

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD NOVEMBER 15TH, 2023. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00PM BY MAYOR ROBINSON.

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

Scott Shaw

Gregg Haney

Paul Gritton

Alan Skinner, Engineer

Debbie Dumont

Director Justin Hansen

Brooke Allen

Hannah Beer, Clerk

Daniel Parrish

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

Review & Approval of Minutes & Accounts Payable:

An amendment to the agenda was made by Councilmember Hart concerning the Ledger Creek update.

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Gambles moved to accept the minutes of November 1st, 2023 as presented and dispensed with the reading, Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Gambles moved to approve the accounts payable, dated November 1st - November 13th, seconded by Councilmember Hart. A vote on the motion was called. All in favor, motion carried. Councilmember Hart inquired about the 2022 audit and was concerned the City was not billed sooner. Councilmember Carpenter asked Engineer

Skinner about the cost of engineering for the pedestrian grant. Director Skinner responded by informing Mr. Carpenter it cost about \$42,000.

(SEE ATTACHED PAYROLL & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS FOR DETAIL)

Appointments:

Daniel Perish from Direct Communication gave a community update. He started by introducing himself and expressed his excitement to be working with the City of Soda Springs as a community partner. Mr. Perish educated the Council about previous upgrades and addressed the project details for future projects in the City of Soda Springs. Unfortunately, while upcoming projects are progressing there will be more internet outages throughout the City. Equipment, poles, and cables have already been replaced along with other internet hardware in the City. However, more updates will be occurring starting January 1st and lasting until March.

Citizen Input:

Debbie Dumont thanked the City for the hams they gave to City volunteers for Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Carpenter thanked Councilmember Hart for writing the letter about areas of drilling concerns to the Department of Environmental Equality.

Unfinished Business:

Director Engineer Skinner stated he did not update the Capital Improvement List. He then continued to inform the Council about grants received by the Idaho Transportation board. Governor Brad Little designated 100 million dollars to road and bridge improvements. Our district received 5.5 million; Soda Springs estimated to accept a 1.5 million dollar grant for upgrades on Main Street. In theory, the City will only pay for utility replacements. Councilmember Hart stated the City needs to start communicating with the county and business owners to partner with the City to pay for upgrades on Main Street.

Attorney Haney presented the completed Parental Leave Resolution 2023-07 and the Utility Policy Resolution 2023-08 to the Council for approval. Mr. Haney explained he was concerned the Parental Leave policy is directed towards mothers only. He believes this could lead to possible discrimination in the future. The policy would work in conjunction with Family Medical Leave. Councilmember Hart made a motion to adopt the Parental Leave Resolution 2023-07 and the Utility Policy Resolution 2023-08, seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. All in favor, motion carried.

Previously, the Council has waived some hookup fees to promote economic development. At a prior Council meeting, the Highland Developers asked the City to waive current hook-up fees for their subdivision, too. Councilmember Hart acknowledged the large amount of future foregone revenues the City would lose if this request is permitted. He stated hookup fees will be used to help pay for growth; therefore, should not be dismissed. Director Squires explained the necessity of hook-up fees; he stated the City

needs the money for future upgrades and increased capacity. Councilmember Worthington made a motion to have developers continue to pay for hookup fees as stated in the 2020-5 Fee schedule, seconded by Council Member Gambles. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Mitch provided an update on Ledger Creek. Nutrien has decided to gift the designated land to the City of Soda Springs. Nutrien will pay for an appraisal of the property and provide the City with finances for operations and maintenance for the first three years. The appraisal will be done by the start of the year and the transaction will happen then, as well; water rights are included. In addition, Nutrien will pay for a survey, design, and layout to fully meet the conservation statue. The City will receive a \$500,000 match grant. The City plans on reaching out to other community partners to help meet the City portion of the matching grant. Motion made by Councilmember Carpenter to accept the Nutrien/New West proposal for the Ledger Creek property transfer, seconded by Council Member Gambles. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Clerk Beer requested the Council approval of new changes in the financial department. Mrs. Beer asked to transition Shalynn Hennifer from a part-time employee to full-time. She requested a raise of .52 or a 3% increase for Mrs. Hennifer with this new position. She informed the Council of the need to have Mrs. Hennifer be a full-time employee. In addition, Mrs. Beer requested to be moved from a salary employee to an hourly employee. Council member Hart said the Council would consider these requests and have an answer by next Council meeting.

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