



Mayor Robinson proclaimed April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in the City of Soda Springs. He began by quoting John F. Kennedy; "Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see". He then read the proclamation at length which encouraged the community to support all families to raise children in a safe and nurturing environment and called upon community agencies to increase participation in efforts to support families.

The Mayor recommended the appointment of Daniel Larsen as a new member of the Airport Commission and issued the oath of office. Mr. Larsen's term will run through December 2022.

Roger Gibson, Bayer Plant Manager gave a business update. He mentioned a lot of expensive safety measures were put in place for COVID and they have been very effective. He stated there has not been a single case of transmission within the plant. The glyphosate business is doing well and the plant currently has a little advantage due to logistics issues caused by COVID. Bayer gave approval last fall for the Caldwell Canyon mine which is greater than a \$300 million investment in Caribou County. This will keep the plant going for another 35 to 40 years. The Ballard mine reclamation project consent decree is signed and the comment period has ended. This will make it possible to get Ballard cleaned up the way they want and is a good thing for the community and the region. The ground water treatment facility 1<sup>st</sup> phase is nearing completion along with the mercury scrubbing system. Mr. Gibson stated these three projects total a \$500 million investment in this operation in Soda Springs which insures that Bayer is going to be here for a long time. The Mayor thanked Mr. Gibson for the update.

Chris Leatherman, Mine Development Manager for Bayer noted the attendance also of Randy Vranes, Mineral Activities Business Unit Lead for Bayer. Mr. Leatherman gave an update on the development associated with Caldwell Canyon that will be happening in the plant area. He mentioned the Caldwell Canyon mine proposal has been being worked on since 2015 and explained how the transportation analysis, which is the mode of getting the ore to the plant, has modeled the design and construction to come. Several different routes and modes of transportation were considered including trucks, conveyer and rail. The analysis considered noise, effect on environment and the economics and cost of the infrastructure. In the end the decision was made to use rail which was right for the County's environment even though it is more complex and expensive. The decision was also based on the mine reclamation plan which becomes part of how to get the ore out of the mine. A lengthy regulatory process was completed and public meetings were held. Mr. Leatherman detailed and showed pictures of the construction that will install a new circle of track, a building and conveyer system east of the plant for unloading and transferring to the current conveyer system. He explained how this has been designed to shield noise from the facility and measures are being taken to reduce visibility and noise to the surrounding property owners. He also mentioned community outreach meetings are being held. The dirt work will begin in May of this year with track laying and facility construction in 2022. The construction will be done during the daytime only. The first ore coming from Caldwell will begin in 2024. He mentioned this is a big mine compared to the Blackfoot Bridge mine which is just a 15 year mine in comparison. This transportation

mode for the ore is going to be in place for a long time. Mr. Leatherman detailed the schedule of the ore shipments. Union Pacific will provide a dedicated crew Monday through Friday; a loaded train will be delivered late afternoon and will need to be empty by morning. Councilmember Hart asked who the contractors would be and if there is going to be a big influx of workers. He explained the additional pressure put on the City Police Force when an influx of contractors are in town. He mentioned the industry has been great to work with in the past and just wants everyone on the same page working together and communicating any problems. Mr. Leatherman stated the contractor is still being sorted out but it's estimated there will be 150 people involved but not all on the ground. Mr. Gibson added he understands there will be only 14 to 20 on this property and the majority will be at the mine area. Mr. Leatherman mentioned they have been discussing with the contractors how their workers will need to be instructed on coming and going from the work site along with being good citizens. Mr. Gibson stated they will be looking for local workers as much as possible also. The Mayor expressed his appreciation for the thought and planning that went into this and the Council thanked Mr. Leatherman for the great presentation.

During citizen input the Mayor noted there are a few more little shops going in on Main Street and encouraged everyone to check out the local merchants.

Councilmember Hart gave a brief update on the Kerr McGee/Tronox site project by Greenfield Trust. He has been in contact with Lars Peterson the project manager who reported they are anticipating continuing to build the data base this season. They hoped to have a draft final focused feasibility study but are having to take a closer look at the effects of the 10 acre pond closure and evaluate a managed natural attenuation approach on the closure of the site. This will delay the issuing of the full feasibility study and annual update to the City. Mr. Peterson has requested to push the update too late fall and possibly as late as December but he is available for questions and concerns and is keeping the dialogue going.

Engineer Skinner briefly reviewed the project list. The playground security system materials are on order and he mentioned meeting with Forsgren Engineers who will begin work to create prints for possible 4<sup>th</sup> South and Main Street utility and pavement projects. Councilmember Hart mentioned a State transportation bill going through the legislation quickly that may provide an increase in the Highway Revenue the City receives and also possible stimulus funds to use if we have projects ready to go. Engineer Skinner stated he understands the Cares Act funding can be used for water and sewer projects. Councilmember Hart recommended completing the transmission line from Ledger Creek as a priority project. The pressure reducing valve (PRV) project was also reviewed and Engineer Skinner pointed out the \$54,000 in the budget to start on the PRV's.

A new industrial park lease proposal was reviewed and discussed. Teton Adventure RV out of Idaho Falls is interested in leasing two lots on the south end for an RV sales and service business capitalizing on the RV traffic coming through. They plan to start right away on putting in a building and hope to hire up to four people. This is 1.6 acres total and the lease

amount will be approximately \$1700 this year and \$1900 next year. Engineer Skinner confirmed the buildings on Industrial Park lots are taxable. A few corrections in the lease were discussed and Councilmember Goode recommended increasing the insurance requirements to \$2 million and \$4 million aggregate and also recommended including a condition that so many full time equivalent (FTE) employees be hired. Councilmember Lau suggested a phased in approach and then if not met within the time frame some sort of recourse. He pointed out the lease is basically a subsidy and we can expect something in return. Councilmembers Goode and Gambles agreed. The Council suggested having the final changes to the lease made and a business plan presented by the business owner at the next meeting.

The Council reviewed a request for sponsorship from the Caribou County Rodeo Club. Councilmember Hart seconded by Councilmember Lau moved to provide \$250. All in favor, motion carried.

Engineer Skinner reported the County will have only one week of free dumping at the land fill May 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>. He reviewed with the Mayor and Council the City's annual clean-up week. The Council agreed to proceed as normal with curb-side pick-up of yard debris and the drop-off available at the City Shop. They suggested after hours drop-off and getting volunteers to man the Saturday.

The budget calendar was presented for review and the Clerk noted the requirement to notify the County of the Budget Hearing date and time. The Mayor and Council approved the calendar and the hearing scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Clerk Vorwaller mentioned she would be absent for the next regular meeting and suggested canceling the meeting. It was agreed there were items that would need to be addressed so the meeting should not be canceled. Planning and Zoning Secretary, Andrea Haderlie will cover the meeting for the Clerk.

Councilmember Lau moved to approve entering into executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(1)(f) to communicate with legal counsel regarding probable litigation.

Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. A roll call showed the following vote:

Those voting aye:	Mitch Hart	Those voting nay:	none
	Robert Lau		
	Jon Goode	Absent:	none
	Scott Gambles		

Motion Carried.

Councilmember Lau moved to exit executive session, seconded by Councilmember Goode. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Goode moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm, seconded by Councilmember Hart. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF APRIL,  
2021.

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Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk