

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD NOVEMBER 1ST, 2023. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00PM BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT HART

ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT: MITCHELL J. HART, PRES.

RYAN CARPENTER

RODNEY WORTHINGTON

SCOTT K. GAMBLES

EXCUSED: MAYOR ROBINSON

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Dan Squires
Gregg Haney
Alan Skinner, Engineer
Ken Finlayson
Hannah Beer, Clerk

Scott Shaw
Paul Gritton
Molly Beseris
Angie Bair

The invocation was given by Scott Gambles, Scott Gambles 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 October 18th, 2023 as presented and dispensed with the reading, Councilmember Carpenter seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Gambles moved to approve the accounts payable, dated October 17th - October 31st and payroll for the month of October, seconded by Councilmember Worthington. A vote on the motion was called. All in favor, motion carried.

(SEE ATTACHED PAYROLL & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS FOR DETAIL)

Appointments:

Kent Loosely introduced himself to the council. Mr. Loosely is the new CEO for Caribou Medical Center. He is excited to be working in Soda Springs and looks forward to becoming more involved in the community.

With an increase of online activity, Debbie Dumont wants to meet the demand by creating an online news platform for Soda Springs. Ms. Dumont plans to bring this idea before the Caribou Development Foundation and Greater Soda Springs Community Development Committee at their next meeting. A community calendar would be available on this

website, along with important meetings, and results of athletic events. Furthermore, Council President Hart stated he likes the idea but does not want the website to turn into an online Facebook page. Ms. Dumont said it would be strictly used to inform the community of local news.

Angie Bair recently purchased a Highland Way subdivision from Ken Finlayson and requested to waive sewer and hookup fees for the development. Previously, hook-up fees were waived for past individuals, but President Hart wanted to reconsider this strategy because of the amount of future lost revenue. The Council asked for more time to make their final decision. Council President Hart thanked Mrs. Bair for her patience while the Council comes to a final verdict.

Citizen Input:

Paul Gritton noticed the crosswalk on Highway 30 is longer painted white. He noted possible safety issues with the change. Engineer Skinner committed to calling ITD about painting white stripes on the asphalt.

Molly Beseris educated the Council on the requirements and benefits of the Gem Grant. This program is designed to help develop economic growth through job security that specifically targets the water, sewer, and power infrastructure. The maximum amount for this grant is \$50,000 and has to be submitted on behalf of a County or City. In addition, there can only be one application opened at a time. Mrs. Beseris requested the Council approve the Gem Grant application for the Dodge Dealership. This grant will be completed and closed by May of 2024. There is a matching or in-kind portion of the grant that will be paid by the business applying for the grant. Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to authorize Mayor Robinson to sign the Gem grant application on behalf of the development of the Dodge dealership, seconded by Council Member Gambles. All in favor, motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

The Project list was updated by Director Skinner. The sidewalk next to Thirkill Elementary is looking good and should be completed next week. Councilmember Worthington thanked all those involved in the project. Mr. Skinner mentioned that Mayor Robinson signed a contract with Sunrise Engineering for the beginning phases of the PRV project.

The Trunk or Treat event was considered a success at Caribou Ford. Next year it is planned to be held at City Park.

The Idaho Department of Water Resources will hold a public meeting tomorrow night at City Hall to discuss placing additional restrictions on wells in designated areas. Council President Hart encouraged everyone to be informed of the impacts and to show up to the public hearing.

A motion was made by Council member Worthington to adopt the modified Utility Policy for The City of Soda Springs, seconded by Councilmember Carpenter.

Engineer Skinner contacted various transformer companies, and none were interested in purchasing the used transformer from the City except T & R Supplies. T & R Supplies committed to purchasing and moving the old transformer off City property.

With the closing of the Caribou Sun, The City of Soda Springs needs to determine what publication will be utilized to print public notices. It was ultimately decided the City will publish in the Idaho State Journal.

President Hart met with Bayer representatives to discuss the amount of water consumption used by the Bayer facility. The contract is currently being negotiated. President Hart emphasizes the expectation that Bayer needs to meet the City's established standards. Council President Hart will be meeting Bayer representatives in January to further solidify an agreement regarding water usage.

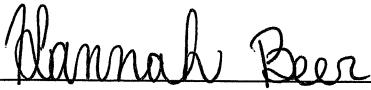
Council President Hart is exploring the possibility of establishing an Urban Renewal District for the Main Street area. This district would include City Hall and everything North of the train tracks, including Hooper School. The Urban Renewal District would be implemented with the intent of enhancing the Cities development and increasing taxes for untaxed properties.

Motion to adjourn at 7:02 by Councilmember Gambles, seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. All in favor, motion carried.



Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Hannah Beer, Clerk