



another year to finish up.

Director Skinner reported the mobile home at Kelly Park had been sold again. Ezekiel Finlayson has purchased the trailer and plans to live in it. The Director noted he had met with Mr. Finlayson and explained what the City expects and that it cannot be used as a rental. The Council agreed to extend the lease agreement to Mr. Finlayson.

Fire Chief Squires requested approval to send two firemen to the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis. This would be the third year of attendance to this training which costs significantly less than the Monsanto training they used to attend and is also more appropriate for volunteer departments focusing on structure fires. The Chief explained he would like to send two this year and then have enough budget to send four to the annual training in Burley also. The cost will be approximately \$3500 a person. Councilmember Goode moved to approve the training for approximately \$7000. Councilmember Lau seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The Mayor and City Council recognized Lisa VanPelt of Caribou Pet Care as a Soda Springs Super Hero. Lisa has provided loving care for over 20 years to the community's pets and animals always making time to handle difficult situations and working hard to re-home unwanted pets. She also mentored many young people in the area. The community will truly miss Lisa and husband Bruce who are moving to Alaska. The Mayor and Council thanked them for their contributions to the community and wished them well.

The proposed changes to the rate resolutions to clarify requirements for recreational vehicles (RV) were reviewed. The amended resolution would require RV spaces, when connected or reconnected to remain on for at least 3 months. It would also allow for a vacation rate for an entire RV Park when vacant but not disconnected. Councilmember Lau, seconded by Councilmember Goode moved to approve Resolutions 2019-6, 2019-7 and 2019-8 amending the RV rates for Water, Power & Sewer. All in favor, motion carried.

Director Skinner pointed out the updated revenue and expense data for the Formation Spring project. The current total cost is at \$1.4million. The original estimated cost was \$1.5 to \$1.7 million. Councilmember Goode noted this was a good outcome because it could have cost a lot more. The Formation Well rate may need to be in place 2-3 years to recoup the fund balance. The Director noted there will be significant savings in water testing and overtime when the consent order is satisfied.

The Mayor and Council discussed rescheduling the first meeting in January that falls on the holiday. The first meeting will be held on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and the second meeting of the month on the regularly scheduled day of January 15<sup>th</sup>.

During citizen input several individuals provided comments regarding the proposed comprehensive plan update and the recommendations made by the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC). JoAnna Ashley, former City Planning and Zoning (P & Z) Secretary mentioned that she has been very involved in the Comp Plan update and

attended some CPAC meetings commending the group for putting in a lot of work. As a citizen, after doing research and attending training, her biggest concern would be to not make the Comp Plan so structured that it paints the City into a corner and doesn't allow for changes as needed. The creation and benefits of a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) to be used in conjunction with the Comp Plan was discussed at length. Councilmember Hart expressed his agreement with the points made by Mrs. Ashley and thanked her for highlighting them. Katy Bergholm along with Chris Guedes of the CPAC and Lori Anne Lau a member of the P & Z Committee stressed several items they felt were important to consider. Mrs. Bergholm noted the CPAC has not reconvened and all of the group may not be on the same page. She explained she felt the main goal of the CPAC was to bring an action plan for implementation and accountability into the Comp Plan but agrees they don't want to limit progress. She feels the community wants to see progress. Her concern with having two different documents is keeping them both in line with each other and transparent to the public. Mr. Guedes noted the Comp Plan document is a vision to be used as an action plan and he feels everything needed is in there it just needs organized and an implementation guide established. Mrs. Bergholm added that the plan should not include any goals that are not the product of some sort of public input process; it should be what the community wants. She mentioned the CPAC's recommendation to create a position or evaluate current positions and assign someone the responsibility to manage and implement the goals in the plan. Mrs. Lau added her concern about who was going to provide the work on the document? Is it the CPAC, the Planning & Zoning or the City Council and are we really committed to what the community wants. She also expressed her feeling that specificity was needed and didn't feel it would limit the City's progress. Councilmember Lau explained that it was his understanding that the Council was going to take time to review and discuss all the recommendations before moving forward and commended the P & Z and the CPAC for their work. Councilmember Goode shared research provided by the Smart Growth group regarding comprehensive plans. The critical challenges include; rural communities do not have staffing and resources to plan effectively, the need for education of all participants in the planning process, and increasing public participation. He expressed appreciation for the efforts of all who have been involved so far in the process. He noted state code requires an implementation component and he is leaning toward separating the implementation element and include those specifics in a CIP that is clearly referenced in the Comp Plan but can be updated more often without hearings. Mrs. Lau expressed her desire for more public meetings to highly involve the public in how to implement the goals and if the CIP can be updated without public hearings that will bypass the public input. Councilmember Goode feels there will still be input and involvement available through council meetings and the budget process. Councilmember Gambles added there is a fine line regarding public involvement and if you have too many ideas and opinions it's hard to come together and nothing gets done. Councilmember Lau noted the City has a small tactical plan each year with budget projects. He questioned the Comp Plan amendment requirements and stated he feels a lot more conversation is needed to complete the plan. Mrs. Bergholm mentioned the CPAC submitted a draft to the City Council and is open to a working meeting to participate in a walk-through of the document. There were differing opinions on whether the P & Z wanted to be involved in the continuing work on the plan but in the end the P & Z has to hold a

public hearing and make a recommendation to the City Council. Councilmember Hart suggested someone take the lead to move the update forward. Councilmember Goode suggested a working meeting with the City Council and the CPAC early in January in order to clarify the P & Z's role going forward along with reviewing and discussing the CPAC's recommendations. The Council agreed to hold a public work meeting on Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> from 5 to 7pm. Councilmember Goode suggested that the Council review the CPAC document and be prepared for a productive work session.

Resident, Austin E. Robinson added his concern of increased taxes if a new position is created to manage the comp plan. He mentioned it is already a financial struggle for residents on a fixed income to manage Medicare and prescription drug plans.

Mayor Robinson expressed his support for the CPAC and his excitement for the working meeting and moving forward. He shared a saying he heard somewhere; "without vision the people will perish". He also thanked the many volunteers including the CPAC, the P & Z, the Lions Club and the Volunteer Firemen. The City could not function as a community without our volunteers.

The Council reviewed a quote for a security system for the Ender's Building. Director Skinner detailed the number and location of the 14 cameras. The Council agreed to continue to get quotes for this scale of system and then they will decide if it can be scaled back if the cost is too high. The lease agreement requires Diamond Heart to participate in the cost of the system anything over \$1000.

Director Skinner informed the Mayor and Council that he would be advertising to replace an employee in the Water/Sewer Department. The current employee has submitted his notice due to a new job with the Idaho Transportation Department and has moved to Pocatello. The Director pointed out the modification to the job description which requires the first certifications to be completed in the probationary year.

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 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2020.

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Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk