

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD JANUARY 18TH, 2023.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00PM BY MITCHELL J. HART, COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT: MITCHELL J. HART, PRES.
RYAN CARPENTER
RODNEY WORTHINGTON
SCOTT K. GAMBLES

EXCUSED: AUSTIN W. ROBINSON, MAYOR

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Steele Alan Skinner, Engineer
Austin E. Robinson Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk
Hanna Cameron Gregg Haney, Attorney
Mike Nally
Chief Shaw II

The invocation was given by Ryan Carpenter, Council President Hart then led everyone in the 'Pledge of Allegiance'.

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Gambles moved to approve the prior meeting minutes of January 18th, 2023 and dispense with the reading. Councilmember Carpenter seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable were reviewed. Councilmember Worthington moved to approve the accounts payable dated January 1st through January 16th, 2023, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. All in favor, motion carried.

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER FOR DETAIL)

Austin E. Robinson representing the Soda Springs Lions Club requested the City's annual support for the Distinguished Young Women's Program (DYW). He noted the City provided \$450 last year and asked the City to give \$500 this year if possible. He reminded the Council that all the funds collected go to scholarships for the girls. Councilmember Gambles moved to approve sponsoring the DYW program with \$500. Councilmember Carpenter seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Scott Lloyd, AIA, JHS Architects gave a detailed report on the feasibility of relocating City Hall to the Ender's building. He reviewed the existing use of the 4 floors of the building and provided a conceptual drawing of how the needed office space, to function as the City Hall, could be implemented into the existing historic building. The proposal included installing an elevator which he pointed out would be a great benefit for all the uses of the building. Mr. Lloyd suggested this really is the best use of the building to preserve it long term and putting the City offices there makes a lot of sense. There is also plenty of parking. The estimated construction costs including the elevator were \$643,000. The Council thanked

Mr. Lloyd for the well-done plan and presentation. Council President Hart added this is exactly what the City needed in order to make a decision on what to do with the building.

There were no updates to the ongoing project list but Engineer Skinner reviewed the list of projects he has spent all his time on submitting "letters of interest" (LOI's) on, for the series of grants and loans available through the Department of Environmental Quality. The possible projects include \$5.5 million in water projects and \$4.4 million in sewer projects. The projects would be done in phases but the challenges will be getting the engineering needed and the fact the City's median income is too high to qualify for some of the funds. Councilmember Hart added he recently viewed a map of the state where previous funding has been received by county and very little has come to Caribou County.

Director Hansen presented snow plow replacement options and costs. He thanked the Council for letting him present this information and noted he has been talking about it for over a year. He shared he is trying to maintain an equipment replacement schedule and feels it is important to rotate out old equipment as needed and not wait for it all to hit at once. He mentioned he has exhausted a lot of his own time trying to find the best option for the city, recognizing the budget restraints. He located and inquired about eight different used snow plows, all which were sold before he had a chance to investigate them. So, there are supply and demand issues. He understands considering new is expensive but over time not always more than used with the repairs and maintenance needed on used equipment. He explained the City's current plows are similar to the State plows and not really what the City needs. Two are 1989's with a lot of wear and tear and hard to find parts for. Director Hansen noted using a co-op for purchasing eliminates the need for bids but he did reach out and get other quotes. He detailed the medium duty truck and adjustable plow that is only six inches smaller than the current ones but much more versatile and with 4-wheel drive. Councilmember Worthington asked if they have the ability to push the large amount of snow like the bigger ones. Director Hansen explained he will still retain two of the bigger trucks for wider streets and the airport and would like to get two of the new trucks. He presented a list detailing the options and upfitting packages including an 11-foot dump body with under tailgate spreader. He mentioned the new trucks would be used for more than just snow plowing like hauling moss, chip-n-seal and City clean-up. The quotes for class six trucks which have beefed up suspension were reviewed. He got package quotes and quotes for ordering the cab & chassis separate from the upfitting. He noted he spoke to the local truck dealer but they do not deal in medium duty trucks. The costs range from \$112,000 to \$130,000 per truck and the current budgeted amount will only cover 1 ½ trucks. Council President Hart suggested if this is what we need we will find the money. The options and needs were discussed at length. Council President Hart requested a review of the bidding requirements by the City Attorney and of the budget by the Clerk in order to make a decision next meeting. All supported getting what Director Hansen feels will be best, appreciates that they can be multi-use and expressed appreciation for his time in researching the options.

During Citizen input, new resident Hanna Cameron asked what was motivating the City to consider moving City Hall to the Enders Building. Council President Hart explained it was a way of preserving the museum which a large part of the community desires. Having City Hall there would provide a point of access to the building for the community. The City Hall could occupy the building fulltime and keep open the option to still lease out the restaurant and the hotel. He also mentioned the current City Hall building is needing repairs. Mike Nally, local resident and Soda Springs Nordic Ski Association representative thanked the City for the continued support of the Kelly Park ski trails and mentioned they are getting a lot more walkers and snow-shoers. He asked for the Council's input on what the City sees as the future needs of maintaining the trails because the SSNSA is currently looking at investing in two new snowmachines to maintain the trails. He added a comment regarding the Enders Building and encouraged the Council to be decisive and make a decision because it is costing everyone to maintain the building. Councilmember Worthington thanked Mr. Nally for his efforts, expressing appreciation for the volunteers who groom the trails which is an amazing asset.

The City Hall personnel hiring schedule and wages were reviewed and discussed. Council President Hart stated he was comfortable with the Clerk's proposed training schedule and noted the Mayor will take the lead in the process due to the Clerk's position being an appointed position. The Council reviewed staff responsibilities, the upcoming meeting schedule, the Mayors attendance and the wage range for the positions. Councilmember Worthington moved to approve implementing the proposed schedule of replacing City Hall staff, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. All in favor, motion carried. Councilmember Worthington thanked Council President Hart for putting together the additional information and combined schedule.

Councilmember Gambles moved to approve entering into executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(1)(f) to communicate with legal counsel regarding probable litigation. Councilmember Carpenter seconded the motion. A roll call showed the following vote:

Those voting aye:	Mitch Hart	Those voting nay:	none
	Scott Gambles		
	Ryan Carpenter	Absent:	none
	Rod Worthington		

Motion Carried.

Councilmember Carpenter moved to exit executive session, seconded by Councilmember Worthington. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Carpenter moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40pm, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 1ST DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk