

monitoring plan. There were no details on the depths of the wells. Councilmember Hart guessed they are not terribly deep because they have been watching a shallow groundwater plume. Monsanto probably has 90 some wells all being monitored mostly on the Monsanto site. Councilmember Hart suggested it is the time of year when they collect all the data and the City may want to request a report from Monsanto. Director Skinner will contact them.

Director Skinner presented a 3 to 4 year improvement proposal for all the parks based on a meeting held with Mayor Robinson and Councilmember Lau. The proposals were reviewed in detail and the Council was asked to provide input or other ideas. The current year's budget for the parks was also reviewed and Director Skinner strongly recommended focusing the designated funds on the replacement of the Hooper Spring cover which is in desperate need of repair or replacement. Mayor Robinson mentioned that he would like to consider marketing items in order to raise funds for specific projects.

For the Mayor and Council's information, Director Skinner presented two letters received from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) regarding Highly Erodible Land (HEL). The NRCS recently upgraded to digital mapping and files, doing new surveys and sending letters to everyone who owns land that contains HEL. The City's land includes the Crop Reduction Program (CRP) ground above Kelly Park and the gravel pit area which is 52 acres along the Bailey Creek Road. If the City decided to farm the land it would have to meet the acceptable farming practices for HEL. The CRP program covers these requirements.

During the designated time for Citizen Input the Friends of the Park members, Laura Lind and Georgia Brown presented the Mayor and Council with binders containing specifications and warranty information on all the playground project materials and equipment. Also included was a long-term maintenance and care guide. Mrs. Lind and Mrs. Brown also reported on the maintenance costs of two similar playgrounds. The playground in Pocatello partners with the Rotary Club who maintains and holds an annual fundraiser to cover the costs. A new playground in Orem, Utah has a zip line that has needed maintenance which the Soda Springs playground will not have but the biggest maintenance item has just been garbage collection. The Friends of the Park are working with the Lions Club on an alliance to maintain the playground. Mayor Robinson suggested setting aside funds each year for maintenance of the playground. Councilmember Hart suggested if the City was going to do that it would make sense to include maintenance for all of the City's playgrounds. Georgia Brown pointed out that the warranties are good and will cover the maintenance for a long time and the wood fence is covered for 50 years. The Mayor thanked Mrs. Lind and Mrs. Brown for the very well done presentation.

Councilmember Lau joined the meeting during the citizen input presentation.

The Idaho Transportation Dept. (ITD), Unified Certification Program agreement was presented for the Council's approval. Clerk Vorwaller explained it was required due to the ITD grant the City was awarded for the South 1st East Street project. Attorney Nelson

reported that he reviewed the agreement and saw no issues. Councilmember Goode, seconded by Councilmember Lau moved to approve the Statement of Agreement for the Idaho Unified Certification Program with ITD. All in favor, motion carried.

A building inspector agreement proposed and drafted by Caribou County was reviewed. Director Skinner pointed out several concerns with the proposed agreement. The County is requesting the entire City's building permit fees but Director Skinner explained there are expenses the City will have in processing permits and would also like to start training a new building inspector. He presented a sample of Preston's agreement which has the city retaining 40% of the fees and the County 60%. It also spells out that the building inspector is not a city employee and liability coverage is the county's responsibility. Councilmember Hart supported presenting Caribou County with a draft agreement, based on the Preston sample agreement, for their review. Councilmember Lau pointed out that the Preston agreement didn't have an enforcement clarification. Director Skinner explained that if there was a violation it would be reviewed by City Hall and then given to the Police Department which is already covered in the City code but can be added to the agreement if needed.

Mayor Robinson proposed the idea of putting together incentive packages for new businesses and also new ideas to work with our already existing private sector. He feels there are great opportunities for us to bring in new businesses including an Alco type store, technical type companies, a warehouse and a call center. He suggested that the City needs to gear itself now so when opportunities present themselves we have several different options to pull from to help bring in the business. Councilmember Hart mentioned that cities do not have a lot of tools, because we can't lower property taxes or sales tax but can control hook-up fees, building permit fees and partner on grants. He suggested putting together a list of things the City can and can't do, work with Kathy Ray along with trying to establish a dialogue with the County pointing out what helps us helps them but to some degree our hands are tied. Mayor Robinson stated we need to think outside the box and he feels the opportunities are there and we need to find the correct solution and fit for us. Councilmember Hart listed the City's attractive assets which include; rail, truck infrastructure, transmission and distribution natural gas lines, power, industrial area and two fiber optic systems which are all assets we need to capitalize on. Councilmember Gambles suggested it would be helpful to him to have a chart of some sort that spells out what the City can do. The Mayor asked everyone to go over all the options and throw them out there and come up with all the possibilities. Councilmember Hart also encouraged partnering with industry and getting them to use local companies to provide their needs. The Mayor appreciated the input and will be continuing the conversation in the future.

Mayor Robinson expressed his desire to encourage training for supervisors and all employees stating he is a believer that well trained employees can better support the citizens. He asked the Council to support increased employee training. Councilmember Goode pointed out that the City will pay toward college courses that will benefit an employee in their position with the City. Councilmember Hart suggested that it is the Council's function to establish policy to support employee training but he doesn't want to

force a one size fits all form of training on the employees instead it should be a supervisor's recommendation.

Councilmember Goode informed the Mayor and Council of a Town Hall Meeting that will be held February 26th from 6 to 7pm in conjunction with the Bengal Solutions market analysis project and the Comprehensive Plan update. The meeting will solicit public input on economic development items including; land use, housing, retail and entertainment.

Councilmember Goode moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:55pm, seconded by Councilmember Hart. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 21st DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2018.

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk