

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2024. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00 PM BY PRESIDENT MITCH HART

ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

MITCHELL J. HART, PRES  
RODNEY WORTHINGTON  
RYAN CARPENTER  
PAUL GRITTON

EXCUSED: MAYOR ROBINSON

ALSO PRESENT:

Sherry Gritton	Dan Squires, Director
Gregg Haney, Attorney	Patty Anderson
Kent Loosle	Aaron Torgersen
Alan Skinner, Engineer	Rebecca Fryer
Hannah Beer, Clerk	Justin Hansen, Director
Cejay Golightly	Kathy Robinson
Charles Fryer	Jackie Robinson
Wendi Loosle	Scott Shaw
Daniel Fryer	Sam Barnes
Monica Barnes	Austin E. Robinson

The invocation was given by Justin Hansen. President Hart then led everyone in the 'Pledge of Allegiance'.

Review & Approval of Minutes & Accounts Payable:

Council President Hart asked to add a few additional miscellaneous items to the agenda for informational purposes.

Councilmember Worthington made a motion to withdraw the attendance policy/code for elected officials from the agenda, seconded by Councilmember Carpenter.

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Worthington moved to accept the minutes of January 3rd, 2024 as presented and dispensed with the reading, Councilmember Carpenter seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable and payroll were reviewed. Council President Hart inquired about line item 2170, Payroll Deductions for Utilities. Clerk Beer explained the line item was money set aside from employee's paychecks to pay their utility bills. Director Squires explained the importance of Diamond Maps to the Council. Diamond Maps is a program that will establish all water lines, fire hydrants, sewer lines in City limits. This is an intuitive map that will take years for Director Squires to complete. Council member Gritton asked about the Pacific Corp contract and how often payment occurs. Director Hansen stated the payment vary and the service amount reflects a few different projects. Councilmember Gritton moved to approve the accounts payable dated January 1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, seconded by Councilmember Hart.

(SEE ATTACHED PAYROLL & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS FOR DETAIL)

Appointments:

Council President Hart declared a public hearing for the consideration of a rezoning change for Parcel Number 010000470080, from R1 Single Residential Zone to C-1 Neighborhood Commercial Zone to develop vacant land for business expansion. Clerk Beer acknowledged the two public comments received addressing the zone change, one from Taeya Mumford and the other from Scott and Betty Watson. Councilmember Worthington wanted to ensure the privacy fence would be six feet as stated in City code. Engineer Skinner said the lot to the East would remain R1 and the privacy fence would be in accordance with City code. Councilmember Carpenter asked the record to reflect the property to the South is also owned by Mr. Davis and is already zoned C1. Council President Hart declared the public meeting closed. Councilmember Worthington made a motion to approve Lot 7 in Block 47, seconded by Councilmember Gritton. Councilmember Carpenter thanked the Planning and Zoning Committee for their efforts and due diligence with the property. All in favor, motion carried.

Rod Davis submitted a request for a two Conditional Use Permit one is to allow for domed shaped shipping containers and the other Conditional Use Permit is to allow for 40 feet shipping container to be placed on Twisted Metal's half of Parcel 010000470080, Lot 7, Block 47, Soda Springs. Mr. Davis is planning to use the property for RV and Boat storage, and 40 feet Shipping Containers. Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to accept Planning and Zoning recommendation to approve a Conditional Use permit for Rod Davis on behalf of Twisted Metal to include the

conditions established by Planning and Zoning and the City Ordinant 683, seconded by Councilmember Gritton. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Gritton welcomed both the editor and owner of the Enterprise, the newly established newspaper in Caribou County. Owner, Byran Scott introduced himself to the Council. The Caribou County newspaper will be launching in a few weeks. The newspaper will be covering City Council meetings, County Commissioners' meetings, and local news for the County. In addition, they will also have a social media presence. Mr. Scott stated he would like to rent office space inside Ender's but is currently running into issues with this plan since the Council has not approved of this idea. Council President Hart said this does need to be discussed further. Councilmember Carpenter asked about subscription rates. Mr. Scott stated it will be \$10 higher annually than in the previous newspaper. Members of the community will have the opportunity to send in pictures and information on events taking place in Caribou County. Councilmember Gritton thanked Byran Scott and Brandon Hall for investing in our City.

#### Citizen Input:

Kathy Robinson, who lives at 90 East Hooper Avenue, addressed the Council about the attendance policy/ code for elected officials. Mrs. Robinson said the City code only states the Council attendance is important for Council members and the Mayor can be exempt because the Council President has authority to act on his behalf while the Mayor is away. Mrs. Robinson inquired as to why there needs to be an attendance policy for the Mayor. She stated Mr. Robinson loves his job and would be there at every meeting if possible. Mrs. Robinson said she is sick, and he has to pay the bills. Mrs. Robinson said certain Councilmembers are not supporting the Mayor and the Council needs to follow the code that has already been written. Mrs. Robinson asked if the Mayor is required to be at Council meetings then do others have to be at library meetings, staff meetings, and Planning and Zoning meetings?

Councilmember Gritton stated the Chamber of Commerce is tomorrow at 3:00 and will be held at the Soda Springs School District. He is excited about seeing the Chamber start up again.

Justin Hansen, 360 Mountain View Avenue, thanked all the volunteers that helped make the community better this past year. These volunteers included Mike Nally, Roger Freeman, Braden Lott, Casey H Lavaty, The Rotary club.

#### Unfinished Business:

Engineer Skinner spoke with the Council about the project list updates. He acknowledged ongoing and completed projects. There were numerous finished projects and projects that are planned to be completed this summer. The City is still waiting on two new snow plows, the trucks will start assembly in January of 2024. There are currently five different housing developments in progress. The immediate concerns at the fire station are finalized but there are a few minor issues that will be addressed at a future date. In addition, there is a grant out for Hooper Parking Lot, the City is still waiting to hear back about approval for these grants.

An agreement with Nutrien is being written and is predicted to be finished at the end of March 2024. Nutrien will be gifting the City 600 acres, with water rights, and funds to help develop the land. Eventually, Councilmember Hart hopes to connect this land with trails at Kelly Park.

Councilmember Worthington thanked Engineer Skinner and Councilmember Hart for their hard work on this project.

Councilmember Carpenter asked Engineer Skinner about completion and timeline for the engineering on Main Street. Engineer Skinner stated the sidewalk, curb and gutter, and utilities are finished. Lighting and storm drains are still to be determined. Councilmember Hart wants to engage and partner with local businesses along with the County to ensure a successful project. Councilmember Carpenter asked when bids would be made for Main Street. Engineer Skinner stated he would like to see bid packages out by the end of March. Councilmember Worthington inquired about the timeline on the Pressure Release Valve (PRV) project. Engineer Skinner stated the timeline for the study will be done by summer but the City will need to first find money for construction for the project.

Our current wastewater operator at Rural Water has resigned; therefore, the City will be entering into a contract to fill the void. The backup operator will need level three credentials to fill the position.

Engineer Skinner addressed the Council about grants upgraded out on the City's behalf. Mr. Skinner stated the City budgeted \$50,000 clean water drinking project and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will pay up to 50% of the project. Furthermore, a letter of support from ITD was received for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street South project. Councilmember Gritton questioned about the cost and access of cameras for the City. Engineer Skinner stated the names of the handful of people that have access to the cameras.

Councilmember Hart said he has asked Southeastern Idaho Council of Government (SICGO) to research the possibility of an Urban Renewal District for the City. Yesterday the Council members met with Bayer and it was concluded the current contract will be canceled with the intent of renegotiations. He also updated the Council and community about areas of drilling concerns in Caribou County.

A request has been made to extend the terms within the lease agreement of the Enders Building. Due to the historical nature of the building, the Council does want the museum / hotel to stay in its original form. The Council needs to evaluate if they want to pursue this path.

Councilmember Hart made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00, seconded by Council member Worthington. All in favor, motion carried.



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Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Hannah Beer, Clerk