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

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

EXCUSED: MITCHELL J. HART, PRES.

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Steele
Krista Wells-Grube
Tonia Kenyon
Laura Lind
Danielle Stoor
Chase Jacobsen
Ben Jacobsen

Alan Skinner, Director
Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk
Clyde Nelson, Attorney via telephone

Rod Worthington
Chief Scott Shaw II

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

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Goode stated he had reviewed and noted no changes he then moved to dispense with the reading and approve the December 5th, 2018 minutes as drafted. Councilmember Lau seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable were reviewed. Councilmember Gambles moved to approve the accounts payable for December 1st through December 17th, 2018, seconded by Councilmember Goode. Councilmember Goode asked about an expense for upgrading power at the City Park. Director Skinner explained that new pedestals and needed repairs were made to the power outlets. A vote on the motion was called. All in favor, motion carried

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER FOR DETAIL)

Laura Lind of Friends of the Soda Springs City Park expressed her excitement to finally be gifting the new all-inclusive playground to the City. She provided a list of materials they have for ongoing maintenance to Director Skinner and mentioned that they have continued to maintain the playground while compiling a list of all the equipment vendors and attaining lien releases. Mayor Robinson stated he definitely appreciated all their work and effort and bringing the community together. Councilmember Gambles thanked the Friends of the Park and commended them for a project very well done. Councilmember Lau presented a question from Councilmember Hart about whether there would be an endowment fund established for maintenance of the park. Mrs. Lind explained they would like to continue to pursue the splash pad before they decide how much is available to set aside for maintenance but they also plan on doing an annual fundraiser to help with
maintenance. The lien releases were reviewed. Councilmember Goode moved to accept this most gracious gift of the playground from the Friends of the Soda Springs City Park, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. All in favor, motion carried.

Krista Wells-Grube with the Dragon Fyre Faire discussed with the Council the upcoming event which will be the ninth year of the renaissance faire. Mrs. Wells-Grube requested approval to continue and posed some changes. She explained they originally began as an extension of the 4th of July celebration and this year they would like to continue that by moving the event to the first weekend of July following the 4th. She also suggested having a display at the City Park on the 4th and asked if the City would consider allowing the vendor camping at City Park or Kelly Park if they decided to move the event. The Mayor and Council were very supportive of the event and felt they would be willing to work with the group if they wanted to hold it at one of the other parks as long as the waivers and liability insurance was in place. Mrs. Wells-Grube also asked if the Rotary’s insurance could cover the Faire if it was part of the 4th activities. Director Skinner, representing the Rotary Club suggested it could if the dates of the event were expanded. The Mayor asked about new attractions at the event. Mrs. Wells-Grube stated they had a fire juggling magician last year that was fun and would like to consider a jousting event but need to find a suitable place.

Dave Noel of Forsgren Associates presented the Mayor and Council with some holiday treats wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work with the City.

The request for support of the Oregon-California Trail Auto Tour was revisited. A map of the route was reviewed along with the description of the Idaho stops which is relatively small compared to the other states. Director Skinner pointed out that former resident Don Wind is one of the state committee directors. The Council discussed the funding request and Councilmember Goode again questioned what happens if they don’t raise all the funds. Will the tour be postponed and where do the funds go? The Council agreed to revisit at the second meeting in January after these questions can be answered and the Greater Soda Springs Community Development Committee meets along with getting a report from the SE Idaho High Country Travel Council.

At the time for citizen input which there was none Mayor Robinson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and safe travels.

Director Skinner reported so far no protests had been submitted regarding the Formation Spring water transfer. The protest period ends on December 24th and at that time the City will either resolve protests or proceed with going out for bid for the two projects to complete the Formation Spring well and transmission upgrade. The construction prints for the two separate projects are ready for bid and were reviewed. One is to drill the well itself the other will be to install the new transmission line from the well and an underground precast concrete building.

The Council briefly reviewed the status of the Ender’s Hotel building gift. Closing
documents will be signed tomorrow, December 20th and then the business will be closed. Director Skinner mentioned that his staff will create a schedule to check on the building daily and will receive training if needed from the service companies. Attorney Nelson suggested changing the locks. Clerk Vorwaller mentioned she was contacted by a resident concerned about items they have on loan in the building and wanted to make sure they got them back if the building is going to be sold or the items removed. The Council and Staff discussed and noted there were a couple of items on the inventory list that stated they were not part of the gift. Director Skinner will review this with Brent Maughan to make sure we have a list of items that may need to be returned if the building is sold.

A resolution for support of Monsanto/Bayer’s Caldwell Canyon Mine permit was reviewed. Councilmember’s Hart and Goode provided some revisions. Councilmember Lau expressed a disagreement with stating that P4 Production provides substantial financial support to the Soda Springs School District. The Council discussed at length. Councilmember Goode moved to approve resolution 2018-7 as amended by the discussion removing the words “taxes” and “substantial”, incorporating Councilmember Hart’s revisions and clarifying the company’s legal name. Councilmember Lau seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The Mayor mentioned he will also be sending a letter of support.

Director Skinner presented a geological technical map that was created by a graduate student for Monsanto/Bayer with funds provided through a Kackley endowment. Bayer representative, Trent Clark explained to Director Skinner that they would like to partner with the City to produce the maps to be used as placemats at the local restaurants. Bayer and the endowment funds will pay to produce the maps with the City listed as a co-sponsor. Councilmember Lau moved to approve co-sponsoring the map, seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried.

Director Skinner also mentioned that he had a brief discussion with Mr. Clark about lighting the trees on S Hill which is Monsanto/Bayer property and it sounded favorable.

Director Skinner requested three probationary wage increases. A letter of recommendation for Rick Hill was submitted by his supervisor pointing out the good job he is doing as the City’s mechanic and that he just successfully completed his commercial driver’s license testing. Mr. Hill would be increased to a PW4-10 on the City’s wage scale. Director Skinner commended Celeste Billman the City’s Recreation Director for doing a really good job and mentioned he has received no complaints regarding recreation. Mrs. Billman would increase to a PW4-7. Director Skinner also commended Justin Hansen the Public Works Supervisor for doing a really good job and managing his team well. Mr. Hansen would increase to a PW9-5. Councilmember Goode moved to approve the wage increases as presented, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Goode mentioned there are two planning and zoning positions open due to one member moving out of town and another taking an early retirement. He asked the Mayor and Council if they knew anyone who may be interested. Councilmember Lau mentioned that the State code only requires members to live in the County and suggested
changing the City's ordinance to reflect this. The Council discussed and agreed to amend the code to allow members of the County to serve on the City Planning and Zoning Commission.

Councilmember Lau moved to approve entering into executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(1)(b) to consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of a public officer, employee or staff member. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. A roll call showed the following vote:

Those voting aye: Robert Lau
                      Jon Goode
                      Scott Gambles

Those voting nay: none

Absent: Mitch Hart

Motion Carried.

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

Councilmember Goode moved to approve soliciting request for proposals (RFP) for the position of City Attorney, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. All in favor, motion carried. The Council agreed to publish in the local paper only and setting the submittal deadline for January 11th, 2019 and review and discuss the RFP's at the second meeting in January.

Councilmember Lau moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm, seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 2ND DAY OF JANUARY, 2019.

_____________________________________
Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk