

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD JULY 10TH, 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.  
RODNEY WORTHINGTON  
SCOTT K. GAMBLES  
RYAN CARPENTER

ALSO PRESENT:

Mark Steele	Alan Skinner, Engineer
Justin Hansen	Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk
Chief Shaw	Hannah Beer, Clerk
Cejay Golightly	Gregg Haney, Attorney
Trevyn Phelps	
Dan Squires	

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Gambles moved to accept the minutes of June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and dispense with the reading. Councilmember Worthington seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable were reviewed. Councilmember Hart moved to approve the accounts payable for June 24<sup>th</sup> - through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, seconded by Councilmember Gambles.

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER FOR DETAIL)

Councilman Worthington requested a copy of the Ender's lease from Attorney Haney. He also wanted a list of all expenditures the city has encumbered due to the Enders building; along with any profit or loss occurred since acquiring the property.

Mayor Robinson started the review process of the proposed 2024 budget by acknowledging the revenue in each fund. Councilman Gambles inquired about property taxes and projected revenues that total \$1,095,913. Clerk Vorwaller noted the overall collection of property taxes has increased from past years due to new construction. Councilman Hart suggested funds for projects in each department need to sustain themselves.

The General Fund is the first fund reviewed; it has an estimated ending balance of \$200,000 which includes carry over of the \$600,000 ARPA monies. Both Councilmen Hart and Engineer Skinner made suggestions for allocations of the ARPA monies. Councilman Hart ideas include possibly upgrading pick-ups, repaving Hooper Springs parking lot, purchasing a backhoe, building maintenance on City Hall, or allocating \$20,000 for each dept head to use at their discretion. Engineer Skinner would prefer to use the ARPA money for street upgrades such as

Main Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> South Street. Concerns were made about the timeline for spending the funds, the deadline for using the grant money is December of 2024.

Councilman Carpenter acknowledged the need for new trucks in both the power and water departments. Mayor Robinson suggested buying a new courtesy car for city employees to use for work purposes, but the council did not support the idea.

Clerk Vorwaller explained the need to cut projects to help balance the budget in various departments. The Council discussed the repairs to the Hooper parking lot. Councilman Carpenter recommended removing the Hooper Parking Lot project from the street fund budget this year. The Hooper Spring Parking Lot will be repaired next year, and 220 South Street curb and gutter will be replaced instead.

Clerk Vorwaller acknowledged the current grant cushioning the airport fund. According to Engineer Skinner, the Idaho Airport Aid grant can be used until the end of the year. Any grants directed at the airport must be split 50/50 with the city, either money or in-kind work. \$45,000 of property taxes have been directed towards the airport, however this can be adjusted. Other grant status for the airport is unknown. Director Hansen wants to focus on crack sealing streets compared to chip and seal this year. The council agreed to do crack and sealing and allocate the savings of \$100,000 toward other road concerns.

The Clerk addressed the liability insurance fund. The budgeted cost of insurance has increased by 12% this year. The Recreation fund and garbage fund do not retain a high profit margin. The Council discussed potential projects such as rerouting the Ledger Creek Transmission Line, Cardinal Cove, 2<sup>nd</sup> South Street, and the replacement of pressure releasing valves (PRV). It is determined that PRV's pipe or other material will not be purchased until the actual project begins. The Council decided they will wait an additional year for construction on the Ledger Creek Transmission Line.

The water tank is also a concern for the city, Chief Squires suggested the tank be repaired in the next two years. The power fund is balanced, and the only large project is a potential storage building. The storage building has an estimated cost share of \$130,000 with streets. Councilmen Carpenter suggested the power fund pay for the whole building instead of half, for a total of \$260,000 coming out of the power fund.

There is a 3% rate increase in the power fund and a 5% rate increase in the water and sewer funds. The sewer fund is balanced but most of the reserve funds comes from the bond reserves that are already designated. The city will continue to acquire fees for the sewer bond until it can completely pay off the bond. Engineer Skinner suggested that if there is not enough money in reserve, then the sewer fund can borrow from the power fund.

Greater Soda Springs has a limited budget for various projects. The library fund is steady, and no extra money has been allocated from the general fund to subsidize the library. Currently the budget has a 3% proposed increase rate for the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), but Councilmen Hart suggested a 3.5% increase to the COLA, Councilmen Gambles agreed.

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Councilmember Gambles moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 pm, seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 19<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY 2023.

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Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST

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Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk

