

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD OCTOBER 7TH, 2020.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00PM BY AUSTIN W. ROBINSON, MAYOR.

ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

AUSTIN W. ROBINSON, MAYOR
MITCH HART, PRES. via telephone
JON D. GOODE
ROBERT M. LAU
SCOTT K. GAMBLE

EXCUSED:

ALSO PRESENT:	Mark Steele via telephone	Alan Skinner, Engineer
	Dillon Liechty	Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk
	Benjamin Goode	Gregg Haney, Attorney
	Billy Rasmussen	Chief Scott Shaw II
		CeJay Golightly

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

Mayor Robinson noted that Councilmember Hart was in attendance via telephone and Councilmember Gambles would be joining the meeting a little late. Councilmember's Goode and Lau were present.

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Lau stated he had reviewed and moved to dispense with the reading and accept the minutes of September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as presented by the Clerk. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable and payroll were reviewed. Councilmember Goode moved to approve the accounts payable for the period of September 15<sup>th</sup> through September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 along with the payroll for the month of September, 2020. Councilmember Lau seconded the motion. Councilmember Goode asked about a payment to the Partridge Group. Chief Shaw explained it was the company that does the psychological evaluation as part of the interview process for new officers. Councilmember Hart asked about a small payment to CenturyLink which the clerk explained was for long distance charges at the Library. A vote on the motion was called. All in favor, motion carried

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL REGISTERS FOR DETAIL)

Billy Rasmussen, a County resident and little league basketball coach expressed his concerns to the Mayor and Council about the need for additional practice space for the upcoming City basketball programs. He explained that he has been working on finding the best option and getting some local funding to put a temporary floor in the Hooper School building to use for practices. He stated the School has been great to work with and agreed

to the use of the building as long as it is managed by the City Recreation Department. The flooring he has found that he thinks would be best and most cost effective is a poly-type flooring and will cost approximately \$20,000. He mentioned his involvement as part of the recreation center committee which is currently not making any progress and also noted his use of the City Park basketball court which he has personally sprayed with Roundup to try and help keep it usable. He expressed his feeling that the City wasn't trying hard enough to support the programs for the kids and suggested the recreation fees are really low and could be increased to help fund a facility. He stated he has talked to fewer than 10 people that will help come up with the money for the floor and asked if the City could cover half the cost. Mr. Rasmussen expressed his appreciation to the School District who is letting the school gyms be used every hour possible for recreation but with all the School programs there is just not enough gym time for the little league programs. Mr. Rasmussen also asked if the donations for the floor could be run through the City in order to keep track of the funds. The Council mentioned they could also go through the Caribou Development Foundation if the donors wanted it to be tax deductible. The Council suggested checking with City Director, Justin Hansen and Recreation Director, Celeste Billman on whether they have funds available in their budgets to help cover the cost of the floor. Engineer Skinner noted there were funds available for the City Park basketball court and there would probably be enough to be used for this project also. The Council agreed to consider the proposal and will review and come up with an answer by next meeting.

Dillon Liechty, Caribou Hospital Representative requested approval to place a cargo storage container in front of the hospital to use as a COVID testing facility. Mr. Liechty explained at length the difficulty they have had finding an appropriate structure that could be heated and weather proof for the winter. He explained their need to isolate the COVID testing from the hospital in order to keep the Living Center safe. He mentioned they finally attained the cargo container through emergency service contacts not knowing it was not allowed in the City. He asked the Council to consider temporarily allowing it for the current situation. Attorney Haney pointed out the container can be approved for temporary use for a period of 6 months and renewed if necessary. The Attorney requested a written commitment that it will be removed as soon as it is not needed. Mr. Liechty stated that is very acceptable to them because they don't want to have it there any longer than they have to. Councilmember Goode expressed concerns about it having an emergency exit. Mr. Liechty explained this container has a door in both ends along with windows. Councilmember Lau moved pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order to approve the temporary use of the cargo container for COVID testing at the Hospital for as long as the Emergency Order is in place and up to an additional 6 months to have it removed, contingent on a letter of commitment from the Hospital. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Dillon Liechty and Ben Goode representing the Soda Springs Rotary Club reported to the Mayor and Council on their efforts to find ways to provide service hours in support of the community. The Club discussed focusing on getting the ice skating rink up and running and found lot of people supported the idea. Mr. Goode noted the rink has not been in use for years and will need weeds removed and a new liner. He explained that Itafos has some

liner left over from their latest project that is available and the Club plans to clean up the area and fix the structures along with creating a schedule and enlisting help to provide the 3:00am watering's to build up the ice layers. Engineer Skinner noted there is lighting already there. Mr. Liechty noted he is excited to bring back an opportunity for kids to learn to play hockey which he has fond memories of as a kid. Councilmember Goode moved to accept the Rotary's proposal to clean up the ice skating rink and get it operational. Councilmember Lau seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Mayor Robinson expressed his appreciation for the Club's efforts and all the volunteers.

Chief Scott Shaw II requested approval of a .40 cent per hour wage increase for Officer Greg Belew for completing his one year probationary period. The Chief noted he is doing an excellent job and came pre-certified and has been a great asset for the Department. Attorney Haney supported the request stating he was impressed with Officer Belew's quality of work. Councilmember Goode, seconded by Councilmember Hart moved to approve the wage increase. All in favor, motion carried. The Mayor noted the Library had rave reviews of Officer Belew and his K-9 visiting the kids.

Chief Shaw then requested to proceed with the Bancorp lease program for new vehicles for the Department. He explained the new budget included \$25,000 which will allow them to replace three of the seven vehicles this year. Councilmember Goode agreed it was his intention to phase in the leased vehicles and was aligned with starting with three. Attorney Haney noted he had reviewed the agreement which was clean and straight forward. He mentioned it was premised out of Florida but they had agreed to change that to Idaho and that would be the only expectation he would recommend. The Chief and Council discussed the condition of the remaining vehicles and the specifications and warranty of the new ones. The new vehicles will include the new radios and radar units needed. At least two of the remaining vehicles have some major problems. The Council and Attorney discussed trading or selling the old vehicles and agreed they should all be taken by the Bancorp program and sold with the funds set aside to help cover the cost of the vehicles. Councilmember Lau pointed out that next year the annual budget amount will double to upgrade the rest of the fleet. Chief Shaw recognized Councilmember Lau's concern but explained the previous lease buy back deals were no longer available and to purchase one new equipped vehicle now costs \$35,000 to \$40,000. Councilmember Goode strongly suggested the Chief have a hard fisted negotiation on the lease interest rate with the Bancorp representative. Councilmember Goode moved to authorize Chief Shaw to negotiate the lease of three new police vehicles up to the \$25,000 budget. Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Councilmember Lau stressed the need to come up with a way to pay for the remainder of the cars that need replaced.

During the time for citizen input Councilmember Goode shared that it was National Cyber Security month and encouraged the citizens of Soda Springs to visit <https://www.cisa.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month>, the program website, which has a lot of good tips to inform the public about the importance of being vigilant when using the internet and social media.

The Ledge Creek cleaning project is complete. Engineer Skinner reported the City crew was able to finish hauling off the material cleaned out of the creek. He showed a picture of the culvert under the Railroad and the decreased water level. He requested approval to pay Babe's Dirt Work \$9,600 for the work he did at a \$25 an hour discounted rate. Councilmember Lau moved to approve the payment to Babe's, seconded by Councilmember Goode. Engineer Skinner noted the cost was offset by a donation from other property owners and he is still trying to track down some individuals for funds. He is also waiting to hear back from the County on whether they can look at the Wood Canyon road culvert.

The project lists were reviewed. Engineer Skinner reported and showed pictures of the projects. The Formation well house is just a couple days from being done, the spring box is gone and they just have the roofing, electrical and removal of the silt fence left. He presented the Vaughn Smith final pay application for \$227,703.60. He explained the decision to move the power tie-in point straight north instead of going east which will save money and the Pantings have agreed to modify the easement for placement of the new pole. Rocky Mountain Power is scheduled to be here October 19<sup>th</sup>. Bear River Electric will install the conduit for Rocky Mountain along with providing the wiring and panel for the building. The 200 amp service will provide lighting, power to the flow meter and the future pump. The electric work will not hold up the final approval. The well completion report has been sent to the State and the final inspection will be scheduled. Engineer Skinner reviewed a report showing two exceedances in the water quality testing; the PH was remedied by sharing the sample from the aeration building and the past sampling history, a result of the Calcium Carbonate in the water puts us slightly over the total dissolved solids standards everything else matches the aquifer in the spring. Councilmember Lau moved to approve the final payment application for Vaughn Smith construction contingent on completion and sign off by the Engineer. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Pictures of the Hooper Spring cover were viewed along with the new road behind Point S Tire and Engineer Skinner noted it seems the drainage is good. Attorney Haney is working on abandoning of the road. He is waiting for the survey and then will prepare the notices and publication. Staff will discuss with the Byrams the best way to block off the old road from public use.

Engineer Skinner noted the Enders Building security system is complete and he has been trained. He asked what access should be given to Diamond Heart. Councilmember Goode suggested anything they need to be able to run their business they should have access to. The system is using their Wi-Fi. The Council agreed no one should have the ability to delete anything. Councilmember Hart asked if the cameras for the City Park were moving forward. Engineer Skinner stated he was working on it and will see if we can get some help from Direct Communications to provide the internet. Councilmember Lau suggested installing cameras to be able to see the whole park. All agreed. Engineer Skinner will add it to the project list. The Mayor asked about getting signage in place for the bike riders coming from the north side of town until something else is figured out.

Councilmember Goode detailed the recent and the history of the Planning & Zoning Commission's (P & Z) discussions regarding allowing cargo/box car type containers in the City. The issue has again come up due to the placement of a container at the Soda Sip location owned by Brock and Paige Byram who weren't aware cargo containers were not allowed. In 2017 the ordinance was changed to allow for temporary use of the containers in residential and commercial zones, prior to that they were only allowed in the industrial zones. The P & Z is planning to continue to review and discuss and is considering allowing in commercial zones as a conditional use. Their biggest concern is aesthetics, not wanting them to look unsightly and how the City can hold users accountable to maintain. They also don't want to see them placed permanently in residential zones. Councilmember Goode also expressed his safety concerns due to them only having one way in and out.

Councilmember Lau expressed his desire to encourage the P & Z to move forward with allowing in the commercial zones and agreed it is a great way to manage as a conditional use and suggested requiring them to be painted a single color. Engineer Skinner mentioned there are at least two entities that have them that look very nice and another 12 to 20 in town now. It would be good to have a clear guide how to enforce the code.

Engineer Skinner noted in 1987 the P & Z denied the City's own application to place a Rail Road box car at the City Shop. Councilmember Goode will report back to the P & Z on the Council's desire to proceed with a code amendment.

The Council continued to review the master fee schedule. Councilmember Lau posed the question of what is the purpose of certain fees. He noted the building permit fees were not a money maker and are currently structured as a deterrent to development. He suggested considering reducing them to invite and encourage development. He also explained certain fees are meant to modify behavior like the animal licensing fees and if that is the purpose then the cost to license an animal that is not spayed or neutered should be increased. He mentioned the Council hasn't seen the breakdown of these revenues. He also expressed his heartburn with charging for park pavilion use and expressed his opinion that the non-resident recreation fee was not enough. Councilmember Goode mentioned the City's reason to exist is to provide safety and utilities to its citizens, overtime other services are added like parks and recreation which should pay their own way but they can't. He sees the need to increase fees to cover providing these other services but doesn't want to dissuade people from participating. Councilmember Lau requested to work with Engineer Skinner and Councilmember Gambles on reviewing the fees and come back with a proposal. The Mayor and Council agreed it was prudent to take some time and review and suggested trying to come up with a proposal in the next couple of months.

Councilmember Lau moved to approve entering into executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(1)(a)(b)(f)) to consider hiring and/or evaluation of public employees and communicate with legal counsel regarding probable litigation. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. A roll call showed the following vote:

Those voting aye: Jon Goode

Robert Lau

Mitch Hart

Scott Gambles

Those voting nay: none

Absent: none

Motion Carried.

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

A motion was made to create a full time position in the Parks Department that will be advertised in the newspaper next week. The position will include responsibilities for tree trimming, sprinkler service/repair, weed spraying and will require a CDL, either before hire or immediately after hire. Councilmember Lau made the motion. Councilmember Goode seconded. There was a unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15pm.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2020.

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Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk