

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD AUGUST 17TH, 2022.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00PM BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, MITCH HART.

ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT: MITCHELL J. HART, PRES.  
RYAN CARPENTER  
RODNEY WORTHINGTON  
SCOTT K. GAMBLES

EXCUSED: AUSTIN W. ROBINSON, MAYOR

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Steele Alan Skinner, Engineer  
Scott Muir Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk  
Paul Gritton Gregg Haney, Attorney  
Shalayne Bartschi  
Debra Daniels Chief Scott Shaw II  
Trevyn Phelps CeJay Golightly

The invocation was given by Rod Worthington, Council President Hart then led everyone in the 'Pledge of Allegiance'.

Council President Hart noted the Mayor was absent and excused.

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Carpenter moved to accept the minutes of August 10th, 2022 as presented and dispense with the reading. Councilmember Worthington seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable were reviewed. Councilmember Worthington moved to approve the accounts payable dated August 1<sup>st</sup> through August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. All in favor, motion carried.

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER FOR DETAIL)

Two bids were reviewed on the Fire Station repairs. The low bid contractor is working on getting the required licenses and insurances and would be able to start right away the higher bidder is scheduled out further. Councilmember Hart supported using the low bidder, Ruff Duk, Inc. owned by Danny Cockrell who used to work for Bear Lake Construction, if Engineer Skinner is comfortable that they have the capacity and ability. Councilmember Worthington asked if all the departments are going to sign off on the project initiation checklist? Engineer Skinner stated everyone has already seen it. He detailed the work to be done which does not include the inside repairs which he feels he can find a local contractor to do for about \$2000. The inside repairs include minor sheet rock and tile repairs and a small concrete repair. Councilmember Carpenter moved to accept the bid from Ruff Duk, Inc. in the amount of \$139,520 for the outside Fire Station repairs contingent on all licensing, insurance and bonding requirements. Seconded by Councilmember Worthington. All in favor, motion carried.

Council President Hart declared a public hearing open to consider an amendment to the current 2022 fiscal year (FY) budget. The amendment is to address additional expenditures offset by grant funds, user fees and reserves. The Clerk reported no written

comments had been received. There were no comments from those in attendance and the public hearing was closed. Councilmember Carpenter introduced Ordinance #691 entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, IDAHO, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 689, THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING THE FIRST DAY OF OCTOBER, 2021 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2022; APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL MONIES THAT ARE TO BE RECEIVED AND FROM RESERVES AS DETAILED. A motion was then made by Councilmember Worthington and seconded by Councilmember Carpenter that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three separate occasions be dispensed with and that the ordinance be read once by title only. A roll call showed the following vote:

Those voting aye:	Rod Worthington	Those voting nay:	none
	Mitch Hart		
	Ryan Carpenter	Absent:	none
	Scott Gambles		

Motion Carried.

Clerk Vorwaller read Ordinance #691 by title. Councilmember Carpenter then moved to approve the adoption of Ordinance #691 amending the 2022 FY Budget. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion for adoption. A roll call showed the following vote:

Those voting aye:	Rod Worthington	Those voting nay:	none
	Mitch Hart		
	Ryan Carpenter	Absent:	none
	Scott Gambles		

Motion Carried.

(SEE ATTACHED COPY OF ORDINANCE #691 - ORIGINAL ON FILE)

Council President Hart then declared a public hearing open to consider the annual budget for fiscal year 2023. The Clerk reported no written comments were received. There were no public comments from those in attendance and the public hearing was closed. Councilmember Carpenter suggested decreasing the amount budgeted for a possible Enders building remodel to bring the General Fund balance reserve within the target amount. Councilmember Hart suggested leaving it in but noted that doesn't necessarily mean the City has to use it. He mentioned if they decided to pursue the remodel, they would have some funds available. The Council agreed to further discuss the budget after other appointments on the agenda before approving the final appropriations ordinance.

Leadership from the Soda Springs School District addressed the Mayor and Council to stress their support for the School Resource Officer (SRO) position and increasing it to a full-time position. Middle School Principal of 10 years, Debbie Daniels noted she is also the school's safety coordinator and explained the many things they are implementing to make safety improvements in the schools. She strongly supports expanding the SRO program as one more thing that would improve school safety. She stressed how she appreciates the well-trained officers and the relationships they are building with the students and staff. Chief Shaw explained he is working with the School on sharing the cost to train and pay a full-time SRO and pointed out it may take a year to get the officer trained and in place. School District Superintendent Muir added the School District is very prepared to help with the costs and the position is very needed. Costs and scheduling were discussed.

Councilmember Hart suggested seeing if the Sheriff's Office would also participate. Councilmember's Carpenter and Worthington added their strong support for the program which is invaluable to the children and the community and a very positive presence to have in the schools.

Senior Center Director, Shalayne Bartschi explained the Center is getting new siding, some windows and a garage door. The cost is approximately \$50,000 and the County is pitching in \$25,000 above what they annually give the Center. Mrs. Bartschi stated the County Commissioners suggested checking if the City would also help pitch in. There were no grants available but she applies for all grants annually and reaches out to all industry to help with all their programs. She will be talking to the Cities of Grace and Bancroft also. The City of Soda Springs annually contributes \$3500. Councilmember Hart asked Mrs. Bartschi to come back and report on other contributions.

During citizen input Paul Gritton, resident and local business owner first expressed his opinion about the importance of increasing police wages in order to maintain critical positions and a good Police Department. He also expressed his support for the school resource officer stating preparations may prevent the need. Mr. Gritton then mentioned the recent city-wide power outage and a period of time when there was no cell service. He encouraged the City to support the 208 Project using GMRS radios channel 20 tone 8 for emergency communication. He stressed this does not replace the 911 system and he did find out during the cell outage that 911 still worked. He mentioned there are several people contributing and volunteering to make the 208 Project work and a repeater will be installed on Soda Point linking the majority of the County. Mr. Gritton encouraged the City to get involved and mentioned licensing was available for \$35 and a class will be held in October. Councilmember Hart clarified the cell outage had no connection to the scheduled City power outage and seemed to be isolated to a single carrier. Mr. Gritton reminded everyone to turn on their radios on Wednesday evenings for a radio check and he also asked the City to help put out information about the project.

Engineer Skinner reported the South 2<sup>nd</sup> East Street project was progressing. The contractor is completing excavation, hauling in fill material and installed 80 feet of storm pipe. They will now proceed with installing the crown on the road and curb, gutter and asphalt.

The only changes to the project list showed the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) grant and the bids on the Fire Station repairs. The fiscal year end priorities include the South 2<sup>nd</sup> East project and getting the 600 feet of pipe installed for the Ledge Creek transmission line. Engineer Skinner mentioned the Ledge Creek line will need reapproval from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) but the City should be okay to install the pipe. Councilmember Hart suggested reviewing ways to cover the cost to complete the Ledge Creek line or do Main Street and asked Clerk Vorwaller to provide a spread sheet of the outstanding loans to the Power Fund and also how long until the Formation Well rate will fully reimburse the Water Fund for the Formation Well project. Engineer Skinner added the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) has Highway 30 scheduled for replacement in 2024 and the City would need to cover the cost to upgrade

the utilities. Councilmember Carpenter suggested if the City did the utility upgrades in conjunction with the project it would save the City the excavation costs. Engineer Skinner stated ITD will want the City's upgrades done before they proceed in order to not slow down the project. He also suggested the cost will probably be more than the \$800,000 estimated for Main Street.

The Council made a final review of the proposed budget and went through and discussed the major budget items and projects. Council President Hart suggested everyone closely review and make sure all are on the same page as next year's budgets are expended. He also recommended the water and sewer projects be prioritized and funds be spent deliberately on the most critical areas. Councilmember Carpenter introduced Ordinance #692 entitled AN ORDINANCE TERMED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL, APPROPRIATING MONEY IN SUCH SUM AND SUMS AS IS DEEMED NECESSARY TO DEFRAY ALL PROPER EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, IDAHO, NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING THE FIRST DAY OF OCTOBER, 2022 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 50-1002, IDAHO CODE. A motion was then made by Councilmember Gambles and seconded by Councilmember Worthington that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three separate occasions be dispensed with and that the ordinance be read once by title only. A roll call showed the following vote:

Those voting aye:	Ryan Carpenter	Those voting nay:	none
	Mitch Hart		
	Rod Worthington	Absent:	none
	Scott Gambles		

Motion Carried.

Clerk Vorwaller read Ordinance #692 by title. Councilmember Gambles then moved to approve the adoption of Ordinance #692 the FY 2023 Annual Appropriations. Councilmember Worthington seconded the motion for adoption. A roll call showed the following vote:

Those voting aye:	Ryan Carpenter	Those voting nay:	none
	Mitch Hart		
	Rod Worthington	Absent:	none
	Scott Gambles		

Motion Carried.

(SEE ATTACHED COPY OF ORDINANCE #692 - ORIGINAL ON FILE)

Councilmember Gambles moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40pm, seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2022.

---

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk