

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD DECEMBER 7TH, 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 telephone  
RYAN CARPENTER  
RODNEY WORTHINGTON  
SCOTT K. GAMBLES

EXCUSED:

ALSO PRESENT: Colter Evans Alan Skinner, Engineer  
Justin Hansen Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk  
Hope & Recovery Members Gregg Haney, Attorney  
Pocatello Paranormal Representatives  
Terah Jones  
CeJay Golightly Chief Shaw II

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

The Mayor noted all were in attendance with Councilmember Hart via video conference.

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Worthington moved to approve the minutes of November 16th, 2022 and dispense with the reading. Councilmember Carpenter seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable and payroll were reviewed. Councilmember Gambles moved to approve the accounts payable for November 15<sup>th</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and the payroll for November, 2022, seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. The Council noted the payment to JHS Architect's for the Ender's Building conceptual repurpose and Chief Shaw reported on the computer upgrades at the Police Station. Councilmember Hart asked about the high paid time off showing on November's payroll. The Clerk explained it was not only coverage by the Police Department but also the option employees are using to cash in up to 40 hours a year. A vote on the motion was called. All in favor, motion carried.

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL REGISTERS FOR DETAIL)

Mayor Robinson presented representatives of the Hope & Recovery Center with a check for \$1800 and thanked them for their efforts in the community. The Mayor thanked everyone involved in the first annual Halloween Street Festival especially the Pocatello Paranormal group who facilitated the new event making the fundraiser possible. He also thanked Head Librarian Cindy Erickson, Chris Evans and Marie Crane for helping to organize and promote the event.

The proposed land gift from the Nature Conservancy of the Formation Spring & Caves area property and draft agreements were reviewed and discussed. The agreement includes a \$10,000 grant to help maintain the property. The Council and Staff discussed the need for surveying and title insurance that could cost more than the grant funds and the closing costs were also discussed. Attorney Haney explained without title insurance the City could bear costs of a contested title and he also recommended having a complete property description. Engineer Skinner will get estimates from the title company and try to find the full legal description used in the last ownership transfer. The Council considered the suggestion that the Parks and Recreation Committee should manage the property. The Council agreed the Mayor and Council should be listed as the managers but can then delegate responsibilities to appropriate staff as needed.

Terah Jones local resident and owner of TJ Jones Design, LLC updated the Mayor and Council on her proposal to lease the Ender's building. She explained she needs to get the Council's support or move onto other options. She detailed her plans to provide job opportunities and skill acquisition. The hotel would be the number one priority then events, some sort of food service and custom home design products. How the kitchen would be used was discussed. Councilmember Hart thanked Mrs. Jones for her great presentation and suggested the Council discuss in executive session and come out with a decision.

Mayor Robinson recommended the appointment of Colter Evans to the Planning & Zoning Commission. He expressed his respect for Mr. Evans and stated he is vested in the Community. Councilmember Worthington moved to approve the appointment of Colter Evans to the Planning & Zoning Committee, seconded by Councilmember Hart. All in favor, motion carried. The Mayor administered the oath of office.

During the time for citizen input Mayor Robinson noted the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and thanked all Veterans for their service. He also reminded everyone to shop local.

Engineer Skinner presented the final pay application to A+ Contractors for the South 2<sup>nd</sup> East Street project which is complete. Councilmember Carpenter moved to approve the retainage release payment of \$30,143.95 to A+ Contractors, seconded by Councilmember Worthington. All in favor, motion carried.

Engineer Skinner requested approval of the Water Facilities Planning Grant agreement that is due by the end of December. Councilmember Hart moved to authorize the Mayor's signature on the completed grant agreement, seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. All in favor, motion carried.

The ongoing projects were reviewed. Engineer Skinner stated Supervisor Squires had informed him the headworks heater is on order. The bridge crane project is going well and the cranes are in Salt Lake. The Police Department in-car computers and cameras will be installed as soon as the antennas show up. Engineer Skinner and Councilmember Hart

reviewed grant opportunities for the water tank maintenance and explained there are limited funds available. Engineer Skinner stated the “Aging Infrastructure” grant is only for irrigation systems but he will be submitting letters of interest for all the City’s needs and requesting all available funds. Councilmember Hart stated he is working with the Association of Idaho Cities and the Department of Environmental Quality on making everyone aware of the needs of the communities.

Director of City Services, Justin Hansen shared concerns he and Recreation Director Billman have about recreation program scheduling and use of School facilities. He explained how it has become common for parents/coaches to form competitive/traveling teams that do not participate in the City’s programs but still need the City to facilitate School facility use for practices. The City’s recreation programs are intended to allow everyone a chance to participate equally and these non-City teams take away from that. The main issue has become the scheduling burden for the City and the cost that is not being covered by the traveling teams. The liability coverage for use of the School facilities was discussed and also whether the City should be supporting what is basically a discriminatory program. The Council and Staff discussed at length. Director Hansen suggested it might be best for the City to not facilitate. Councilmember Hart suggested making sure the City’s insurance covers the programs, continue to facilitate scheduling but make sure the traveling teams are paying for the actual cost to provide the service. The Council will consider the situation and discuss again at the beginning of the year.

The Mayor informed the Council the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting would be canceled.

Councilmember Gambles moved to approve entering into executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(1)(e) involving matters of trade or commerce. Councilmember Carpenter seconded the motion. A roll call showed the following vote:

|                   |                 |                   |      |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------|
| Those voting aye: | Mitch Hart      | Those voting nay: | none |
|                   | Scott Gambles   |                   |      |
|                   | Ryan Carpenter  | Absent:           | none |
|                   | Rod Worthington |                   |      |

Motion Carried.

Councilmember Gambles moved to exit executive session, seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Hart moved to continue to work with TJ Jones Design to ultimately execute an agreement to lease and manage the entire Ender’s Building subject to the mutually agreed upon terms and conditions. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Gambles moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40pm, seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. All in favor, motion carried.

CITY COUNCIL  
DECEMBER 7, 2022  
PAGE 4 OF 4

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 4TH DAY OF JANUARY,  
2023.

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Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk