
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00PM BY JAMES R. SMITH, MAYOR.

ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT: JAMES R. SMITH, MAYOR
MITCHELL J. HART, PRES.
JON D. GOODE
ROBERT M. LAU
SCOTT K. GAMBLES

EXCUSED:

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Steele
Georgia Brown
Kathy Ray
Bob Dierks
Tonya Kenyon
Steven Harrison

The invocation was given by Georgia Brown, Mayor Smith then led everyone in the 'Pledge of Allegiance'.

Mayor Smith introduced Robert O. Dierks the new full time minister for the Hope Lutheran Church. Mr. Dierks thanked the Mayor and noted that he plans to support the community anyway he can and hopes that the City would reach out to him if something is needed. Mr. Dierks explained that he will be here regularly on Sundays but also on other days as he is trying to initiate support of a backpack/school supply program for kids in need. He expressed that it was an honor to be here and serve in Soda Springs.

Mayor Smith informed the City Council that they may have another vicious dog hearing to preside over and cautioned the Councilmembers that prior conversations regarding the incident would preclude them from voting on the issue. The Mayor also let the Council know that the Community Leadership meeting regarding water quality with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency was scheduled for May 18th, 2017 at 5:30pm at City Hall. He explained this meeting will be for community leaders and medical professionals and a broader public meeting will be held at a later date. The Mayor also mentioned that some property owners are continuing to have problems with ground water and it may have to do with ancient streams which Director Skinner is researching. The Mayor also mentioned that the Idaho State University (ISU) Adult Success Center was hosting an open house on April 26th from 11am to 7pm at the Hooper Business Complex. He stated unfortunately he would be out of town and expressed his appreciation for ISU providing services in our community and encouraged the council to support the event.

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Goode stated he had reviewed and noted no changes and so moved to dispense with the reading and
approve the April 5th, 2017 minutes in their current draft form. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The pre-paid accounts payable for April were reviewed. Councilmember Gambles moved to accept and approve the accounts payable for the period of April 1st – 17th, 2017, seconded by Councilmember Hart. Councilmember Goode asked about the Caselle W-2/1099 software cost and the payments made to Jeff’s Body Repair for police car repairs. Clerk Vorwaller explained that our current software didn’t support new W-2 formats and the new module will be a onetime cost and supported by the overall upgrade we are currently working on. She also explained that a police vehicle was damaged due to snow and ice, part of which was reimbursed by the City’s insurance along with the deductible amount being paid. Director Skinner also addressed the question about log poles for Kelly Park which repaired the wood fence west of the tennis courts. A vote on the motion to approve the accounts payable was held. All in favor, motion carried

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER FOR DETAIL)

The Mayor expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Economic Development Director, Kathy Ray and the 4 County Alliance of Southeastern Idaho (4CASI). Mrs. Ray reviewed the past year’s projects she has helped facilitate including a Gem Grant for the Cobblestone Hotel. She also invited everyone to attend the YourFIT event in Grace on April 20th which is a program funded by the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) to promote technical careers and educate parents and students in the technical fields that are in high-demand in the region. Mrs. Ray expressed her appreciation for the City’s past support and explained that it is time to get funding support for the upcoming year. She requested the City’s continued support even though the County has increased their commitment for 2018. A commitment letter will be needed by May 1st, 2017 for the 2018 program year.

Georgia Brown, representing the Friends of the Soda Springs City Park requested support from the City in the amount of $5,500. The pledge would be utilized to meet the total match needed to apply for a $100,000 Portneuf Health Foundation grant. Mrs. Brown explained that if they received the grant, the funds would be needed in 2018 but she would need a pledge letter by April 30th, 2017. The Mayor and Council discussed the estimated start date and whether the City’s support could be in in-kind work. Mrs. Brown stated it could be in-kind and also mentioned that the Friends of the Park hope also that the City will set aside additional funds in next year’s budget for the playground. Councilmember Goode moved to approve providing a pledge of $5,500 of which 50% will be in in-kind work as part of the match for the Portneuf Health Foundation grant for the all-inclusive playground to be expended in fiscal year 2018.

Mayor Smith administered the oath of office to Steve Harrison who was previously approved for reappointment to the Greater Soda Springs Community Development Board for a three year term. The Mayor thanked Mr. Harrison for being a leader in the group.

There was no citizen input at the designated time.
Mayor Smith presented proposed ordinance #666 increasing fines for driving on city property. He also pointed out that the code allows for authorized vehicles and special permission to be granted by the City to drive on City property. Councilmember Lau introduced Ordinance #666 entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, IDAHO, AMENDING SECTION 10.32.050 OF THE SODA SPRINGS MUNICIPAL CODE TO INCREASE THE FINE IMPOSED ON PERSONS VIOLATING CHAPTER 10.32 FOR DRIVING ON CITY PROPERTY; A motion was then made by Councilmember Hart and seconded by Councilmember Goode 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  
                    Robert Lau  
                    Jon Goode  
                    Scott Gambles
Those voting nay: none
Absent:        none

Motion Carried.
Clerk Vorwaller read Ordinance #666 by title. Councilmember Goode noted that the increased fine was appropriate to deter 4 wheelers and etc., from driving on the trails and where it is marked no motorized vehicles. Councilmember Hart then moved to approve the adoption of Ordinance #666, seconded by Councilmember Goode. A roll call showed the following vote:

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

Motion Carried.

(SEE ATTACHED COPY OF ORDINANCE #666 - ORIGINAL ON FILE)

Director Skinner presented the official award letter for the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) grant for $100,000. He reviewed the grant requirements which states the funds can’t be used for wages, property, engineering services and equipment. The funds will be available October 2017 and must be used by September 2018. The work must be performed by a contractor and provide documentation of expenditures along with before and after pictures. Councilmember Goode asked about contractor requirements and Davis-Bacon wages. Director Skinner stated it does not say that it requires Davis-Bacon wages. The proposed $500,000 project submitted was to cover asphalt costs for the water and sewer mainline replacement on 1st East Street. Councilmember Lau moved to approve accepting the LHTAC grant for $100,000 for FY 2018 and authorize the Mayor’s acceptance letter. Mayor Smith thanked Director Skinner and the others involved in helping to stretch the City’s dollar.

The Library improvements and the lighting projects were briefly reviewed. The lighting upgrade at the Library is complete and supplies for the front doors are ordered. Some issues with the Fire Department and overpass lighting are being worked out. The Mayor
discussed a pole that was removed due to damage on the corner by the Chevron and instructed Director Skinner to verify that the power is disconnected and is safely sealed off if not replacing. The crews are working on the street repairs and the City Hall parking lot is scheduled for mid-May. The sidewalk grinding is complete and the Council discussed the cost of the equipment needed. Director Skinner explained that it is the filter system that is costly.

Director Skinner presented the updated repair estimate for the Vactor sewer truck. The current cost of repairs by Metroquip is $112,000 to bring it back within standard specifications. Western States cost to rebuild the engine and replace the transmission would be $53,000 and a rental unit would cost $12,500 a month plus $4,000 delivery. Director Skinner reviewed the current mechanical issues including transmission problems, leaking seals, PTO issues and electrical problems. The total cost to refurbish the truck and two months rental would be $194,000. Councilmember Lau questioned the difference in Metroquip’s estimate from last time. Director Skinner reviewed the repair items and suggested they may be able to decrease it by $20,000 but it would still cost $170,000. Councilmember Goode suggested a good rule is if the repairs are less than 20% of the cost of new one than it is worth trying to get another year or two out of the piece of equipment but with these new estimates he is inclined to purchase a new one on the seven year lease. Councilmember Hart agreed but would like some research done to validate the price of the truck, comparing to other similar type trucks and verifying that it is the real bid that was submitted to Mountain Home. Councilmember Lau suggested looking at a used truck and stated he struggles with purchasing a $424,000 piece of equipment when small businesses have to get by. He also suggested that if the repairs had been done regularly over the past 14 years the truck may not be in the shape it is. Councilmember Lau expressed his disagreement with incurring this huge debt and it doesn’t address the City’s real issues. Councilmember Gambles expressed his concern about the reliability of the truck and how it is not something we can just rent somewhere else when needed. It needs to be a very reliable piece of equipment and he feels it is an important part of what is expected from the City. Mayor Smith clarified that the cost is split between water and sewer budgets. Councilmembers Hart, Gambles and Goode agreed they would like the pricing double checked. Director Skinner will do some homework in order for a decision to be made next meeting.

The upcoming clean-up week schedule was reviewed. Curbside pickup will be May 1st through 5th; the drop-off site at the City shop will be open two weeks May 1st through 12th along with one Saturday and extended hours the 2nd through 4th. Director Skinner also mentioned that the County landfill will be open to all county residents for free dumping for the two weeks. Mayor Smith asked that the schedule be advertised and also asked Director Skinner to send out clean-up letters once the clean-up week is over and everyone has had the opportunity to clean up their yards.

Councilmember Goode explained to the Mayor and Council the review and update of the City's Comprehensive Plan required of the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) by State Code. The last time it was updated was 2008 with an expectation of it being reviewed
every 10 years. Councilmember Goode pointed out the State Code is vague but the Comprehensive Plan is intended to be a road map and vision for the City’s future improvements and development. It is a guide for the P&Z as they evaluate zoning issues and decisions along with a guide for the Council to use to analyze actions, program budgets and help guide fiscal responsibilities. Attorney Nelson explained that anytime there is a request for a zone change the P&Z should be referring to the Comprehensive Plan to see if it is in compliance with the Plan. Councilmember Goode mentioned that Clerk Vorwaller and P&Z Secretary Ashley are trying to help facilitate the update and usage of the Plan. Councilmember Goode shared a University of Idaho study on the congruency of the cities and counties Comprehensive Plans with the State Code in which Soda Springs scored a 34. The City’s current plan meets the basic requirements but is in need of updated information and enhancements. Secretary Ashley will make a presentation at the next meeting on a possible grant to help with the update and the benefits of a more robust Comprehensive Plan. Councilmember Goode mentioned that the City paid $10,000 last time the plan was done and recommended the City be willing to spend some funds on professional assistance to help the volunteer Planning and Zoning Commission tackle this sizable expectation.

The Mayor and Council reviewed a request from Head Librarian Erickson to partner with Idaho Vocational Rehabilitation to provide a temporary library position to a resident. The position would be one hour a day, five days a week. It is Librarian Erickson’s understanding that the vocational program will pay for the individual’s wages for a certain amount of time and she suggested a six month commitment and then evaluate the position. Councilmember Goode suggested some guidelines be set in order to measure the success he also asked about workman’s compensation insurance. Councilmember Hart suggested matching the programs dollars and provide two hours of work a day. Mayor Smith explained that Librarian Erickson felt she could only find one hour of work a day for this individual. The Council supported and agreed to partner with the Idaho Vocational Rehabilitation and the clerk will check on the workman’s compensation insurance.

The Clerk presented some preliminary budget items which included estimated beginning fund balances and property tax revenue. The current budget forecast and upcoming Department requests will be reviewed in the next few weeks.

Councilmember Hart moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30pm, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 3RD DAY OF MAY, 2017.

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James R. Smith, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk