

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD OCTOBER 2ND, 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
	Austin & Jackie Robinson	Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk
	Laura Lind	Gregg Haney, Attorney
	Bryce Somsen	Chief Scott Shaw II

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

Councilmember Hart asked to add a couple of items to the agenda. A discussion on the crosswalk by the Arctic Circle was added along with a brief Ender's Building update.

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Goode stated he had read the minutes and he saw nothing that needed modified. He moved to accept in the current form and dispense with the reading of the September 18th, 2019 minutes. Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable were reviewed. Councilmember Goode moved to approve the accounts payable for September 17th through September 29th, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. Mayor Robinson asked about the lock repair bill. Director Skinner explained that his key broke off in the lock at the Ender's Building but they were able to get it out without replacing the lock. He also mentioned he will make a list of all the locks that need fixed and get them taken care of after he checks all the keys. A vote on the motion was called. All in favor, motion carried

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER FOR DETAIL)

The payroll for September was also reviewed. Councilmember Hart, seconded by Councilmember Goode moved to approve the September, 2019 payroll. All in favor, motion carried.

(SEE ATTACHED PAYROLL REGISTER FOR DETAIL)

Director Skinner gave an update on the Formation Spring well project. He reported on the hydrologist's review of the project and stated the recommendation is to drill one of the current wells deeper which the hydrologist feels will produce closer to the volume of water

we are looking for. He thinks we are in the right area and wouldn't gain anything by moving east. He thinks we just stopped too shallow. The two producing wells were drilled to 133 and 140 feet and the recommendation is to go to 500 feet. The Director explained that Willowstick thought we would lose volume if we went deeper but the hydrologist does not because the fine silts found deeper are impermeable. The estimated cost to mobilize and drill an 8 inch hole to 500 feet is \$57,000 and if adequate water was found it would be another \$173,500 to drill and open up to 17 inches and case the well with screens. Director Skinner mentioned there would need to be an addendum to the well permit to go deeper that may take a couple days. Councilmember Hart expressed his overriding desire to establish a system to maximize the City's water right and he feels a well should be able to provide that. The options and costs were reviewed by the Mayor and Council. Director Skinner suggested this would not be a lot of additional funds if we can get at least 1000 gallons and meet the current need and then work on a way to get up to the full water right in the future. He mentioned that piping and the well house had already been purchased and there would be no new easements needed and this could get the consent order taken care of. The Council all agreed to make one more push toward getting the wells to work. Councilmember Hart moved to approve \$60,000 plus or minus 10% in one last shot on the wells. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Photos of the Lovers Delight bridge project were viewed. Director Skinner reported it is pretty much done just doing some clean up and reseeded. Road base has been put on top and the road should be open this weekend. Councilmember Hart stated it looks good. Councilmember Lau asked about drainage from a storm box that has been eroding the hill. Director Skinner pointed out that the box was homeowner installed but he will look at it.

The ongoing infrastructure projects were reviewed. A pay application for A+ Contractors in the amount of \$216,821 for the sidewalk grant project was presented for approval. Except for replacing some sod the project is done on 4th South and they will be moving to 1st East. Councilmember Hart moved to approve the pay application as requested for the sidewalk improvements. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The road base has been put on the new road at 220 South and it is very solid. It will be ready next spring for whatever improvements the Council wants to continue with and the City will be able to abandon the old road as agreed. The engineers initial draft prints for the Wastewater Treatment Plant bridge-crane that will travel north and south were reviewed along with the pressure zone maps for the pressure reducing valve (PRV) study. The maps lay out the problem areas and the engineers will keep working toward a final plan and budget.

During the time for citizen input, Austin E. Robinson of 235 West 4th South stated he walked on the new sidewalk all the way to the post office. Chief Shaw also offered a comment noting the judge had asked him to send the City Officers on vacation.

Councilmember Hart shared some concerns he received regarding the pedestrian cross walk by the Arctic Circle. It was suggested to him that pedestrians are actually challenging traffic and some middle school kids about got hit. Chief Shaw and Director Skinner

reported that the sidewalk grant project includes the installation of a rapid flashing beacon at that very crossing along with one out by the Kelly Park entrance. Chief Shaw noted it has been an issue for a long time. He also mentioned the recent aggressive driving grant they received to patrol that crossing and they issued 8 tickets in 20 minutes. He pointed out that it's hard to get funds for those types of signals and it's sad that there has to be fatalities to qualify for assistance with crossing markers.

Director Skinner gave a detailed report on the process to establish a recreation district. A petition of 20% of the electors in the defined district area is required to start the process and then a favorable vote of a simple majority to make the district official. The new district board would be set by the County Commissioners. If the district included the entire county it could levy over \$600,000 in property tax at the maximum rate allowed of .06%. This would cost property owners approximately \$120 a year on a \$200,000 property or \$60 a year with the homeowner's exemption. Director Skinner also detailed examples of other districts and the user fees charged for use of the facilities built with the district revenues. Councilmember Lau stated he thinks it would be worth moving forward with and it would distribute the costs fairly over all that use the services. Councilmember Goode noted the survey showed residents would be willing to pay for more but it depended on what it was. He also stated, practically thinking this is the only way we are going to get a recreation center. Councilmember Lau agreed. The Mayor and Council thanked Director Skinner for doing the research.

Councilmember Hart gave a brief Enders update. The letter of intent to lease that was approved last meeting has been signed by the proposed lessee and will be used to fold into an operating agreement drafted by the City Attorney. Councilmember Hart hopes to have the agreement refined and ready for the next meeting and try to get it in place by the end of the month. He mentioned the lessee is now suggesting they may like to take on the whole building and plan to use the hotel portion. The Mayor noted he has a plan to share the Ender's ghost experience by the end of the month.

The Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP) Joint Powers Agreement was reviewed. Attorney Haney noted he had reviewed and had no issues with the agreement. Councilmember Goode questioned whether we had already signed this agreement which is dated 2017. Clerk Vorwaller will check. Councilmember Hart moved to authorize the execution of the Jt. Powers agreement only if we haven't already signed it in the past. Councilmember Lau 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) to consider the evaluation of City Employees. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. A roll call showed the following vote:

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

Motion Carried.

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

Councilmember Lau moved to modify the motion regarding the employee cost of living allowance (COLA) wage increases to allow anywhere from 0% to a 3% increase in either a percentage wage increase or a one-time bonus and also to approve an additional 50 cent merit increase for Kelly Hill, Justin Hansen and Esther Melander effective October 1, 2019. Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Lau moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:35pm, seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 16TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2019.

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk