

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD DECEMBER 6TH, 2023. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00 PM BY MAYOR ROBINSON.

ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

RYAN CARPENTER
RODNEY WORTHINGTON
SCOTT K. GAMBLES
MAYOR ROBINSON

EXCUSED:

MITCHELL J. HART, PRES.

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Dan Squires	Scott Shaw
Gregg Haney	Paul Gritton
Alan Skinner, Engineer	Debbie Dumont
Hannah Beer, Clerk	Brooke Allen

The invocation was given by Clerk Beer. 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 Gambles moved to accept the minutes of November 15th, 2023 as presented, and dispensed with the reading. Councilmember Carpenter seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Gambles inquired about the payment to Kody Ray on the accounts payables. Director Skinner stated about \$20,000 was budgeted for this item; half now and half in the Spring. Councilmember Carpenter asked about funds paid by ICRMP for the hydro plant bill. Engineer Skinner answered by explain ICRMP agreed to pay to rent a dump truck and backhoe for the month to help with demolition. Councilmember Gambles moved to approve the accounts payable, dated November 15th - 28th, 2023 and the payroll, dated November 1st- 30th seconded by Councilmember Worthington.

(SEE ATTACHED PAYROLL & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS FOR DETAIL)

Appointments:

Jessica Bowman wanted to challenge the precedent of business owners' who live out of the City limits having pay non-residential recreation fees. Ultimately, Mrs. Bowman is hoping to only pay residential fees because she has three businesses in City limits: Bowman's Gym, Bowman's Chiropractic, and Dug Ball's Physical Therapy. Currently, she is paying non-residential fees which are \$20 more, per-kid, than residential fees. She proposed that non-residential fees be waived for business owners who are paying taxes and supporting the local economy. The Council said they would discuss this matter further and get back to Mrs. Bowman with an answer.

The Oath of Office for the Greater Soda Springs Community Development and the Caribou Development Foundation was given to Debbie Dumont. She currently serves as the secretary and treasurer for these organizations. Ms. Dumont's term will expire in December of 2028.

Citizen Input:

Mrs. Dumont addressed possible improvement projects on Main Street. She asked the Council if they are interested in flower baskets and new lighting on Main Street. The Council did support her pursuing plans to determine cost and labor for these projects. Dumont will meet with Molly Beseris (the 4CASI Executive Director) to discuss available grants for this idea.

Furthermore, Mrs. Dumont is the Soda Springs Representative for the Southeast Idaho High Country Travel Council. The Travel Council is currently offering grants to communities who are wanting to have pamphlets made to market their city's special qualities. The grant amount is around \$500.00 and the City would need to match this gift. The Travel Country would distribute these flyers throughout various locations. The Council asked to review this request to determine if they want to supply the funds.

Unfinished Business:

Director Skinner gave an update on the project list for the City. Mr. Skinner explained not many changes have occurred on the list. The contract for 220 South is executed and engineering has been awarded; now, the City is waiting on construction. In addition, the first 60 yards of concrete was poured for the Dodge dealership, and walls have been poured for the fourplex for the Highland Way Subdivision.

New Business:

Clerk Beer informed the Council about results of the recently implemented Utility policy that was passed in September. Mrs. Beer stated less people are delinquent on their bill compared to previous months, and more payments are being consistently made. Clerk Beer also explained to the Council there was a problem with the electronic meter reads. Unfortunately, there were mechanical problems with the tower; therefore, residents were undercharged for services since their meter was not read in full. Next bill is expected to be higher than normal due to the malfunction. A letter was sent to residents notifying them of this error.

Attorney Haney introduced two dig line bids from ELM Utility Services and USIC Utility Services, because Rocky Mountain Power will no longer commit to dig lines for Soda Springs without up-charging the City significantly. ELM bids suggest a \$77.00 hourly rate including travel time.

Historically, the City has spent about \$1000.00 a month on dig lines, this increase in price will potentially double amount paid by the City. USIC Utility Service was estimated at an hourly rate of \$60.00 plus emergency fees were not included. Councilmember Worthington stated he does not want the City to incur the responsibility of marking powerlines. Director Squires and Director Hansen both believe USIC would be the best company to work with for dig lines. A motion was made by Councilmember Worthington to move forward with contracting USIC for Soda Springs dig line locator, seconded by Carpenter. All in favor, motion carried.

Engineer Skinner will be applying for the Child Pedestrian grant again. The maximum amount available is \$250,000. Mr. Skinner will be requesting recommendation letters from the Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Caribou County Public Safety Department.

The Council decided to forgo the City Council meeting on the 20th of December. The next meeting will be held January 3rd, 2024.

Motion to adjourn at 5:56 by Councilmember, seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. All in favor, motion carried.



Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Hannah Beer, Clerk