

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD JANUARY 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00 PM BY MAYOR ROBINSON.

ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

MITCHELL J. HART, PRES

RODNEY WORTHINGTON

SCOTT K. GAMBLES

EXCUSED:

MAYOR ROBINSON

RYAN CARPENTER

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Shaw

Sherry Gritton

Gregg Haney

Paul Gritton

Alan Skinner, Engineer

Spencer Seipert

Hannah Beer, Clerk

Cejay Golightly

Michele Hart

Ron Myers

The invocation was given by Spencer Seipert. Mayor Robinson then led everyone in the 'Pledge of Allegiance'.

Review & Approval of Minutes & Accounts Payable:

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Worthington moved to accept the minutes of December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as presented and dispensed with the reading. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable and payroll were reviewed. Councilmember Gambles moved to approve the accounts payable dated December 1<sup>st</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and December 19<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, as well as payroll dated December 1<sup>st</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup>, seconded by Councilmember Hart. Councilmember Hart provided extra information on payment to the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP). This payment was made to continue our license agreement to play music in government buildings, utilize various catalogs, and to protect the City from any potential lawsuits. Additionally, Attorney Haney commented on the recent expense at the Ender's Building, which involved reservicing the fire system. He stated, "this is to be done every ten years". Mr. Haney also said the heat exchanger and swamp cooler will need to be replaced.

(SEE ATTACHED PAYROLL & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS FOR DETAIL)

Appointments:

Regan Yamauchi introduced herself and detailed her journey leading up to Miss Idaho. Ms. Yamauchi was born and raised in Soda Springs and has been a part of the City her entire life. She expressed her gratitude towards the City of Soda Springs and the people who have helped raise her. Regan explained Miss America is mainly self-funded, and requested a sponsorship from the City of Soda Springs. Councilmember Hart made a motion for a donation of \$1,000, seconded by Councilmember Worthington. All in favor, motion carried.

Carrie Ure representing the University of Idaho Extension Office introduced herself to the Council. Ms. Ure oversees family consumer skills in the Montpelier, Bear Lake, and Caribou County area. To continue receiving grants and program funding, she needs to establish needs in Soda Springs. Therefore, she asked the Council to complete a needs survey to help her better understand desires of the community. The idea of the extension office is to bring further education and skills right into the community, so classes will be offered in Soda Springs and surrounding counties to bridge a learning gap.

Yvette Weeks spoke on behalf of Dixie Dexter about a claim that was made in April of 2023 to the City's insurance, Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP). The city blew out a sewer line and damaged the inside of her mother's house. City workers were trying to clear a main line, but roots were growing within the pipes of the property which led to backflow into the house. Mrs. Weeks expressed her frustration about the lack of compensation and communication from ICRMP. Mrs. Weeks stated it was a total destruction of the home. Currently, the claim has been filed and reviewed by ICRMP but nothing has been signed. Mrs. Weeks has also been working with Idaho Fire and Flood, and restoration has not been completed. Attorney Haney advised the Council not to make any decisions until the family signs an agreement with ICRMP. The Council decided they will not do anything further at this time. Mrs. Weeks stated insurance is not responding back to her messages. Councilmember Hart said the City will do what they can to influence the communication process between the two entities.

Mayor Robinson acknowledged Scott Gambles as a Soda Springs Superhero. Mayor Robinson thanked Councilmember Gambles for his eight years of service to the City of Soda Springs. Mr. Gambles expressed his thankfulness to have worked with the Council and City staff.

Paul Gritton and Mitch Hart were sworn in as Councilmembers for the City of Soda Springs. They took the Oath of Office; their terms will expire in the beginning of January, 2029.

Citizen Input:

No public input was given.

Unfinished Business:

Engineer Skinner stated no changes were made to the project list. The list consists of everything in the capital improvement plan for the 2024 budget. Mr. Skinner recently sent out an updated list to the Council which breaks down each item on the list. Mr. Skinner stated updates have not been made to the list because there are no construction projects. He is waiting to hear about grant award letters and project engineering.

Councilmember Gritton inquired about TVs in the council room. Engineer Skinner said \$5,000 has been budgeted for this project. The Council wants to pursue the idea of going paperless with council documents. The Council asked Clerk Beer and Engineer Skinner to look into upgrading the technology in the Council room.

The Council decided against business owners who reside out of city limits paying residential fees for recreation for recreational sports. Councilmember Hart added commentary to this request by saying business owners live in the County, which is where their family resides and this is where family extra-curricular activities will originate. Children do not necessarily work for the business. Keeping it simple is the best decision moving forward. Councilmember Worthington made a motion for non-residential fees to be kept as is, seconded by Councilmember Hart. All in favor, motion carried.

Clerk Beer readdressed the Council with her needs for the financial department. Mrs. Beer asked for three different requests; change a part-time employee to a full-time employee, provide that employee with a pay increase, and to move herself from salary to hourly. A motion was made by Councilmember Hart to give Shalynn a 5.2 Cent raise, seconded by Councilmember Worthington. All in favor, motion carried. Councilmember Worthington stated he sees a large gap with communication to the community and hopes Ms. Hennefer will help fill the gap. Councilmember Hart said he does not believe social media needs to be a priority for the City because of the recently established News Examiner. If people want to be more informed then they should take responsibility to show up. Councilmember Hart made a motion to change Mrs. Beer from salary to hourly and to make Shalynn Hennefer a full-time employee until the end of the fiscal year, seconded by Council member Worthington. All in favor, motion carried.

Molly Beseris helped push a Gem Grant in support of the new car dealership. The Gem Grant Resolution was signed on the Mayor's behalf by Councilmember Hart. Mrs. Beseris reached out to Councilmember Hart to ratify this grant. Councilmember Hart made a motion to ratify the Gem Grant to help assist the development, seconded by Councilmember Worthington. All in favor, motion carried.

There were changes made to the Tosoiba Falls Subdivision Agreement and Engineer Skinner wanted to acknowledge these changes with the Council. Attorney Haney has reviewed the agreement and does feel comfortable moving forward. Council member Hart made a motion to approve the Tosoiba Falls Subdivision Agreement subject to final review, approval by the City Attorney, and that previously noted changes be made, seconded by Council member Gritton. All in favor, motion carried.

New Business:

The Council did not make any final decisions on council assignments.

Engineer Skinner presented the Maverick Encroachment Agreement to the Council. Both Attorney Haney and Councilmember Hart reviewed the agreement and did not have concerns. Councilmember Hart made a motion to approve Maverick Encroachment Agreement following review of the City Attorney, seconded by Councilmember Worthington.

Those voting aye:

Mitch Hart

Paul Gritton

Those voting nay:

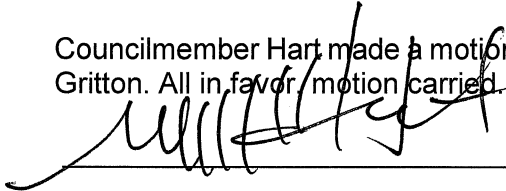
none

Rob Worthington

Absent: Ryan Carpenter

Motion carried.

Councilmember Hart made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:44, seconded by Council member Gritton. All in favor, motion carried.

 For Mayor Robinson

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Hannah Beer, Clerk