

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS,  
CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD MAY 1, 2024.**

**THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00 PM BY AUSTIN W. ROBINSON, MAYOR.**

**ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:**

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor  
Mitchell J. Hart, Pres.  
Rod Worthington  
Paul Gritton  
Ryan Carpenter

**EXCUSED:**

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Alan Skinner, City Engineer	Brock & Paige Byram
Andrea Haderlie, Clerk	Tamra Henesh
Scott Shaw, Police Chief	Gary Lemarr
Justin Hansen, Director	Pirmin Eugeler
Dan Squires, Director	Cody Thompson
Doug Wood	John Ward & Shannon Whitney
Brandon Hall	Amy Newell

**1. Roll call & Additions to Agenda:**

Mayor Robinson called the regular meeting to order—invocation led by Attorney Wood. Mayor Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance: roll call, all council present, and the City's newly appointed civil attorney, Thomas Smith.

**2. Review & Approval:**

Mayor Robinson requested the council to review the meeting minutes for April 17, 2024, and the special meeting minutes for April 25, 2024. Councilman Gritton motioned to approve the minutes as written for April 17 and the special meeting on April 25. Councilman Worthington seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Robinson requested the Council review the accounts payable for April 17 through April 30, 2024, and payroll from April 1 through April 30, 2024. Councilman Hart motioned to approve accounts payables for April 17 through April 30 and payroll for April. Councilman Carpenter seconded the motion. Mayor Robinson questioned if any council members had any questions about the payables. Councilman Hart questioned item number 11006, payment to S. Douglas Wood, and said he would request that we withhold payment until Attorney Wood and the mayor have a discussion the next day. He also questioned number 10285. Union Pacific Railroad permits the pipe underneath the main street crossing. The additional check for 1500.00 is for the switch and the track in the industrial park; that's where Larry Simmons uses the railroad tracks, and the city gets reimbursed for that through his lease. Engineer Skinner is working with Union Pacific Railroad to get the required permit and specifications. He explained that they've contacted him several times and have supplied more information. Councilman Hart clarified that the City had hired Attorney Wood to prosecute our city citations and misdemeanors. Thomas Smith is the city attorney on all civil matters, and the mayor and council

decided to split things up. Councilman Carpenter questioned Sergeant Golightly about item 9706, Stop Stick. He mentioned he is happy to see the patrol cars are outfitted and that we provide the equipment our officers need to do their job effectively and safely. He also asked about Officer Mumford's passing post. Chief Shaw stated Mumford passed post and is back with us today working shifts. All in favor, motion passed.

**(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER FOR DETAILS)**

### **3. Citizen Input:**

Mayor Robinson opened the floor for citizen input. Councilman Gritton mentioned he had a citizen enter his business today, and they voiced concern about the bike-to-school week. This citizen witnessed a 10 to 12-year-old girl trying to cross 2nd South with her bicycle. She was pushing it in the crosswalk and was nearly struck by a car that didn't yield to her. Councilman Gritton then parked in front of the mortuary to watch the intersection, and in about 20 minutes, two people were crossing the intersection; one was standing in the crosswalk, and a vehicle failed to yield. He noticed that the crosswalk is still not painted there, and it does have flashing lights. He is requesting that the state be asked to repaint the crosswalk. Engineer Skinner stated he would call and remind the Idaho Department of Transportation. Councilman Gritton recommended putting it in writing to ITD and enforcement. Councilman Worthington mentioned that Chief Shaw had been a decoy walking across those crosswalks. Chief Shaw commented that they have received the same complaints. This afternoon, the police officers on patrol split up and took other areas on 3rd East; they took different intersections, and when there was an issue down on 3rd South and 1st East. They had set up posts to monitor the school areas. He mentioned they don't have the staffing to get everyone, but they are trying. Sergeant Golightly commented they covered different intersections to ensure they got across safely. It's not just the vehicles; we saw kids riding through stop signs in front of cars. Shannon Whitney questioned if anything could be done with the crosswalk, as it's deadly in the summertime. Councilman Gritton questioned where you are referring specifically. Mrs. Whitney stated the one right by Subway, where the kids come from the city park and cross back and forth. Councilman Worthington mentioned that one is safer than the one up by middle school. Councilman Gritton replied it has a push button light system, whereas the one by the middle school and across from the liquor store has lights, but they're not flashing lights, and there's no button, but that crosswalk does have a semblance of a crosswalk remaining on the road. Mayor Robinson questioned when ITD does that highway project and whether they are going to that section of the highway. Engineer Skinner mentioned it will be torn out again when they plan to redo the highway next year. Councilman Hart asked if the light lenses on those were flashing, an amber light, or if we could change them to red. Chief Shaw initially requested the overhead that stops traffic; they will not give us that. He stated the child pedestrian representative who handled the grant was sitting beside him, and witnessed exactly what Gritton had witnessed at the crosswalk. The response was that until there was a fatality, they would not consider it. Tamra Henesh asked if they had more volunteers as crossing guards from schools to be out there after school. Councilman Worthington commented that Mr. and Mrs. Monk brought up a good point because Sun Valley does something similar; they have the orange flags and carry them out as they walk across the crosswalk. He has seen them at ISU. Councilman Hart mentioned on the overhead one that they were back in Kansas, and that's a practice they do, and those are very effective. The people just stopped; they looked, and he was impressed. Chief Shaw mentioned they're all over in Salt Lake Valley and phenomenal. They act just like a stoplight and shut everything down. Debbie Dumont asked if we could find some way to find the funds to pay for it. Would ITD let the City put it in? Chief Shaw said they had told him it was about \$500,000 six years ago. Engineer Skinner mentioned what's in there now is the ITD preferred system. Ms. Dumont mentioned her son getting hit this past summer. It was in a similar area to where he was in front of the Family Dollar store. She is more than willing to support and tell her story of how dangerous it can be. It's not a good situation to be in.

Paige Byram asked about a 500-gallon diesel spill in town. Do we need to be worried about the drinking

water or anything like that? Mayor Robinson stated no. Brock Byram asked, but there was a spill. Mayor Robinson stated yes. Councilman Hart commented that Union Pacific Railroad had cleaned it up. Councilman Carpenter mentioned that the City is not cleaning it up; Union Pacific Railroad is cleaning it, which it is on their property.

Sherrie Gritton questioned about the crosswalk. Does it have to be distinct to who puts a crosswalk in? Engineer Skinner mentioned that the City puts them in, but ITD has to approve them. Mrs. Gritton asked if they would approve it on a corner. She clarified that she was not talking about lights; she was talking about white lines, like hash marks, so there's at least a delineated space that says this is where you're crossing. Director Hansen commented that the city has a paint machine, and the city could paint it, but it is not our highway. He understands the safety aspect we need to do, but the city can't fix everyone's problems, especially the State of Idaho's problems. He recommended writing a letter. The city can hire a truck to paint the crosswalk at the city's expense. We still have to have a permit because you have to close down the highway for an extended amount of time to paint it. Councilman Gritton suggested our new legal counsel address this with an encouraging letter to them and explain that we fear a significant safety issue of their crosswalk's absence. Director Hansen mentioned that our families and public safety must be a priority.

#### **4. Appointments:**

Debbie Dumont addresses the Council about the local skate park in the City Park. The Caribou Development Foundation has been working with a group at the skate park that wants to make some improvements. The Foundation told them they would support them and needed to do the fundraising themselves. They have some ideas for fundraisers that they would like to do.

Pirmin Eugeler addressed the council about the skate park. He mentioned his mother sent him an article about fundraising for the skate park from the Caribou County Sun 24 years ago; there were a couple of council members, the parks director, a couple of donors, and all of us kids out front. Soda Springs is a place to grow up, where you learned about stewardship as a steward, and seeing that article reminded him that he has a responsibility to stewardship regarding the skatepark and its users. The skate park had a positive influence on him. He has had the opportunity to mentor young skaters and a lot of people he grew up with. He researched other communities that got their skate parks funded and organizations that were able to start extreme sports programming. He asked if the city would set aside funds to upgrade the skatepark and allow them to conduct some skate camps this summer because it's important for the Parks and Rec system to represent its community. He mentioned that it can attract other users to come and spend money in your community through our skatepark and the health benefits of having a good skate park facility. He is here to represent the eight to fourteen-year-old kids that use the skate park and have people in their 20s, 30s, and 40s using it. Kids have voices. Could you help us advocate for better skate facilities? As the older generation, we bring our kids to the park. We are our upstanding citizens, utility workers, small business owners, and certainly role models to this younger generation, and we want to get them a positive place to skate and hope for a good facility. Organizations do work within the extreme sports space, and those organizations inspire me to keep on my skate facility and programming advocacy. He mentioned a quote from when we had to advocate for skate facilities programming. It's not just advocating for something new, fun, or different. Skateboard programming still works for all the kids that benefit from traditional sports programming. But it also works for the kids who don't benefit from traditional sports programming. And those are kids who need it the most. Skateboarding is the third most commonly reported interest for high school students. Skate parks are the fourth most used recreation space in weekly use hours. Skateboarding improves mental health and encourages resilience. Youth and adults get their CDC-recommended daily cardiovascular exercise while skateboarding at skate parks, which has been proven to reduce chronic disease. Skateboarding in skate parks facilitates a sense of belonging among skaters, and skating is a pro-social activity that provides an opportunity for relationship building. It's also one of the most accessible

and the least expensive sports, behind track and flag football. Their group has met regularly for over a year and partnered with CDF; they have examined grants they may be eligible for, and we've reached out to the community through our booth on the Fourth of July and skated in the parade. We've raised over 2000.00 from the county and individual donors and received markups and pricing from skatepark builders on some options. We'll be continuing to reach out to individuals and businesses. For donations, we plan to work with schools, health organizations, veteran organizations, and recovery programs to find folks who could benefit from the extreme sports programming we could offer. They would like to conduct summer skate camps that will foster the community. Any money we make from the skate camp will go into our fundraising account. He asked for financial consideration for some skatepark upgrades from the City and permission to conduct the summer skate camps. He asked if they could be involved in any community projects to assist with this fundraising. He commented that the disc golf course, parks, and some areas could use extra help to maintain them. We do have a mockup already. We didn't bring them to share with the group. One of the layouts is around \$40,000 and would replace the steel prefabricated equipment. We're trying to get a head start on raising funds, and one of the grants we've researched will pay up to two-thirds of the cost of the skate park, but it cannot be prefabricated. Councilman Gritton questioned if you intended to increase its overall footprint. Mr. Eugeler stated no, it has good square footage. They can still utilize the hill. It's just adding some things. He stated the current asphalt is pretty chipped up compared to the main area of the skatepark. Engineer Skinner commented that he has received phone calls from the suppliers and the enthusiasts, which comes down to fundraising. Many people are big in the sport, willing to help, and you have the money to work with. Mr. Eugeler proposed a two-day camp with a couple of sessions a day on the last weekend of June. it would be a basic beginner skills camp. They have made a flyer, ready to go out to schools and bulletin boards to see if we can get some kids interested. It would just be great to have. Make sure we have your permission to do that. We will have all the paperwork in order regarding permission slips and waivers from parents, as well as a Child Protection Policy and things like that that we've gotten from organizations that set people up to do skateboard programming. Councilman Carpenter questioned if there would be a charge for the camp. Mr Eugeler stated they would charge \$20. June 26th and 27th would be the last Friday and Saturday in June. Councilman Carpenter thinks it is a great idea. Mayor Robinson agreed. No additional comments from the council.

#### **5. Unfinished business:**

Mayor Robinson opened the discussion to the project list update. Engineer Skinner explained pictures he provided the council of progress on Maverick and the inside of the building. They have half of the roof on the new building; when it is complete, they will start with electrical wiring and install insulation and interior walls. He mentioned 4th North, a new house. The foundation work has begun, and they're pouring footers tomorrow. He commented on Liberty Dodge. The steel structure is going up, but no inside work has started yet; he mentioned Maverick began installing the canopy footings and the container area for the garbage. Engineer Skinner updated the council on the PVR study, and they will have an update at the next council meeting. Then, we'll present next week to get what they have so we can get back on track.

Engineer Skinner mentioned that Director Squires had completed the city-wide leak detection study, and they started looking around, checking places, and looking for water leaks on Monday. Director Squires commented that he hadn't found as much as he had hoped, but we found five or six, and he noticed in significant areas. Councilman Gritton questioned if they were working over in Octagon Springs. Director Squires replied, yes. In the regions of Octagon Springs, 1st North, and North Main Street, we've found some issues.

Councilman Hart updated on the service missionaries and has worked with City Attorney Thomas Smith to close some gaps. They request that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints engage in a memorandum of understanding where they will provide volunteers as service missionaries to help wherever we can use them. Under our guidelines, as well as their guidelines, was the liability insurance and workman's comp. Attorney

Smith commented that they're already covered under the existing policy. The State Insurance Fund has recommended because there's no income recording for them; they are considered volunteers and for the city to maintain a log or roster for all those in case of an injury. If somebody reports an injury and makes a claim later, we will know who those who have volunteered are. He mentioned talking to ICRMP, but they had no specific recommendations. Still, he had mentioned what the State Insurance Fund had recommended, and they said, yeah, that's always a good idea, just in case something comes down the pipe. They're already entering the existing policy, which should be fine. Councilman Hart questioned if Attorney Smith had an opportunity to review the MOU. Attorney Smith commented that he had read an email about the church providing insurance if that issue arose. But it wouldn't be a bad idea to put that in the agreements.

Councilman Hart explained that one of the problems we've had is that the church utilizes an outside legal counsel, and trying to get hooked up with one of those has been a challenge; we have made that request, but it hasn't come back. The coordinator of the service missionaries is based in Star Valley. They've had success over there in this general region. Gregg did have a brief interaction with one of the attorneys. Attorney Smith mentioned that it's a little loose. He would recommend including some language about indemnification. Once again, he doesn't know if it's essential, but it probably would be a good idea. He can fine-tune some of this if you'll hold off on it. Councilman Hart commented that under that recommendation, he can follow up with Elder Porter, the coordinator, and we can close that gap.

Councilman Hart asked Director Hansen if volunteers were available and if you would like to use them. Director Hansen replied Yes, there would be other times when he might. He says that because we have several community service volunteers and some individuals in the area. He even struggles to come up with ideas. So yes, at times, many things pop up right then, and we can use them consistently. He thinks it takes some planning, but we probably could. Councilman Hart mentioned some work at City Hall in the basement, see what they can do down there, and Director Squires, you're unique in your projects. Pirmin mentioned that the disc golf course might need attention, especially pruning back trees. Councilman Hart mentioned they need direction and training, but they don't need to have their hand held the whole time.

Mayor Robinson discussed the Ledger Creek Property's closing date and time. Councilman Hart presented a map you have on your tablets; tomorrow, we'll be closing on a property transfer with Nutrien/NuWest, and it's a combination of a 30-year effort. Nutrien/ NuWest owns the property called Ledger Creek. It's about 600 acres, and 200 acres are in a conservation easement. When it was acquired, one of the conditions of that property was to mitigate specific wetlands impacts that FMC was impacted in the 90s. Eventually, that property needed to be donated to a Land Steward organization with an endowment. The City of Soda Springs volunteered, and we've worked out the details; we will close tomorrow at three o'clock. The City will inherit that 600 acres, and we intend to link our city-wide trail system; we're down to the Ledger Creek Property expand both summer and winter \$150,000 with the gifting of the property to us, plus over the next three years, the requirements of trying to work out the details to develop the property into recreation and with that comes significant water rights. Mayor Robinson commented on the Ledger Creek grant and water rights; Engineer Skinner will speak more about the water rights that come with that property and read about the USDA Grant funding. Engineer Skinner mentioned that the picture displayed the orange areas that go down to Bailey Creek Road and Second South to the West. Right now, with USDA, if you open up the file that says USDA grant update, that's a copy of an email from this morning. They want to redo the budget and the application he submitted on the budget side to show the trail systems that need to be put in. That is just a proposal from the Mountain View dental office to Afton's Way and from the city to Bailey Creek Bridge. It's about 18,000 to 19,000 square feet. He thinks half a million are available for that, including trees every 50 feet along the curb's edge. He has been working on that, trying to get an agreement submitted to them that they will agree to the work and then bring it to the council, and then you can form your citizen's groups and make sure that's the way

we want to go if we accept or decline that money. One thought was maybe some input and some cost sharing with the family to provide more money to use within the Nutrien Ledger Creek property and make some gains there. He mentioned he has had a conversation with Bayer. They're willing if it's a USDA, and the EPA will approve sand. We can have the sand donated, and then it's just falling costs. The email provided is the update from this morning, and he will get that put together and get it to the Forest Service to the Hispanic Access Foundation that was already there. The administrator's goal is to have the agreements out by the end of May and have them signed and returned by the end of June. Engineer Skinner mentioned water rights; three are included, and about 3.8 CFS between the three. He has talked with Water Resources about changing ownership filings. As soon as we get to the deed tomorrow, we'll change ownership or reapply the addendums; that water is all considered irrigation water rights. The City will get them in with new applications for the adjudication and work towards utilizing that after transfers and things like that; outside of just using them in the wetland area, some will have to stay there. But some of it might be useful for the Tosioba Falls Area and Middle School; there might be some things we can do to get that water somewhere else to use it for irrigation water and cut back on demand or possibly drinking water. Mayor Robinson asked if there were any questions from council members about what we are asked of on the grant and the water rights associated with the Ledger Creek Property. Councilman Worthington thanked Councilman Hart and Engineer Skinner. Thank you very much for your efforts. Councilman Carpenter asked if they would have a complaint if we used silica sand from Bayer. Engineer Skinner stated we have used it in other places. We have a history of using silica sand in Hooper Park and Kelly Park.

Engineer Skinner had the Council open the Main Street recommendation letter, and he gave a hard copy of the bid tabs in front of you on a larger scale. He explained the city had seven people pick up packages; we had two bids turned in. Both were responsive; they have insurance, they have licensing, and they provided their bid policy. Everything was good. This is an evaluation of the difference in costs. There was an 11% difference between the two of them. We felt like they were good bids on both sides. The contractors were A+ Contractors. \$2,257,082.50 RS Jobber 2,397,205.00. That's the bottom line—a couple of things to discuss. Service line replacements are on the bottom of the page on the left. We told the business owners they would be responsible for changing service lines in that number. He broke that down to 25 water and 23 sewers. Director Squires commented it should be 29 water. The city has five water and three sewers, costing the city \$23,000. There's about \$150,000 that the same part will be reduced. The breakdown on the bottom right-hand side shows how it was bid 1,521,670.00 by the grant and 631,807.00. If we reduce the grant to a million and a half, we can't go over that and put the extra \$21,000 on the City's side; we're at 534,982.00 of city funds and have 600,000 in the budget. We'll reduce that number by about 125,000 to 130,000 for service line connections that will pay for the engineering, project management, and on-site supervision during the project. The bottom line is you've got a recommendation, and we are within budget. The excellent news is A+ Construction doesn't plan on starting till the 5th of July or the following Monday. We're not going to interfere with the Fourth of July festivities, but we'll go into it immediately after if you approve the contract. He is still working on the railroad, and there hasn't been a discussion about whether you approve the boarding so that we can do that immediately.

Councilman Carpenter mentioned to Tamra Henesh, the owner of Main Street Diner, that the new water and sewer lines would add \$164 to your city bill for three years, provided this. If we add 2760.00 plus 3165.00, totaling 5925.00, Shannon Whitney commented, costing each business \$6,000. Councilman Carpenter mentioned it runs the risk of having to cut into brand-new cement 10-foot-wide sidewalks. That's it: \$125.00 for every linear foot of cement. Tamra Henesh commented those numbers should have been mentioned last week at the Main Street project meeting. Councilman Carpenter mentioned we didn't have those numbers last week. Mrs. Whitney stated it's a lot for businesses. Councilman Carpenter asked, as a council, if we could extend our terms. Councilman Hart would either be by ordinance or resolution; we would have to do a new ordinance.

Councilman Carpenter commented we've tried to keep costs down for the business owners, and there's no way around it. Mrs. Whitney asked how many businesses there were. Councilman Carpenter replied to 25. Councilman Carpenter recused himself from the vote due to being employed by A+ Construction and to maintain transparency. Mayor Robinson commented that Councilman Carpenter has recused himself on this issue.

Councilman Hart motioned that upon recommendation of our outside engineers and city engineer, we accept A+ Contractors' bid of \$2,153,482.00 to execute the Mainstreet Project. Councilman Worthington seconded the motion. Councilman Carpenter recused. All other council members were in favor, and the motion carried.

Engineer Skinner provided a draft letter to Caribou County Planning and Zoning regarding the impact area application review for Mr. Sheppard. He explained it is a draft letter we discussed at the last meeting for council comments and whether you want to approve it. Would you like the mayor or him to sign it? Their public hearing is tomorrow night, and it will go before county commissioners on May 13th for a rezone. He included the concerns the city had from the previous meeting.

Councilman Hart recommended authorizing the City Engineer to sign and submit to the County. Councilman Hart motioned that we approve the letter as written with the City Engineer to sign it and be forwarded to Caribou County Planning and Zoning. Councilman Carpenter seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion carried.

## **6. New Business:**

Mayor Robinson discussed the Fourth of July parade routes, and the council discussed them briefly. Councilman Hart recommended that since the Main Street Project would not disrupt the parade, there should be no change to the parade route, and the current route should be kept. Councilman Gritton commented that his thoughts are similar and that the project to start after the Fourth of July will help minimize the impact on the businesses.

Councilman Hart wanted to discuss the next meeting. Mayor Robinson will be working, and he will not be available either. Mayor Robinson suggested Councilman Carpenter proceed with the May 15, 2024, council meeting.

Grant updates. Engineer Skinner presented the Gem grant agreement; he had the mayor sign it and got to thinking about it. He should have waited until the Council agreed for him to sign, so he put it in here. The city has been given a \$25,000 grant for Liberty Dodge, stipulating that they spend at least \$10,000 on the rest of the utility work. It's a standard Gem Grant. Once the job is done, we'll send invoices in, and they'll reimburse us \$35,000. The push on this until we finish it and close out; you can't apply for another. Councilman Carpenter motioned we approve the signatory of the Idaho Gem Grant for Liberty Dodge. Councilman Worthington seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Engineer Skinner presented another grant to the council; there is no official announcement award letter yet, but he wants to show you the city's range numbers: 11 out of 48. We're going to continue from the first East to the third East. We also have 55,000 left from last year's grant that they let us carry over. Potentially, we've got over 300,000. He attached the email stating that they had 1.8 million in funding available. Then, they passed House Bill 770 to add another 10 million toward child pedestrian safety. He thinks we're pretty safe to assume we will get an award of another grant, being ranked number 11. Councilman Worthington questioned if we would continue. Engineer Skinner said we would continue to the East until we reached the Third East.

Engineer Skinner presented a lead service line grant. The point is what they offer us; we rate 16 and are on the award list. They're offering us \$500,000 with a 30-year loan at 1% interest with principal forgiveness of \$245,000. And this is the third South out from the third East to the West End of Second West. That would be the main road for Lead pipe removal. He mentioned that this does not include road construction; utility line

replacements had to be added. We can get half of that when the principal is forgiven; the rest has 1% interest. That's why we're on the funding line for that one.

Engineer Skinner also mentioned another grant, which we placed 22nd out of 67. For wastewater, we ranked 36 on clean water and drinking water 60; he doesn't know if we will get funding for those who haven't decided what they plan to do. But we're probably 10 to 15 places higher than a year ago. We're moving up. We had five and a half million in sewer and 7 million in drinking water there. Part of that's the PRV study, which is not the study of the actual execution part of the second South and fixing the water tank. All of those things are in there. It's out for public review until the end of May, and then we'll get the final word. Two were below the award line on planning grants for Wreckit America water or sewer. One is below, and the other is down a little bit. Councilman Hart questioned whether there are like 50,000. Engineer Skinner commented that they pay 50% of it. They're 130,000.00 a piece, and they spend 50% of that. In the past, they worked to get everyone awarded planning grants. He doesn't know if they have the money this year, possibly next year. We did the PRV study with the first one and got some of it this year. Hopefully, we're working toward more money. Real quick.

Councilman Carpenter asked Director Squires to explain what that is. Director Squires explained DEQ had put some new regulations. It all stems back from Flint, Michigan. The city does not have lead pipes, and we don't have any of those, but we do have lead goosenecks from the main line to the service. Anything under three feet is not considered a lead service line more extensive, two feet and less, but they still prioritize getting all of the lead out of the system that is feasibly possible. He had to do the lead survey and the incident of DEQ, and they're going to prioritize cities with the most lead and lead goosenecks. Ultimately, what they're going to do is there's going to be a replacement requirement; they're going to require cities to replace X number of lead service lines a year. He thinks that's down the road a ways. And that's where these grants come in. They're trying to help cities offset some of the costs to get the lead out of the system, and we're very fortunate we don't have a lot of goosenecks and no lead service lines. Engineer Skinner mentioned the required service line to the house and authorized this grant to pay for it. Last year, they didn't, and that's part of why we need to get invested. We didn't get it because we didn't have a policy of what to do with the service line. Now they've authorized us to pay for that and eliminate from the gooseneck to the houses, so that's not really where we need the money for next year, but it should be. It would be good to take advantage of what we haven't offered at 1% interest and half of it forgiven. Councilman Carpenter questioned whether we have a licensed plumber to do the house side; how does that work? Director Squires commented that the curb stop-in is a licensed plumber or contractor the city can not. Director Squires mentioned we're required to test for lead every year; like this year, he had to do ten random addresses. It's not easy; they pick so many tier one and twos but only two or three. That's what drives this whole thing; Councilman Carpenter asked when you break that down as copper pipe versus apex. Director Squires commented that this entire survey is a single service connection to the city. There are 13,174 pipe connections within the city, and different pipe types were installed when the home was built, such as lead soders. It took him three years to do the survey. He just submitted it this morning. It's due October 1st. Engineer Skinner mentioned there are over \$300 million in grants applied for, and we're in the top third, but he doesn't know how much they will be.

Director Hansen presented the chip and seal oil prices to the council, and it's the time of year that we need to start planning for our chipping seal annually. We did not do much last year, which was okay because we could focus on all those funds at the airport. But this year, we will need to do some chip sealing. In the past, we've piggybacked on the Idaho asphalt supply contract they awarded through our county for a long time. And then we piggyback on that price. Most cities piggyback on that contract because it is the cheapest way to buy oil. With everything else in the world going up, the oil we use for chip and seal has also gone up CRS two this year, costing us \$568 a ton. Two years ago, we were at about 510 a ton. The oil price increase is the cost of



chips, which has increased about 30%. Since the last time, we bought chips two years ago. Council put a higher amount in the budget for Chip and Seal this year. Thank you for your foresight on that one; better than mine. Because we'll need it this year, we probably need to do the amount of chip seal. He received bids from two contractors on three dates minus chips we use out of Pocatello. They were pretty close. The cheaper one on the rock was \$17.00 a ton from \$11.00 two years ago. It's pretty drastic for the company. A huge company bought out one of the companies we bought from the past. He is seeking approval to move forward. The chips will not exceed the \$50,000 expense, but he wanted to inform the council what we're looking at. The oil collectively will be over 50,000—the way we buy it in three different weeks. Technically, we buy it by the week, so it'll be less than that, but collectively, it will be over 50,000. He wanted approval to sign the contract to purchase oil through Idaho Asphalt Supply and our chips from PATCO in Pocatello. Councilman Hart motioned to approve. Councilman Worthington seconded us. Councilman Carpenter clarified that Director Hansen was pre-approved during the budget. He asked for approval because the amount of oil would be slightly over the amount.

Councilman Gritton presented a time change to the council meeting. As he campaigned, several people mentioned that our meeting start time was problematic for attendance. He heard them and researched them, and his goal has been to get more people in our meetings to participate. He learned that the Bancroft city council meeting started at 8 PM, Grace's started at 6 PM, Montpelier's started at 7:30 PM, Georgetown's started at 7 PM, and our P&Z Committee meeting began at 6 PM. He proposes changing our meeting time, which requires an ordinance change; before undergoing that effort, he would like to suggest a motion to change our meeting start time to 6 pm. If it passes, start redrawing the ordinance to have our meetings at 6 PM. Councilman Gritton motioned to begin the process by changing the City Council meeting time to 6 pm. Councilman Worthington seconded the motion. Councilman Hart commented that he ultimately opposed the motion. Meeting time is by ordinance. It's been that way for decades, and it's only two times a month. It should not inconvenience anybody to arrange to attend the city council meeting at five o'clock. There are selfish and practical reasons for having an early start. And he is opposed. Councilman Gritton mentioned that the people he talked to mentioned getting off work at five o'clock, making it nearly impractical to be here and comment in the public input section. Councilman Hart said we had citizen input at the end and solved that problem. Councilman Gritton replied that we'd rectified that by adding citizen input at the end of the council meeting. He supports the idea that we can get more people here for the meeting. Councilman Carpenter asked Clerk Haderlie if there would be an opportunity for you to come in a little later. Clerk Haderlie replied it depends on whether the staff has scheduled time off. That is a huge factor if they are both off on the same day because it does happen, and she would have to be in the office to cover. Councilman Worthington commented he would have to excuse himself or be excused from the council meeting if he needed to attend the school board meeting. The school board for the school district starts at seven. Councilman Hart commented that pushing an hour later only complicates that, and it is two days a month. Councilman Gritton mentioned he talked to the Bancroft Clerk about the effects if they had their meetings at five o'clock; she commented that we wouldn't have a council. He mentioned he talked to the Grace clerk about what she felt the effects of having their meeting at five o'clock would be, and she mentioned that there would be less participation. Mayor Robinson asked the council if there needed to be more discussion or make a recommendation to think it over. Councilman Gritton mentioned this to the other three council members, and there has been time to discuss it. Councilman Hart stated you will not like it during budget time. This will be a whole new budget process this year; you've enjoyed the easy budget process. He mentioned you would find if you pull all those cities, the later they start, the later they terminate; he guarantees it. Mayor Robinson pointed out that we were approaching almost seven o'clock, starting at five, and this was a regular meeting. Clerk Haderlie commented they do not have to be present at 5 pm, but citizens are welcome to come at any time to comment. Mayor Robinson agreed and mentioned we've had people come in later. Councilman Hart explained that if citizens want to talk, they can

make an appointment, and when they can arrive at 5:30 or 6 PM or whatever, they are welcome to do so. Mayor Robinson recommended tabling it until after the budget season. Chief Shaw commented he prefers five o'clock. Officer Golightly prefers five o'clock. Director Squires prefers five o'clock. Director Hansen stated he is impartial. Clerk Haderlie prefers 5 pm and is somewhat selfish because her kids like to eat at a decent time, not nine o'clock. Councilman Worthington mentioned they can go on for hours when he attends school board meetings at 7 pm. Councilman Gritton suggested getting a poll from the present citizens. Brock Byram commented that Tamra made the point. You will figure it out if you want to be on the city council. And with the double citizen input, there's no reason. How many people walk in late all the time? If you want to be here because of the city council, and he doesn't know how many city council meetings he has been to, where he is the only one outside of Mark Steele taking notes, that's attending. If you are here, you will be here regardless of the time. Paige Byram commented that doing it online is easy. If you're out of town, you can rewatch it later. Councilman Gritton commented he would agree to table the motion until after the budget season. Councilman Gritton stated it would allow more citizen input on the specific issue, particularly those who might be listening or have read about it in the newspaper. Clerk Haderlie stated they're always welcome to email me. The council agreed to table a motion until after the budget season.

**Citizen Input:**

Brock Byram questioned what the Maverick's plans were for the old Maverick. Will that continue in business, or will they close that down? Mayor Robinson commented that they plan on continuing the business. Councilman Hart stated in the short term, they don't know the long term.

Gary Lemarr questioned the Main Street project. He understood the sewer line on his building is his to the main line. If you want to remove what somebody originally paid for a hookup, go back to my foundation and bill him for that again. If you guys are taking it out and it is his line to the main line, then if you choose to take it out, he maintains that the city should put it back at no charge. Engineer Skinner commented we're not taking it down. Councilman Hart questioned whether they have an option to keep it in place. Mr. Lemarr stated that was not what the Main Street Project meeting said, and the city is taking out from the main line to my foundation. Engineer Skinner noted the City is asking you to replace that. Mr Lemarr stated again the city said you're going to do it and bill us on our city bill. It's what came up at the last meeting. You're not asking me to do it. You're telling him he must do it and pay for it when he has already paid for a new water line. He mentioned he owns the sewer line to the main line. There's nothing wrong with my sewer line; the City destroys it and takes it to my foundation. It should be the City's responsibility to replace it, not his. He knows what you're trying to do. But the point is, that's my section of pipe, and you want to remove it, and then you want to charge me for it; he doesn't care if you remove it; put it back to the foundation. Director Squires commented that the other issue may be outstanding now. But by the time we're done hammering, digging, compacting, and messing it up on the road, it may not be fine. He explained the connection fee is not the pipe in the ground; it is to continue expanding the system as people tie on to it. It's kind of like buying into the system. As people find the system, we have to expand the system. Well, that money has to come from somewhere. And that's the connection fee part of it. Councilman Hart explained that if you want to put it in after the fact, and it goes wrong, and you have to do it, then you are responsible for tearing up everything we did and putting in new. All the city asks is for cooperation; this is an improvement that everybody benefits from. Mr Lemarr stated he gets that. But why are you charging us for that? It should be in the bid. Cody said he could do it from the main line to our foundation, Councilman Hart, but not for free. Cody Thompson commented that there's a joint venture that should be discussed. They are charging you just for the cost to get the pipe there. The road that you would tear up the curb and gutter, the sidewalk. They're paying for all that; you should not run that service. If you call me in a year, say, " Hey, this thing just went wrong." I won't lie; you're probably 25 grand to fix that by the time you cut asphalt and do everything. Maybe that's a high number, but he would guarantee it's all on point. He explained

that here's the deal: it is a lot of money. This is the business, but \$6,000 is a lot of money. But the city is taking 80% of the cost in the grand scheme of things. The city's already paying for that. The only thing you're paying for is just the pipe and dig in. And chances are I've doubled up all over this town in the last six years. And even if you think it's OK if we send the camera through it when we open it up, you're going to find that it might be working, but it might be leaking, and if it's leaking, it's against their DEQ issues anyway, just because it's flowing, doesn't mean it is correct. He explained he wanted to throw out what is not being considered in the conversation: the city's paying 80% of the cost to do your sewer and water. Councilman Hart commented, Cody, the project is \$2 million to build on your point. And there are 30 users on Main Street. That's \$67,000 per beneficiary of doing it, and we're charging you 6000.00, 10% of what would be allocated to improving your business. So we're asking you to contribute 10%. That's how you should look at it anyway. Mayor Robinson closed citizen input.

### **8. Executive Session:**

Pursuant to Idaho code I.C. 74- 206 (1) (f) and I.C. 74-206 (1) (a), Councilmember Gritton made a motion to move into executive session to consult legal counsel regarding possible litigation and an evaluation dismissal or discipline of an employee, seconded by Councilmember Carpenter.

Those voting aye:	Mayor Robinson	
	Mitch Hart	Those voting, nay, none
	Rod Worthington	
	Ryan Carpenter	Absent: none
	Paul Gritton	

**8:20 PM** Councilman Hart motioned to adjourn. Councilman Gritton seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 15TH DAY OF MAY 2024.

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Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST

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Andrea Haderlie, Clerk