

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD APRIL 5TH, 2023.

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

ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT: AUSTIN W. ROBINSON, MAYOR
MITCH HART, PRES. via video
RYAN CARPENTER
RODNEY WORTHINGTON
SCOTT K. GAMBLES

EXCUSED:

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Steele Alan Skinner, Engineer
Justin Hansen Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk
Dan Squires Gregg Haney, Attorney
Hannah Cameron
Brock Byram Chief Scott Shaw II

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

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Carpenter moved to approve the minutes of March 15th, 2023 and dispense with the reading. Councilmember Worthington seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable were reviewed. Councilmember Gambles moved to approve the accounts payable of March 14th through March 31st, 2023, seconded by Councilmember Worthington. Councilmember Gambles asked if the Pocatello Regional Transit (PRT) payment is an annual amount. The Clerk verified it was an annual support payment for the local PRT bus. Councilmember Carpenter asked about the payment to Rocky Mountain Boiler for service and training. Attorney Haney and Staff discussed and was not sure of what training took place but will check on it and report back. It was also reported that the Fire Station repairs were complete and look good and this is the final payment to Lott Builders for the repairs. A vote on the motion to approve the accounts payable was held. All in favor, motion carried.

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER FOR DETAIL)

Updates on the ongoing projects were reviewed. The final police vehicles have been received and still just finishing up the cameras. Engineer Skinner mentioned the Library experienced some water damage due to ice buildup. He noted ICRMP is involved and the repairs are being done. Councilmember Carpenter asked for an update on the pressure reducing valve (PRV) project. Engineer Skinner stated he will get an update on the Water Facilities Planning Study amendment that is due to the Department of Environmental Quality by June and review what can be done with the current budgeted funds. Councilmember Carpenter encouraged the engineers to stay in contact with Supervisor

Squires regarding the PRV project. Councilmember Carpenter also pointed out the Fire Department's self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA's) on the project list have been received and is complete. Councilmember Hart and Staff briefly discussed the end of the legislative session and any effects on the potential funding available for projects. Engineer Skinner stated it was announced the funds have been released for some of the 2022 applications. Director Hansen gave an update on the new Kelly Park playground equipment noting all that is left is paving the walkway and installing the recognition stone. Supervisor Squires reported the headworks heater is in and just waiting on a thermostat. Councilmember Worthington asked about the Hydro Plants. Director Hansen stated they both ran all winter but he is still waiting on the digital display screen and connection to the internet.

Engineer Skinner shared an update to the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) power sales agreement. The revision doesn't really affect the City because it has to do with Tier II Power which would be over 5 megawatts and the City has never gotten close to that usage. The City's average usage and forecast was reviewed. Councilmember Hart noted even the addition of the proposed 345-unit housing development would not put the City's usage over the 5 megawatts. The City's agreement is good through 2028 and then will negotiate a new contract.

Engineer Skinner also informed the Council of the 300-mile Boardman to Hemmingway (B2H) transmission line project which is a new 500kV transmission line from Oregon to Idaho and the City of Soda Springs is listed as one of six preference customers to be served by the new line. Engineer Skinner explained how the City currently pays additionally for transmission. He hasn't seen anything that suggests the City will receive additional charges due to the project but just wanted the Mayor and Council to be aware. The Council and Staff discussed the benefits of being a "power city" which means the City owns and operates its own power utility within the city limits. Councilmember Hart also mentioned micro-nuclear facility projects are getting traction in the region and may be on the horizon.

During citizen input the Mayor wished everyone a Happy Easter and encouraged the community to support local businesses who support our schools and groups. Councilmember Gambles gave a shout out to all the Department Heads thanking them for for always handling any issue that comes up.

Mayor Robinson proclaimed the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month throughout the community, calling upon citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the community in which we live. All children are precious and we all have a responsibility to protect them.

Councilmember Gambles moved to approve entering into executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(1)(a) to consider hiring a public officer. 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 Gambles. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Hart stated in light of the upcoming staff retirements he moved to authorize Mayor Robinson to extend offers for the open positions within the budget and time frames as proposed. Councilmember Carpenter seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Worthington moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:55pm, seconded by Councilmember Hart. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 19TH DAY OF APRIL, 2023.

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk