proposal and would like to review the final cost. The Clerk will report back after meeting with the Air Methods representative.

Clerk Vorwaller reported that she attended the Economic Development Forum hosted by Kathy Ray of the 4 County Alliance (4CASI). She shared some of the small business development programs available and suggested getting the information out to the local businesses.

Councilmember Goode moved to approve entering into executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(1)(c) & (f) to acquire an interest in real property and to communicate with legal counsel regarding probable litigation. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. A roll call showed the following vote:

Those voting aye: Mitch Hart
Jon Goode
Scott Gambles
Robert Lau

Those voting nay: none

Absent: none

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 6:25pm, seconded by Councilmember Lau. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 17TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2018.

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Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

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Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk