

Minutes Of the Main Street Project Special Meeting of The Mayor and City Council of The City of Soda Springs, Caribou County, Idaho Held April 25th, 2024.

Meeting And Agenda Notices Are Posted at City Hall 24 Hours in Advance Pursuant to The Idaho Code.

The Meeting Commenced Promptly At 6:00 P.M.

Roll Call Showed the Following Present:

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor
Ryan Carpenter
Rod Worthington
Paul Gritton

Absent: Mitch Hart, Council Pres.

Also Present:

Andrea Haderlie, Clerk	Kristen Fernandez	Terah Jones
Alan Skinner, Engineer	Rian Fernandez	Fay Anderson
Justin Hansen, Director	Melissa Gallegos	Steve Jones
Dan Squires, Director	Scott Palmer	Brandon Hall
Chelsey Davids, P&Z Sec.	Mike Attebury	Shantilly Davis
Irvin Christensen	Tamra Henesh	Lorraine Myers
Lucetta and Kelly Holt	Bill Parris	
John Ward & Shannon	Bob & Camille Monk	
Whitney	Aaron & Jennie Lott	
Gary Lemar	Bryce Somsen	
Wendy Young	Rowdy Larkins	
Camille Petersen	Jeff Collins	

Mayor Robinson officially opened the special meeting at 6:00 P.M. Councilman Carpenter and Councilman Worthington were present in person, while Councilman Gritton participated remotely via GoTo Meeting. Mayor Robinson noted that Councilman Hart was absent but had been excused from the meeting.

Mayor Robinson explained to the audience that this was a special meeting to discuss the reconstruction of the Main Street of the City of Soda Springs and the conversation with questions that needed to be contained in that subject matter. As we go forward, he will give a brief project description of how Main Streets in small rural America are a big thing and are disappearing. They're almost a thing of the past. We have the opportunity to revitalize ours and put more energy into it with the updates of the sidewalks, gutters, water main lines, water services, and updated shut-offs, as well as Fire hydrants, new LED street lighting, and upgrading to 24 LED lights. That's our hope and goal, and we want to thank everyone for attending. He explained that they will address people's questions and concerns as we go through them. The State of Idaho has awarded 37 grants in District 5 of 107 communities. We were awarded one of the \$1.5 million in a grant to redo our Main Street. The state will cover it, and we will put contribute additional funds, which means about \$600,000 of our own money. We have that budget throughout projects. And this fits those criteria. We anticipate a schedule for construction work to be started and to the point of completion.

Engineer Skinner explained we had a pretty big conference; we had seven contractors pick up plans, and seven sets have gone out for bids, which are due at noon on Monday. We plan to have a

letter of recommendation to the City Council on Wednesday; then, we can lay out the schedule. He doesn't think there's any way construction will start before the first of June; it may be later than that, depending on what the contractors propose. The estimated construction time for the project is between 90 and 120 days. The contractors estimate it. That gives them 30 days for bids, due dates, and council acceptance to get their performance bonds in place. Mayor Robinson opened the floor for comments and questions.

Ward Whitney questioned what the plan was. You will do it in sections, like on the west side of the road? Are you going to do the east side? Engineer Skinner replied, If you look at the plans, especially sheets 101 through 103, the new sewer lines and water line locations are all on the west half. We think we can keep traffic going through that part of construction; there are roughly 38 feet between the center of the road and the curb on the east side, and with no parking, we would have to eliminate parking. And we will probably keep two-way traffic going until we start doing tie-ins for individual lines. We plan on 250 to 300-foot sections for the sidewalk curb and gutter, you know, we're doing in front of the senior center, and then we'll do from the alleyway to Stockman's, we'll try to split that up, and we get everyone back in service. We plan not to disturb the faces of your buildings; we will cut around them and replace the sidewalk. You're going right to the face of the building if there's anything built on or cut in two inches and pour the concrete up there.

Lucetta Holt questioned whether the Senior Center had plans to redo the stairs at the front of their building. They wonder if they can piggyback on the project and have the contractor do the stairs when they redo the sidewalk; they are willing to pay for it. She mentioned by our thought process, just because we don't want to tear it up and put new in and then have you guys come to the sidewalk and have there be a conflict, and we prefer to work with the city, the stairs are in pretty bad shape, they need to come out.

Irvin Christensen asked if people would use that back alley behind his drugstore for stuff to move around and whatnot. He wondered if something broke up the asphalt, like too much traffic, would the city be willing to repair it? Mayor Robinson stated Yes if it's related to the project.

Mike Attebury questioned if the water would be off continuously and how long it would be. Engineer Skinner explained new lines would be parallel; you won't have any sewer or water interruption until we do service lines. We'll do business by business for sewer and water lines. Typically, we'll pressure up the new line, do the tap, tie it in, and work your way down the road. Director Squires commented he would say it is 2 to 4 hours.

Lucetta Holt questioned whether stipulations in your grant require sewer and water in the facilities to be updated. Mayor Robinson stated that those had to be done. Lucetta questioned what we were talking about regarding the property line. Engineer Skinner commented that sewer lines and water lines to the building on water go from the curb stop to the building, and we're getting unit rates from the contractors so that we can present that to you next week with water and sewer and the anticipated cost. Businesses don't have to go with the contractor. But usually, the price is better. And they can do it just by following the flow of the job. Lucetta questioned if that cost was on the business owner in this case. But a stipulation is required. Engineer Skinner commented that he thought it would be required so we didn't have to dig up the sidewalks again. Councilman Carpenter clarified this isn't a grant stipulation. This will be a stipulation on the city's part. The city will finance the business owner for three years. We can break up that cost for water and sewer lines into 36 monthly payments with no interest, and the city will pay the contractor. We're trying to make it easy and less hit on your pocketbook instantly. We all know that this is a big deal, especially coming into this season. We're trying to minimize the economic impact on all of our businesses, and this will be a jumpstart to revitalization. There's no good time to do it, but sooner is better than later.

Rowdy Larkins, building inspector of Caribou County, commented he agrees, and he thinks there's something that needs to be done; if there are some businesses that have already had those

lines updated and stuff like that, are you going to address it when you get into it, and see? Mayor Robinson replied yes, and Dan has a plan for that. Director Squires commented they would evaluate them as we went. Some have been replaced already, but not to the city standards. They will have to be replaced, but some have been replaced but will not have to be replaced. We're just going to address that as needed. Rowdy questioned as we went along; we can't predict the day or when businesses will be for the rest of the courthouse. He doesn't know if we'd be able to get a heads-up, but we can at least try to give the court's notice so that they don't plan to do trials. Mayor Robinson commented that the city will do its best to keep in communication as this project moves along as it is construction, you know, even go from Plan A, sometimes to Plan D. We plan on communicating with you as we go along. Rowdy Larkins asked if there is anything else the rest of us can do to help you guys streamline this. Councilman Carpenter commented on shops downtown. Rowdy Larkins questioned if there was any signage or stuff like that on parking. Mayor Robinson stated Yeah, if you can communicate with your patrons where you would like them to park and help us to try to keep cars as much as we can off that road as we are doing the project, that'd be fantastic.

Engineer Skinner stated a couple of things that we didn't mention. We are in the process of getting a permit for under the railroad tracks and replacing the line to Hooper, and there are going to be storm sewers on both sides of the road to take all the water and put it into the storm sewer out here on second south. That should help a bunch on ice in the winter. Kelly Holt questioned whether the businesses would be responsible for the tagline between the main and the company and whether the city would take ownership.

Engineer Skinner stated it's from the curb stop out, but the direct sewer line goes to the main. The Business owner will retain ownership of that. Ward Whitney questioned who owned the sidewalk. Engineer Skinner mentioned the City owns it, but the property owners maintain it. Mayor Robinson stated he doesn't necessarily agree with how it's been done and thinks we must reevaluate some of our code regarding sidewalks.

Lucetta Holt voiced concern that the parking will be a staging area for all of the equipment digging up Main Street; some people don't park on-site, but we have a large parking lot. Will there be equipment being parked in our parking lot? Engineer Skinner mentioned a staging area, possibly at the County Shop, for the equipment. Councilman Carpenter stated we'll ensure our contractors know that they can park anything in the construction zone or that they must be off the street.

Bryce Somsen questioned the railroad and what they said. Engineer Skinner mentioned we're working back and forth on the permit. Somsen asked if that grant was going to replace the utilities. Engineer Skinner mentioned the grant doesn't do the utility, but they will pay for storm sewer lighting, curb and gutter sidewalk, and asphalt. Rowdy Lakins questioned utilities. Water and sewer will be affected, but the power should be all right unless they mess up and hit something. Engineer Skinner said we're bidding on the project to conduit underground power to the lighting system and overhead to evaluate which one to go with. We're having a bid both ways.

Ward Whitney questioned four tens or five days. Engineer Skinner stated five days a week. Mayor Robinson commented that the city has even anticipated rerouting the 4th of July parade.

Lucetta Holt commented if the water has to be turned off, how will that be communicated? Engineer Skinner stated they would be given notice ahead of time for shut-offs at meetings or in writing.

Councilman Carpenter stated that we'll ensure plenty of notice if it's just an informal and informational meeting. The last thing we want to do is keep anybody in the dark, and nothing is more frustrating than showing up at your house and tearing the road out. He stated we know we will affect downtown, but we'd like to do our best and our due diligence to ensure it's as painless as possible. Mayor Robinson said he meets with the department Director weekly, and this has been the subject of discussion for at least the last month. We are communicating with each other, and we're just trying to

anticipate how it will go. He is excited about the opportunity to have state funds for the project that will change the whole landscape and industry. It's an excellent opportunity for Soda Springs.

Director Hansen said it's great that your business owners have shown up here. He knows from being a business owner in the past that these things are concerning, and you guys have bills to pay. For a project like this, we have to do it in a way that's sensitive to you as business owners while at the same time making sure that we do the project right from the city's standpoint. One thing we don't want to do is to do it and not do it right. There will be frustrating times; he can tell you from being the street supervisor that there will probably be confusion and frustration. He would recommend that if you have concerns, bring them to City Hall, and they'll get them to us to come and we will try to help where we can. That is so much more than social media. We won't see everything, and you guys will see things that we don't, so we need to be notified if you have an issue or a problem. We will do our best to respond to help where we can because we're going to have equipment going, we're going to have traffic going, and there're going to be times when it might be a little confusing, too.

Ward Whitney questioned whether the city would designate some parking areas during this construction site. Mayor Robinson replied that the city-owned all that property behind the Enders building, down to the Geyser Park area. There was City Park. Rowdy Larkins asked if they were doing the west side first and then going down the east side. You can park on one side and drive down the other side. Mayor Robinson replied that they plan to keep at least two lanes of traffic on each side until the different lines are installed on the other side of the street. Tamra Henesh explained that my concern was parking on that side of the street. On that side, they have the back entrance; you don't have a back entrance for the public so that we would be relying on parking at the City Park to park.

Councilman Carpenter mentioned speaking with one contractor. One of their ideas was to leave half the sidewalk still concrete, and until they need to remove it and there's still foot traffic access, you still have that five-foot sidewalk. Whoever gets the bid will do their best to minimize impact; we've made that abundantly clear. This is a pretty sensitive area, and for thought, it would be much appreciated. There will be some days when it's not fun to drive down that road, but hopefully, that will be the exception and not the rule.

Lucetta Holt asked if there will be handicap access in your curb and gutter. Engineer Skinner stated that everything would be ADA-compliant. Shannon Whitney asked if they would make the parking spots bigger when construction is complete. Councilman Worthington requested to talk about the lighting on Main Street. Engineer Skinner mentioned we'd increased the number of polls from 9 to 24 LED lights. We won't get full coverage in the center of the road, but we will get good coverage up and down the sidewalks without using much power and reaching out. They will be similar light poles on Main Street and be the same height. Fire hydrants will be replaced and stay in the exact location. Director Hansen mentioned we're working on those awesome-looking wheel wells with a nice poll that says no parking. We're developing a plan to make that a little more contemporary. Engineer Skinner mentioned in the bid that we currently have flashing lights across 1st South, Main Street, East, and West. We also will have the option of putting one at the courthouse down where the library and courthouse crosswalk is currently. Councilman Carpenter questioned if the County would like a lighted crosswalk. Bryce Somsen stated that it would be a good thing.

Bob Monk recommends using the crosswalk flags for the crosswalk. You've seen the other counties and cities? You know, you have these little orange flags because he disagrees. The crosswalk is dangerous. Those kids could take the flag, and it's more visible—the same thing down on Main Street. I think you need it. Councilman Carpenter agreed with Mr. Monk.

Irvin Christensen questioned whether this type of site will make you put in a sound for people who are blind. Does the city fall under that type of jurisdiction? The Council was not sure. Engineer Skinner mentioned bids will be presented to the city council on Wednesday. Tamra Henesh commented that she thinks it's excellent and appreciates you guys trying to keep the businesses

informed, updated, and in the loop because it is one of our busiest times. We don't want to lose out on that and appreciate it.

Councilman Gritton wanted to thank everybody for coming tonight. He suggested having Alan post and notify on the city's website once the project gets going, posting a weekly schedule so people can visit the website. It makes it easy for them to access information on what will occur, even those who aren't business owners. So, they have an idea of what will happen in a given week, making the information more available and accessible to our community. Engineer Skinner mentioned one of the bid's requirements is to provide a schedule.

Mayor Robinson closed the meeting at 6:37 PM. Meeting adjourned.

Passed And Approved by The Mayor and City Council This 1st Day of May 2024.

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

Attest:

Andrea Haderlie, Clerk