

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD FEBRUARY 16TH, 2022.

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.
RYAN CARPENTER
RODNEY WORTHINGTON
SCOTT K. GAMBLES

EXCUSED:

ALSO PRESENT:	Mark Steele	Alan Skinner, Engineer
	Evan & Marla Wilson	Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk
	Lynda Lewis	Gregg Haney, Attorney
	Debbie Pugmire	
	Austin E. Robinson	Chief Scott Shaw II
	Dan Squires	CeJay Golightly
	Justin Hansen	

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

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Hart moved to approve the minutes of February 2nd, 2022 as presented and dispense with the reading. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable were reviewed. Councilmember Gambles moved to approve the accounts payable dated February 1<sup>st</sup> through February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 seconded by Councilmember Hart. Councilmember Worthington asked some questions regarding the recent financial statement sent out by Clerk Vorwaller and he asked how the fuel budgets were set. It was explained fuel is charged to departments based on a historic percentage except for the Police Department and Animal Control who keep track of gallons used. Director of City Services, Justin Hansen commented how he would like to have a better management system like a card reader that would track all department usage. Mayor Robinson suggested information on a new fuel system could be discussed at budget time. Councilmember Hart added the cost for fuel is insignificant compared to the overall budget but if there is a security issue then we need to close those gaps. A vote on the motion to approve the accounts payable was called. All in favor, motion carried.

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER FOR DETAIL)

During the time for citizen input Evan Wilson, General Manager for John Adams Ford updated the Mayor and Council on some changes in the holding company's structure. He explained a breach of trust that took place among the partners resulting in John Adams splitting from the company. The new owner will be KC Wheeler who prefers to remain

behind the scenes and the local dealership will be operated by Evan Wilson. Mr. Wilson stated it was an easy decision to rename the store Caribou Ford considering the history. All the same staff remains at the dealership and they all look forward to continue working with the community and supporting local events. He also mentioned the expansion with the truck shop and car wash being close to getting the occupancy certificate and they will be hiring 3 to 4 new employees.

The Mayor added to citizen input stressing the importance of supporting local businesses who in turn support local programs and schools.

Engineer Skinner gave a brief project update showing pictures of the rewind on the rotor for the hydro plant. It is ready to be installed and BAT Electric is looking at delivery schedules for equipment. He reported he is still working on putting together the bid package for the 46kV transmission line project and waiting on information from WesTech for the bridge crane project. Councilmember Gambles asked for clarification on the bridge crane project. Engineer Skinner explained WesTech sold the City the Aerotor equipment package that the bridge crane is needed to help maintain. The Park Ridge housing development plans to start construction by the end of March if weather permits. Councilmember Hart added the Avista Edge internet company is in contact with the developer and pursuing the new housing project as a pilot program for their internet. The twin homes are a 3-phase project with 12 units per phase. The goal is to get the first 12 framed in and a couple on the market this year. Engineer Skinner mentioned recently speaking with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant representatives who are reviewing the City's projects submitted as letters of interest. He suggested the City may need to do a wage survey to try and get under the median income in order to qualify for the USDA programs. The hope is to separate the outlying subdivisions from the City's income survey. The City has never qualified before because we are always over the median income requirement.

The proposed infrastructure projects and priorities were discussed. Councilmember Carpenter asked about the North 3<sup>rd</sup> East sewer repair/upgrade. It is estimated at \$450,000, is approximately two blocks or 1100 feet and includes 11 houses with the line through the back yards. Engineer Skinner stated they are looking at pipe bursting and minimal excavation but there will be manholes every 300 feet. Councilmember Worthington asked about project prioritizing. It was agreed the 4<sup>th</sup> South Street project would be the least priority and finishing the Ledge Creek transmission line should be more of a priority. The details of work already completed on the Ledge Creek line was reviewed. Supervisor Squires mentioned there will be a significant amount of rock to deal with. Engineer Skinner estimates \$200,000 to complete. Councilmember Hart suggested it could be done with operating funds over two years. There is \$100,000 in the budget for the Formation Transmission line but it was suggested it could be used toward the Ledge Creek line. Engineer Skinner stated the projects submitted for funding total \$7,000,000. Councilmember Hart suggested the City has staff hired to prioritize the projects and do the planning and the Council's job is to make sure the funds are available.

Attorney Haney reported he was on the Caribou County Commissioners agenda to discuss the Fire Station ownership. He explained to the new Councilmembers that the west side of the current building is owned by the City and the east two bays are owned by the County but the entire building has been being used solely by the City for many years. Attorney Haney will explain to the Commissioners the repairs needed and ask if they will help with the repairs or sell or gift the City the part of the building owned by them.

Attorney Haney reported he was still waiting on the liquor license transfer from the previous Enders Building lessee and also for a call back from the Idaho State Police regarding the license. He also mentioned the demolition by the restoration company was complete and they are starting the repairs. A steam vent was also discovered to be venting into the basement that needs to be rerouted too outside.

The Mayor asked the Council to proceed with nominations and election of a Council President. Councilmember Gambles nominated Councilmember Mitch Hart and stated he does an awesome job. There were no other nominations and the rest of the Council agreed to elect Councilmember Hart to continue as the Council President. Councilmember Carpenter expressed appreciation for Council President Hart sharing his wisdom.

Mayor Robinson detailed the list of Council assignments he is recommending with the help of Councilmember Hart. The assignments were accepted as follows:

- Mayor
  - Police
  - Fire
  - Administration/Legal
  - Clerk/Treasurer
  - Department Heads – Water/Wastewater, Streets, Power, Parks, Recreation, Library, Engineering/Planning, ...
- Mitch
  - P&Z
  - Power
  - Enders
  - Safety
  - SICO Board of Directors
  - AIC Board of Directors
- Scott
  - Airport
  - Parks
  - Recreation
  - Shooting Range
  - Tree City
  - Finances/Budget/Audit Review
  - Rates/Fees/Services
- Rod
  - Library

- Human Resources
- Benefits
- Economic Development / 4CASI
- Chamber of Commerce
- Grants
- Ryan
  - Water
  - Wastewater
  - Streets
  - Garbage
  - GSSCDC / CDF

Councilmember Carpenter offered to help with the Tree City Committee as a former certified arborist.

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

Councilmember Gambles moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:35pm, seconded by Councilmember Worthington. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 2ND DAY OF MARCH, 2022.

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Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk