



for one year to start construction but the engineering will be good and DEQ approvals can be renewed if needed. Councilmember Hart suggested focusing on the two smaller projects and continue to work with the State and plan for the others. Councilmember Goode asked on a scale of 1 to 10 with Court Street being a 10 what the severity of the current projects is. The Director stated they are a 7 to 8 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Street project being first priority out of the two smaller projects and he noted the additional cost of curb & gutter for 2<sup>nd</sup> East Street which currently has none. Councilmember Lau asked if the City still had forms for curb and gutter, Director Skinner stated yes. Councilmember Lau moved to approve proceeding with engineering for the utility and asphalt upgrade on 2<sup>nd</sup> East Street running south from 4<sup>th</sup> South to the dead end and recommended accumulating funds for the bigger projects. Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Robinson declared the public hearing open at 5:15pm for the purpose of considering an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of the City as contained in Chapter 17, specifically the sign code section 17.63 of the Soda Springs Municipal Code. The proposed amendment will add requirements for the placement of flagpoles along with additional requirements for signage, delete limitations on the location of signs and clarify the number of free standing signs per business and total square footage of sign area. The Mayor asked for public comment which there was none. The Clerk reported no written comments had been received. The public hearing was closed. Councilmember Goode reviewed and applauded the efforts of the Planning & Zoning (P & Z) Commission for their work and lengthy discussion to finalize the amendment. The P & Z recommended approval. Councilmember Lau introduced Ordinance #677 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, IDAHO, AMENDING AND REPEALING PROVISIONS OF TITLE 17 OF THE SODA SPRINGS MUNICIPAL CODE (ZONING ORDINANCE); SPECIFICALLY CHAPTER 17.63 IN REGARD TO SIGNS; DIRECTING THE CODIFIER TO CORRECT SEQUENCING PROBLEMS CREATED BY THESE AMENDMENTS; REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES OR PARTS THEREOF; WAIVING THE RULE REQUIRING THREE READINGS OF THIS ORDINANCE; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE. A motion was then made by Councilmember Hart and seconded by Councilmember Lau that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three separate occasions be dispensed with and that the ordinance be read once by title only. A roll call showed the following vote:

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

Motion Carried.

Clerk Vorwaller read Ordinance #677 by title. Councilmember Hart then moved to approve the adoption of Ordinance #677. Councilmember Lau seconded the motion for adoption.

A roll call showed the following vote:

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

Motion Carried.

(SEE ATTACHED COPY OF ORDINANCE #677 - ORIGINAL ON FILE)

The employee Christmas bonuses were revisited by the City Council. Councilmember Goode explained that historically the bonuses were paid out of the workman's compensation insurance annual dividend but the City is struggling with the current workman's comp situation which is less than positive due to several large claims in the last couple of years. The Council agreed historically it was considered a safety reward and it is not logical to continue. The Council agreed even though the workman's comp insurance premiums will increase for the next 2 to 3 years due to the past accidents they were willing to consider a safety award next year if there is a measurable improvement in safety performance over the next 12 months. It was noted by the Clerk and the employees will be informed.

During citizen input Paul Gritton of the Rotary Club reported on the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Emergency Responder's Appreciation Dinner held and sponsored by the Rotary Club. He reported there were 70 attendees which they felt was a good attendance and well received. Councilmember Lau thanked the Rotary Club for their efforts.

Director Skinner reported on the progress of the Formation Well drilling. The driller began drilling toward the 500 feet as approved last meeting. They only made it to 225 feet and ran into some really hard basalt, they are only averaging 25 feet a day and one day could only make 10 feet. They added a second compressor but are having issues with getting enough pressure for the drill and hammer. They would like to rent a booster unit from Casper, Wyoming that will cost \$15,000 a week plus additional fuel. Today they ran into a small amount of cherted lime stone and black shell but quickly moved past it. They are sending some material to the geologist and the City will be sampling the water to be sure we are still in the same aquifer. Indications are that we are gaining water and the pressure is maintaining which is a good sign. It will take one to two weeks with the booster or three to four without. Worst case for the booster would be an additional \$30,000 on top of the \$88,000 already committed. The Director noted there is money budgeted to continue pursuing a solution for Formation Spring. He feels it is important to try and get a pump test and have this additional information available to talk to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Councilmember Hart is inclined to authorize the additional funds for the booster and also request to move the DEQ meeting a week out. Councilmember Goode agreed. Councilmember Lau authorized bringing in the booster with a budget of up to \$30,000 and request to move the meeting with DEQ. Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Director Skinner mentioned he would be sending out the this summer's actual peak usage for review to consider attaining just enough water to cover the peak and be able to satisfy the consent order and then continue to try to access the City's full water right in the future.

An update on the lease of the Ender's building and the transfer of the State liquor license was given. Councilmember Hart reported the agreement was in place and the lessee was moving forward with getting the building organized for a December 1<sup>st</sup> opening date. He mentioned a contract was negotiated with a local cleaning company and the building was looking really good and he was very pleased with their efforts. Attorney Haney reported speaking with the Idaho State Police (ISP) regarding the liquor license transfer from the

Soda Springs Historical Museum which was part of the generous donation from Rex Maughan. The ISP agreed to allow the transfer and subsequent assignment to the lessee with a \$1000 fine and the customary transfer costs. Attorney Haney mentioned under the circumstances this is a fair resolution. Councilmember Hart commended Attorney Haney for working this deal. Councilmember Goode moved to approve accepting the \$1000 fine and executing the stipulation to transfer the liquor license. Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Councilmember Goode clarified the only way to have avoided the fine would to have had a lessee in there within 90 days of taking ownership. Attorney Haney concurred and mentioned the City will need to move quickly next time. Councilmember Hart then moved to approve the assignment of the liquor license to the lessee, Diamond Heart Cattlemen's Steakhouse and clarified the City will be responsible for the fine and initial transfer costs and Diamond Heart is responsible only for the subsequent transfer and assignment of the license to them. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The official election results from the City's General Election held November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 were reviewed. Councilmember Lau moved to accept the election results for two City Council seats as presented by the Caribou County Commissioners and the County Clerk. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Clerk Vorwaller mentioned the City's Christmas Party would be held at the Ender's on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm and she encouraged everyone to come in their best "Mad for Plaid" shirt and enjoy Christmas trivia and karaoke.

Councilmember Lau moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:55pm, seconded by Councilmember Hart. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2019.

---

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk