

Hart suggested it was going to get even busier with the upcoming construction season and projects he was aware of. Councilmember Worthington asked what the estimated arrival time was for the officers when dispatched. Chief Shaw stated the average response time is two minutes. Councilmember Carpenter asked what the Police Department's needs were. The Chief reiterated the biggest need is to address the wage discrepancy. He noted with new in-car computer equipment and the new vehicles coming the next thing they will probably need is body cameras due to courts and juries expecting video of arrests. The concern, and hopeful new legislation on the requirement to store the camera footage was discussed. Currently for some types of offenses it is required to be kept up to 100 years which can be very costly. Councilmember Worthington stressed with the increase and complexity of crimes it is important to keep the officers safe with updated equipment and safety gear understanding the high costs. The Chief reported the new bullet proof/tactical vests recently purchased were about \$1200 a piece and he has been trying to incrementally build up and upgrade the safety equipment. The Department was also able to attain NARCAN to protect the officers and citizen in an overdose situation through a grant program. He noted the Department's Data Manager, Jennie Rasmussen recently held a class and brought the officers' training up-to-date for the Idaho Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (ILETS). The Chief mentioned he will need to continue to use ILETS so the officers can access driver histories and registrations. He also pointed out the efficiency of the new system automatically generating citations and accident reports. Councilmember Carpenter asked when the department will need to replace patrol carbines and the need for suppression to protect the officers hearing in case of discharge within the vehicle. The Chief explained updating the officers patrol rifles is a want right now and he has been focused more on the needs of the officers and the department. Also, due to the pandemic, the officers' training has been behind but he is working on developing their own instructors which will be more cost effective to keep up with the new specific training requirements. Councilmember Hart shared his concerns about legislation that will create more hardships on Cities to afford the increased requirements for equipment and training for Police and Fire departments. The Mayor mentioned the Police Department has a new reserve officer. Chief Shaw explained the new reserve is originally from Rexburg but is now a paramedic/fire fighter in Las Vegas that comes here to get away from the City 2 to 3 days a month. He is a great asset and is sharing a lot of experience with the department. Councilmember Worthington pointed out how fortunate the community is to have professional law enforcement available within two minutes, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The Council thanked the Police Department and Chief Shaw for the good job they are going.

During the time for citizen input Mayor Robinson reported that Soda Springs High School student, Lizzie Beutler who recently gave the recycling presentation to the City Council had placed gold with her project at a competition.

Attorney Haney updated the Mayor and Council on the transfer of the Ender's liquor license. He explained he found out the City had to request the transfer and the process requires the City to provide a "doing business as" (DBA) name listed on the City's seller's permit. Attorney Haney suggested delaying turning in the required documents as the City

pursues options for the building. Councilmember Hart noted there is currently three interested parties inquiring about the building. He detailed some of the options and pointed out the repairs and maintenance need to be completed. Attorney Haney reported the work should be done in two to three weeks and the building had been rekeyed and is secure. Councilmember Hart suggested the Council make a decision as soon as possible and it may be valuable to update the 2019 appraisal for a cost of approximately \$1100. He mentioned it was a generous gift but it has been a struggle to manage and the City is not in the restaurant and hotel business. Councilmember Hart added if none of the options work out, he would really like to see the City at least staff the museum and have it open to the public from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Attorney Haney again mentioned he will meet with the County Commissioners on March 14th to discuss the Fire Station ownership. He hopes to take a prepared deed with legal description. The meeting is at 11am and Councilmember Hart stated he would try to attend.

Engineer Skinner reported on the LED light bulb program. He explained he had found a supplier that will ship four packs directly to the City residents and businesses for around \$16 a pack and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) rebate program would reimburse the City \$5 a bulb. The Mayor and Council supported going ahead with the program.

Engineer Skinner reported he is continuing to work with Westech on the bridge crane project for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Engineer Skinner explained the bridge crane is not being designed to lift the whole aerotor out of the basin but to just lift one side to change bearings and then the other side to change bearings. Councilmember Carpenter asked about using the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the bridge crane project. Engineer Skinner stated it was not one of the projects submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to consider for the ARPA funds and the City can't get reimbursed for prior work or engineering before the grant money is approved. He mentioned other projects that could get be ready to move on fairly quickly if the funds become available. The proposed Main Street project was discussed and the Council suggested including curb, gutter and sidewalk. The Mayor believes it is worth the time to include all sidewalk, curb, lighting and signing stating if the City is going to invest in redoing the infrastructure on Main Street, then we need to redo it all to near perfect. Councilmember Hart suggested asking the County to partner on the Main Street project with the ARPA funds they can get because they have a presence on Main Street.

Councilmember Hart asked for updates on the power transmission line, the Hydro Plant, the Ledge Creek transmission line and the Airport. Engineer Skinner reported Wasatch Electric is looking at the power transmission line project and it could be a change order to their current contract and not require bidding. He also mentioned there is a contractor that could be hired to just drill and set the poles. The Hydro Plant work is still coming together. The turbine is done and now waiting on delivery of parts for the control panel. Engineer Skinner stated he assumed the Ledge Creek transmission line would be budgeted

for the next fiscal year. Councilmember Hart suggested moving on it now. Director Hansen also reported he is continuing to work on the equipment replacements. Engineer Skinner also noted the City has a \$40,000 grant for the Airport to be used within three years and an idea for the City's in-kind match was to borrow the County's equipment and do the crack seal in house. Director Hansen stated there are a lot of cracks. Councilmember Hart also asked about getting the seasonal workers hired. Director Hansen reported the 5 or 6 positions will be advertised soon and he plans to do interviews and hire quickly to hopefully not lose to other summer jobs. The positions will pay \$9.50 to \$11 an hour and could pay a more mature, experienced individual up to \$15 an hour. Councilmember Gambles questioned if the wage was high enough to entice interest in the positions.

Councilmember Hart moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:10pm, seconded by Councilmember Worthington. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 23RD DAY OF MARCH, 2022.

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk