

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD JUNE 28TH, 2023.

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  
                              Dan Squires                            Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk  
                              Chris Guedes                        Hannah Beer, Clerk  
                              Joanna Ashley                     Gregg Haney, Attorney  
                              Krista Sturm

The invocation was given by Mayor Robinson, Mayor Robinson then led everyone in the ‘Pledge of Allegiance’.

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Gambles moved to accept the minutes of June 7th, 2023, and dispense with the reading. Councilmember Carpenter seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable and payroll were reviewed. Councilmember Hart moved to approve the accounts payable and payroll for June 1<sup>st</sup>- through June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. Councilmember Worthington inquired about the boiler and radiator issues at Ender’s. He also noted the dollar amount allotted for natural gas and shower repairs in the building. Attorney Haney explained the city is working on correcting these problems, along with troubleshooting crossover valves. In addition, Supervisor Squires acknowledged the alarm system had a short circuit sensor and is currently working. Councilmember Hart noted Mrs. Haderlie’s hard work on establishing the Smithsonian Museum. He proceeded to recognize the established budget for the exhibit at \$55,000. The museum will run from August 26<sup>th</sup>- October 7<sup>th</sup> and facilitators will be soliciting the Council for donations and sponsorships after the Fourth of July. A vote on the motion to approve the bills and payroll was called. All in favor, motion carried.

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER FOR DETAIL)

Chief of Police, Scott Shaw II, requested to hire a full-time secretary position due to work demands at the station. This does not require an increase in the budget. The employee he hopes to retain is Jennifer Rasmussen. The pay rate for the secretarial position starts at \$17.50 per hour. Furthermore, he asked the Council for Officer Peck to receive a merit increase, due to his recent promotion that was accompanied by a 30-cent raise. Councilmember Gambles moved to approve the full-time secretary position and merit increase for Officer Peck,

seconded by Councilmember Hart. Councilmember Carpenter questioned the need for Chief Shaw to present a merit increase to the Council if there is not an unforeseen change to the budget. Mayor Robinson commented on the topic, saying there is a need for public recognition of officers' advancement. Councilmember Hart agreed with Councilmember Carpenter and did not believe Chief Shaw should report to the Council if the budget can absorb the increase. Councilmember Worthington noted, he does not want future pay increases of starting officers to restrict the pay increases for senior officers.

The Council reviewed Krista Sturm's request for a Conditional Use Permit. Mrs. Sturm, represented Lallatin's Food Town. Her Conditional Use Permit involved a shipping container that is located behind Lallatin's grocery store. It is 40ft long, which is not in compliance with the new ordinance No 683. Councilmember Worthington acknowledged the well-kept condition of the Lallatin's container and thanked Planning and Zoning for reviewing the application. Councilmember Carpenter moved to approve the Conditional Use Permit, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. A vote on the motion was called. All in favor, motion carried.

The Council reviewed JoAnna Ahsley's request for a Conditional Use Permit who is seeking permission for an allowance of a home office in her house. Councilmember Carpenter moved to approve the Conditional Use Permit, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. A vote on the motion was called. All in favor, motion carried.

Engineer Skinner provided the Council with the 2023 Water Facility Planning Study update and asked the Council to identify any issues with the current study before it is sent to the Department of Environmental Quality. The plan sets aside \$2.5 million for Pressure Reducing Valves (PRV), Pressure Safety Valves (PSV), Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA), and repairs for valves. With this project there is a possible rate increase if grants are not obtained. Project funding could also come from self-funding or borrowing from the Power Fund. Supervisor Squires commented on the plans and believed it is extremely beneficial for residents. This project would limit water leaks and create a more stable water system for the city. A leak detection test has also been requested by Supervisor Squires, if they cannot get an expert out to complete the test, he is considering buying the equipment for roughly \$55,000 to do it himself. Engineer Skinner reported the Idaho Transportation Dept (ITD) has provided \$100 million dollars for road construction projects throughout the state, the grant application deadline is September 1<sup>st</sup>. The money from this grant will be awarded in the fall of 2024 and is recommended for the use of upgrading Main Street. These funds could be used to repair curbs, gutters, sidewalks, storm drains, etc. He suggested the money not be used for 2<sup>nd</sup> South Street because the State is already paying for the new asphalt on that street. The pre-work to apply for this grant will cost the city between \$7,000- \$10,000.

Engineer Skinner stated minor adjustments have been made to the project list. It was also mentioned snowplows will not be received until the next fiscal year; therefore, the city will

make due with their current equipment. Any extra money will go towards maintenance for the snowplows.

Councilmember Carpenter wanted to go on record and thank Wayne Perkins for helping with trouble shooting power issues at City Park prior to the Car Show. During citizen input JoAnna Ashley stated the Lallatin's shipping container does not need a conditional use permit according to City code 17.04.060; therefore, she believes it should be grandfathered in. She also wanted the council to reconsider waving connection fees. Mrs. Ashley estimated the city will potentially lose \$1.4 million in revenue due to waving these fees. She acknowledged the rapid growth of surrounding cities and the importance of enforcing these fees to help support our infrastructure. Growth should pay for growth and fees are necessary for impacted areas to survive. Councilmember Hart recognizes the importance of planning for the future and said her point is well taken. Chris Guedes stated he agrees with JoAnna and does not want connection fees to be waived. He inquired about the new Maverick and wanted to see the blueprints for the building. He also requested Maverick to provide their marketing research to verify the success of the future business. He cautioned the City Council on the speed of construction and does not want citizens to lose street access due to the building.

Councilmember Hart asked department heads to recommend utility increases and suggested implementing a 3% increase. The Mayor and Council salary were discussed, and all agreed they did not see a need for an increase. Clerk Beer expressed her thoughts that an increase would benefit future elected officials. Clerk Vollwaller, asked for an extra meeting to review budget material. The council scheduled a budget work meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 P.M.

Councilmember Hart moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30pm, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 10<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY 2023.

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Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk