

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD MAY 18TH, 2022.

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
 Austin E. & Jackie Robinson Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk
 Molly Beseris Gregg Haney, Attorney
 Dan Squires
 Justin Hansen Chief Scott Shaw II
 CeJay Golightly

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

The Mayor noted Councilmember Hart was in attendance via video conference.

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Engineer Skinner suggested a clarification regarding the 220 South waterline replacement that the new 6-inch line will replace the old 2-inch line. Councilmember Gambles moved to approve the minutes of May 4th, 2022 with the suggested correction 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 for May 1st through May 16th, 2022, seconded by Councilmember Hart. Councilmember Worthington asked about the sewer saddles purchased. Engineer Skinner and Water/Wastewater Supervisor explained the City provided saddles for the 3rd East Street emergency sewer project. Engineer Skinner assured the Council the contractor will not bill the City for those parts. Councilmember Carpenter asked about the payments to the County employees for hauling chips. The Staff explained how the County employees are paid for their time only and not for use of the County equipment. A vote on the motion to approve the accounts payable was called. All in favor, motion carried

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER FOR DETAIL)

Molly Beseris, the new 4 County Alliance of Southeast Idaho (4CASI) Economic Development Executive Director introduced herself to the Council. She thanked the City for continuing to support the position through the transition of the new person being hired. She mentioned her background work with businesses & agricultural customers in the

banking industry, regional economic development and she recently worked with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) on mobility management. She expressed her plan to be very active in this new position working with the communities providing grant information and helping bring in new businesses. She is happy to attend any meetings and represent the City and our needs. Mayor Robinson thanked Ms. Beseris and stated he is going to rely on her help with the numerous projects the City has going on.

Engineer Skinner presented a rough estimate for the Fire Station repairs. He explained his estimate for just the concrete and outside work will be \$94,500 including a 20% contingency. He mentioned he needs to do a quick review with Chief Squires of what needs done inside and then put it out for bid or multiple bids. Councilmember Carpenter asked how much of the work the City crews could do. Engineer Skinner stated the City could haul in some gravel and haul off waste but the crews are busy and it would be best to just have a contractor do the whole job. The Council all expressed their concern about waiting any longer to get started due to costs for materials increasing. Engineer Skinner stated he is moving as quick as he can. Councilmember Hart suggested getting a commitment from the County to cover half the repair costs but agreed the whole package and costs need to be put together. The repairs to the inside were briefly discussed which include flooring, wall replacement and bathroom repairs. Chief Squires questioned how much the City wants to do to a building that is not ours. Councilmember Worthington asked Attorney Haney to revisit what the County Commissioners had said about the building. Attorney Haney stated they felt the building was valuable and didn't want to give it up but would share in the repair costs. They also wanted to make sure the City kept the fire assist agreement in place and continue to respond to fires within five miles of the City. Attorney Haney pointed out the County has not been helping pay for insurance on the building which will ultimately benefit them also.

Engineer Skinner reported on the emergency sewerline replacement on 3rd East Street. The line is all in and all the services are connected and all fences are back up. There is just one manhole left to be installed and some grass work to do. The project went pretty well with just three water lines hit but not really any complaints.

No real update on the bridge crane project. Engineer Skinner stated he has been talking to Intermec who would be the company most likely to bid on the project but he hasn't seen any numbers.

Engineer Skinner presented an option to purchase some surplus sewerline from the City of Franklin. They have 1070 feet of 8-inch SDR35 sewer pipe they purchased last November for \$23.08 a foot which he feels is a good price. He suggested that would be enough to do Main Street he also mentioned Supervisor Squires has 520 feet of water pipe on hand which would be enough to do half of Main Street. Supervisor Squires stated he hasn't priced SDR35 and doesn't know if that is a good price but it might be. Where the pipe would be paid out of and how it would affect the budget was discussed. Councilmember Worthington moved to approve moving forward with purchasing the pipe for a total of \$25,700, seconded by Councilmember Hart. All in favor, motion carried.

The project list was reviewed along with a new list showing budgeted amounts versus estimated project costs. Engineer Skinner shared pictures of the #4 Hydro control panel and explained everything is in but the touch screen which is on backorder until could be November. They plan to put it together without the touch screen by using an old style and start testing before the end of the month. Councilmember Worthington reiterated Councilmember Hart's previous comments of the need to move forward as quick as possible to get the Hydro up and running. Councilmember Gambles asked about the new ball diamonds. Director Hansen reported all the materials are here and the fencing was started today. He also mentioned the Hooper Park fire ring project was coming along and members of the Hope and Recovery Center have some experienced individuals that will be doing the stone and masonry work starting this Saturday. He appreciates their help and will be recognizing their efforts. Director Hansen also commended the Carriboo Development Foundation (CDF) for sponsoring the community clean-up projects which were very successful and appreciated. The Staff and Council discussed the asphalt issues at Hooper Park and Director Hansen explained he didn't want to spend funds to patch the parking lot when really the whole parking lot needs to be redone. All agreed and noted how much the parks are visited and used and the City needs to continue to make them all look better.

During citizen input Mayor Robinson thanked the Rotary Club, the VFW, the Lions Club and all the many other groups and organizations that helped bring the Vietnam Memorial Wall to our community. So many people supported and participated in the very special event. The Mayor encouraged anyone looking for something cool to do to get involved with one of the local civic groups. Councilmember Carpenter echoed the Mayor's comments and noted there are plenty of groups looking for volunteers. He also thanked the CDF for partnering with the City and groups to get stuff done and they hope this will continue each year helping the City and providing some civic pride.

Clerk Vorwaller reported the part-time position in her office had been filled. She mentioned she received six applications and four were interviewed with one of the candidates definitely standing out. She feels ShaLynn Hennefer will be an asset to her department and a quick learner. The museum attendant job closes on Monday the 23rd. There are three applications so far. The Council discussed their desire to get the museum open for the Memorial Day weekend if possible and the need to get the internet installed at the building. Director Hansen reported on the seasonal hires for his departments. He received 10 applications and interviewed eight. He has hired six and is looking at possibly one more. In the five years he has been here he thinks this is one of the best groups.

Engineer Skinner presented the Industrial Park lease for the Applegarth Greenhouse. The lease is for Lots 11, 12, and 18 of the 1st Addition which is 2.6 acres. The annual lease amount will be \$3217. They plan to move forward immediately with utilities. Councilmember Carpenter moved to approve the Mayor signing the Industrial Park lease for the Applegarth Greenhouse and Apothecary, seconded by Councilmember Worthington. Councilmember Hart asked if they understand the container issue isn't sorted out yet. Engineer Skinner stated they do and are willing to consider alternatives. A vote on the

motion was called. All in favor, motion carried.

Engineer Skinner presented an Operations Services Agreement with the Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA) to provide a Wastewater Treatment Class III backup operator to the City of Soda Springs. He explained due to Kelly Hill's retirement the City does not have the required backup. Councilmember Gambles stated it was his understanding that Mr. Hill wanted to be the backup. Engineer Skinner stated Mr. Hill changed his mind. He explained this backup operator is out of Coeur d'Alene and will fly here and familiarize himself with the plant. The cost is \$300 a month plus travel expenses when applicable. The Mayor pointed out it will be 9 to 10 years to get one of the City employees to this Class III certification. Supervisor Squires noted he is seeing if current employee, Travis Parrill's college background can be used to achieve the certification a little quicker but it will still be 6 to 7 years. He also mentioned Mr. Hill would have been the best option but this is the only other option. Councilmember Gambles moved to approve the Agreement for Operations Services with the IRWA for a Wastewater Treatment Class III backup operator. Councilmember Carpenter seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Engineer Skinner presented an Amendment to the Pacificorp Maintenance Agreement. He explained the 46kV line to the substation has never been included in any maintenance agreement and this will add it to the current agreement the City has with Pacificorp for maintenance of the City's electrical system. Councilmember Gambles, seconded by Councilmember Hart moved to approve Amendment No. 1 to Electric Service Agreement Between Pacificorp and City of Soda Springs. All in favor, motion carried. Engineer Skinner mentioned the upgrade of the 46kV line will be accomplished through a change order to the Wasatch Electric substation maintenance agreement.

The Council discussed the upcoming Association of Idaho Cities conference. The conference is June 22nd through the 24th. Clerk Vorwaller asked the Council to let her know by Friday if they plan to attend so she can do the registrations ahead of the deadline. Councilmember Hart pointed out it would be good for any staff members interested in the trainings that will be provided and encouraged the new Councilmembers to attend. It is a good organization and a valuable training opportunity.

Clerk Vorwaller reviewed historical budget items with the Council. Councilmember Hart suggested including in the FY 2023 proposed budget the 3% property tax increase, utility rate increases of 3% and a 3½% cost of living allowance for the employees. He stressed the City's need to keep money flowing to the employees to retain them and we may need to consider going higher than the 3½%. The current years budget forecast was also reviewed and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds discussed. Councilmember Hart expressed some concerns with the recent elections will come changes in leadership that may be tough on cities and he recommended including in the budget all the priority projects and Department needs, obligating the City's funds to bring the reserves down to the recommended levels. He noted the City is blessed to be in the fiscal shape it is in. Councilmember Worthington noted how impressive the City's budget is and stated his appreciation for everyone working to push projects forward and he feels it is working well.

CITY COUNCIL
MAY 18, 2022
PAGE 5 OF 5

Councilmember Hart moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:15pm, seconded by Councilmember Worthington. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 1ST DAY OF JUNE, 2022.

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk