

reimbursement of the \$50,000 Gem Grant. Mayor Smith expressed his opinion that considering the problems during the projects everything has come out pretty well. Councilmember Hart moved to approve pay application #4 for \$241,276 seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried.

The status of the other projects was reviewed. Work on the Industrial Park roads continues and the fencing for Kelly Park has been purchased. A \$20,000 Sorenson Grant has been awarded for upgrading the tennis court but they are willing to defer the grant until maybe a Portneuf or other grant can be attained to go with it. The cost to completely refurbish the tennis court is \$100,000. Preliminary work on the hydro trash rake is being done along with getting a quote on the power upgrade that is needed. The new lift station pumps to accommodate the new hotel are here and will be installed right away. Director Skinner reported that there may be a chance of getting another \$100,000 Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) Grant for next year in addition to the one that has already been awarded and will be used in conjunction with the South 1st East utility project. The Mayor encouraged everyone to drive 7th East Street which would be his choice for the asphalt grant if available. Director Skinner explained that the project would need to be shovel ready and able to be done in the early spring. The Mayor reported that he talked to Bear Lake Commissioner, Vaughan Rasmussen about the relocation of the scenic by-way sign and he is willing to help us find a location. Director Skinner also mentioned that it is his understanding that Kellerstraus is willing to help us get it down and move it.

Mayor Smith presented the Library shelving project for official approval explaining that the Council had reviewed the proposal by email and okayed proceeding but he wanted it reflected in the minutes. The funds are available through a combination of grants and memorials and Head Librarian Erickson solicited local suppliers with not much luck. The only bids she ended up receiving were from Caribou Jack's for the hardware and AE Construction which is Alan Erickson for the lumber and construction of the shelving. Councilmember Hart moved to approve the library shelving project for \$10,959 with Caribou Jack's and AE Construction. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. Councilmember Lau recused himself from voting due to being one of the bidders. All others in favor, motion carried.

Director Skinner presented three Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) contract amendments. The three revisions are all related to the Tier 2 rates and the City's ability to purchase non-federal power using BPA's transmission contract to cover the 1st leg of transmission. Director Skinner explained that the City currently only uses half of the maximum Tier 1 amount and it is unlikely we would ever need Tier 2 rates. The Mayor requested that Councilmember Hart and Attorney Nelson review the contract amendments before they are considered for approval at the next meeting.

Director Skinner reviewed the BPA rebates received for LED lighting projects. Projects were done at the Chevron, the Fire Department, the overpass lights, and the Library. Total rebates were \$12,142 with the City receiving \$8,772 and Chevron \$3,370. The free LED light bulb program was a success and the City received \$11,424 toward the cost of \$5,242

to purchase the bulbs. Councilmember Lau suggested pursuing upgrading the City Park lights and the Mayor stressed that he wants to make sure the street lights are upgraded with LED's at least when bulbs or fixtures need replaced. Director Skinner pointed out that the rebates are available to all residents for lighting and certain appliances.

The Mayor and Director Skinner gave an update on the City Recreation Programs. The Mayor reported that the School District had officially condemned the old middle school gymnasium and it cannot be used by the School or the City. The City's recreation programs depended on being able to use that gym along with the church gyms. The Church now needs to also work to accommodate the School programs. Director Skinner mentioned the City has very limited access to the High School and will need to work hard at scheduling further ahead and the City will be working with Bear Lake, Grace and Bancroft requiring more traveling for the City programs. Mayor Smith expressed his frustration stating he would have appreciated a little more heads up from the School District and a seat at the table in planning how to work together with the Church and the limited gym availability. The Mayor commended the temporary Recreation Director, Celeste Billman for doing a heroic job of working it out so far and he doesn't know how we would do it without her. The Mayor just wanted to point out that there may be complaints but the City is doing the best we can and is trying to get the word out to the City Recreation participants letting them know there will be scheduling problems and more traveling.

The Mayor mentioned that Councilmember Hart had requested an update on current staffing. The Council reviewed the current open positions, positions eligible for retirement and those eligible within the next 5 years. Director Skinner explained he will have a recommendation on the Recreation Director position at the next meeting and is currently taking applications for a mechanic/public works position. He also explained that the City's building inspector now works full time for Caribou County which the City has a mutual agreement with and he will continue to provide building inspecting for the City by contract. Councilmember Hart suggested a retainer and Councilmember Lau questioned if the County did building inspecting for Grace and Bancroft then Soda Springs should be treated the same. Director Skinner mentioned in the future he would like to have a City employee train as the new building inspector. Starting wage for the mechanic position will be based on experience and would be a couple steps above an entry level position. Director Skinner mentioned that the retirement of the public works supervisor is eminent. The Mayor stated he has had no indication on the police chief's plans for retirement but has tasked the department heads with finding and training a replacement for recommendation. Councilmember Hart suggested as senior people retire it may be time to look at restructuring the departments to be the most effective which could be done by review of the HR Committee. He understands it is not the Council's job to hire but would like an understanding of the hiring plan to be sure budgets are being used most efficiently. The Mayor mentioned that he and Director Skinner have been discussing how to best utilize the employees as positions are filled. Councilmember Lau suggested hiring temporary CDL drivers to help with the snow plowing. The Mayor stated he would be happy to talk to anyone interested.

There was no public input at the designated time.

Councilmember Goode asked if one of his fellow Councilmembers could attend the Planning and Zoning meeting on Tuesday, October 10th in his place. He explained that he needed to be out of town. The Councilmembers stated they would check their schedules and let him know.

Councilmember Goode moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 18TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2017.

James R. Smith, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk