



this year's training, if not he would like to plan on sending at least two firemen each year going forward. Councilmember Lau expressed his support to send even up to three. Councilmember Goode also supported the training request. Mayor Robinson asked how the firemen will be chosen to attend. Chief Squires explained that this year he is not able to attend and will send another senior fireman in his place along with drawing a name out of a hat of those that are available to take the time off of work and want to attend. Councilmember Goode moved to approve up to a \$7000 total expenditure for the training, seconded by Councilmember Hart. All in favor, motion carried.

New employees Justin Hansen and Rick Hill were in attendance and introduced to the Mayor and Council. Councilmember Goode, supported by all of the Council, stressed the importance of working safe and stated if it can't be done safely then don't do it. Rick Hill expressed his appreciation for being offered the position.

Director Skinner presented an offer from the LDS Church for the City to purchase the land containing City utilities that run through their property off of 3<sup>rd</sup> West Street. Mayor Robinson pointed out the agreement with the adjoining land owner commits the City to completing improvements within two years and he asked Director Skinner if that was feasible. Director Skinner explained that quite a bit of the work can be done by the City and the road would not have to be asphalted right away. Councilmember Lau also suggested that the curb could be done first and the sidewalk later. Councilmember Lau moved to approve procuring the land from the LDS Church and accepting the donation from Point S Tire. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Director Skinner mentioned that the two additional grants applied for, one for 7<sup>th</sup> East Street and the Child Pedestrian sidewalk grant are currently not being funded by the State but the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee will be voting on it and Council President Hart sent a letter on behalf of the City encouraging the Committee's support.

Councilmember Goode reported on the public hearing held before the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission to consider the variance request of BiPeck Holdings, LC to waive the requirement for perimeter fencing of a recreational vehicle (RV) park that abuts a residential area. One written objection was received from Ellis Peck whose property abuts the RV Park and wants the fence installed. The Dixon's whose property also abuts the RV Park attended the meeting and expressed their support for the variance stating they would prefer not to have the fence. After review and discussion the P & Z Commission recommended approval of the variance with a few stipulations. Councilmember Goode asked RV Park Manager, Jessica Hatch if she had met with Mr. Peck and addressed his concerns which she reported she had and provided an agreement between Bipeck and Mr. Peck. Councilmember Goode thanked Mrs. Hatch for the follow up. Councilmember Goode, based on the diligent work by the P & Z accepted their recommendation and moved to approve the variance request including their recommended stipulations to maintain the weeds, animal excrement and the alleyway where it abuts the residences. Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Clerk Vorwaller provided some information from past discussions on setting minimum fund balances. She explained the suggestion from the auditors to designate through a resolution what is considered excess funds in order to justify the transfers made to the General Fund. The Council discussed the needs of the different funds and suggested a three to six month operating reserve be held in the enterprise funds. The Council agreed due to infrastructure needs the Water and Sewer Funds do not have excess funds. Clerk Vorwaller will provide some recent data on operating and capital costs for the Council's review and draft a proposed resolution. Councilmember Hart asked how the audit was going. Clerk Vorwaller reported it was going good and the new auditors will have several suggested changes to the way the City financial statement is set up. She expects the audit to be completed in the next two to three weeks.

Chris Banks and Pauline Bassett of the Caribou Soil Conservation District informed the Mayor and Council that the State of Idaho was selected to host this year's National Conservation Foundation (NCF)-Envirothon Competition. The competition was started in 1979 as a way to develop young people's understanding of natural resource management and ecology. Five-member teams representing states, provinces, Canada and China will compete in the week-long event. Mr. Banks explained that he is the chairman of this year's event which will take place at Idaho State University with a trip to Soda Springs and Chesterfield. He expressed his appreciation to Pauline Basset for her support. On Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> approximately 500 students and volunteers will be visiting Soda Springs where a group photo will be taken in front of the Geyser and they will have lunch at City Park. Mr. Banks requested permission to set up tents and portable toilets and also asked if bleachers could be placed at the Geyser for the group picture. Mr. Banks also mentioned that the theme for the event will be the Oregon Trail and he is looking for a historian to talk about the history of Soda Springs. The event's cost of \$200,000 comes fully from fund raising and Mr. Banks requested the City's support with the cost of the lunch at the park. The estimated cost of the lunch is \$4000 and the County and local industry will also be asked to help sponsor the event. Councilmember's Hart and Lau offered to solicit additional donations from those they work with. Councilmember Hart moved to approve \$1500 to go toward the cost of the lunch at City Park along with providing reasonable in-kind support for the event, seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Banks thanked the City for their support over the years and stated he looks forward to working with Mayor Robinson.

There was no citizen input at the designated time. Councilmember Goode recognized Charles Fryar who was in attendance and thanked him for being an active Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission member. He mentioned that Mr. Fryar was recently appointed chairman of the P & Z Commission.

The Clerk presented a report on the City's current investments. Councilmember Goode suggested that interest rates will be higher for short term certificate of deposits for any upcoming renewals. Councilmember Hart clarified that the invested funds are included in the funds balance.

Councilmember Hart moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:50pm, seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2018.

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Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk