

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD JANUARY 4TH, 2023.

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

ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT: AUSTIN W. ROBINSON, MAYOR
 MITCHELL J. HART, PRES.
 RODNEY WORTHINGTON
 SCOTT K. GAMBLES

EXCUSED: RYAN CARPENTER

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Steele Alan Skinner, Engineer
 Celeste Billman Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk
 Justin Hansen Gregg Haney, Attorney
 Dan Squires
 Hannah Cameron CeJay Golightly

The invocation was given by Mitch Hart, Mayor Robinson then led everyone in the 'Pledge of Allegiance'.

The Mayor noted everyone was in attendance except Councilmember Carpenter who was absent and excused.

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Hart moved to approve the minutes of December 7th, 2022 as presented and dispense with the reading. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable and payroll for December, 2022 were reviewed. Councilmember Gambles moved to approve two sets of accounts payable covering December 1st through December 31st, 2022 and the payroll for December 2022, seconded by Councilmember Hart. Councilmember Hart asked about the Police Department grants. Officer Golightly explained the Department can apply each year for State grant money that covers the officer's additional overtime and taxes for extra patrolling during high incident times of year. A vote on the motion was called. All in favor, motion carried.

(SEE ATTACHED PAYROLL & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS FOR DETAIL)

Attorney Haney reported the City had entered into a lease with Terah Jones of TJ Jones Design and she is in the building setting things up and will be opening immediately. He noted he did a walk through and checked off the inventory list. Councilmember Hart reported Bayer still may be interested in using the building and will work with Mrs. Jones. The lease is for two years and includes the entire building. Mrs. Jones plans to allow the building to be used for events, market and run the hotel along with her home design business. The Council discussed terms of the lease, the reason for two-years, termination options, the fact the Museum will remain intact and the upcoming Smithsonian exhibit next fall.

Engineer Skinner presented the preliminary drawings of the Ender's Building conceptual redesign which includes installing an elevator. He informed the Mayor and Council JHS Architects will be at the next meeting to give the full report with cost estimates.

The ongoing projects and future projects were reviewed by the Mayor and Council. Engineer Skinner reported Intermec will have the traveling bridge cranes installed at the Wastewater Plant in the next two weeks. He presented a proposed list of projects to submit letters of interest (LOI's) for grant funding and asked for input from the Council and Department Head's. The challenge will be coming up with cost estimates. He noted funds for additional types of projects were noticed today and Councilmember Hart explained how they have been working with the Association of Idaho Cities to be proactive in expressing the needs of the Cities. The granting agency has suggested the Cities should apply for everything needed even if it doesn't exactly fit within the allowed project descriptions. Engineer Skinner noted the State has budgeted but not started design to rebuild 2nd South Street/Highway 30 in 2025 and he plans to submit for grant funding for that project later and will have to get engineering done. Councilmember Worthington asked about the final repairs on the Fire Station. Engineer Skinner stated he hasn't been able to find a contractor to do the little bit of inside work left.

During the time for citizen input resident Justin Hansen suggested the City consider developing a sledding hill to give youth and adults more activities in the winter. He suggested an area behind Hooper Park might work without too many resources to develop it. The Mayor thanked Mr. Hansen for his good comments and suggestions. Councilmember Worthington thanked the Street Department for their efforts of cleaning up the snow. They have done a really good job and it is appreciated. There are over 100 miles driven to clear the City streets each time it snows. Director Hansen noted the equipment is very old but holding up and he is working hard to find some replacement vehicles. It is really tricky right now trying to find new equipment.

The Mayor, Council and Staff discussed at length the City's role in supporting non-City Recreation traveling teams. The City is currently facilitating use of the School gyms for the traveling teams. Recreation Director Billman expressed her struggle with the traveling teams demands for gym time and the added time it takes working with them. She explained how she sees the benefits of the traveling teams and wants to support the opportunity for the kids but has concerns about the City not being compensated for her time and the divide it creates with participants of the City programs. Councilmember Hart suggested the City continue to work with the traveling teams because it is an investment in the kids but make sure they understand their needs come second to the City programs and they will have to cover the cost to the City to provide this service. Councilmember Worthington agreed he wants the City to be supportive of the youth but has a huge concern about subsidizing non-resident participants and the liability issues. He noted the City's purpose is to provide recreation to all but not to a level of elitism. Councilmember Gambles will work with Director Billman to decide on the right amount to charge per team, per season to help schedule gym use for the traveling teams.

The cargo container code amendment was briefly discussed. Clerk Vorwaller mentioned it would be noticed in the newspaper and is scheduled for a public hearing on February 1st, 2023. Councilmember Hart asked the Council to please review.

Clerk Vorwaller presented a proposed timeline for hiring and training of new City Hall staff in preparation of upcoming retirements. The Mayor, Council and Staff discussed at length. Councilmember Hart stated he is in general, comfortable with the proposed plan but would like to review and discuss at the next meeting.

Councilmember Hart moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:15pm, seconded by Councilmember Worthington. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2023.

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk