

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD JANUARY 5TH, 2022.

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

ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT: AUSTIN W. ROBINSON, MAYOR
 JON D. GOODE
 ROBERT M. LAU
 SCOTT K. GAMBLES

EXCUSED: MITCHELL J. HART, PRES.

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Steele Alan Skinner, Engineer
 Ryan Carpenter Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk
 Lanae Carpenter Gregg Haney, Attorney
 Jori Nate
 Austin & Jackie Robinson Chief Shaw
 Christopher Alonzo CeJay Golightly
 JoAnna Ashley Dan Squires
 Rod Worthington Justin Hansen

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

The Mayor noted all were in attendance but Councilmember Hart who was unable to call in due to his travel schedule.

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Lau pointed out a misspelling of his name on page four and with that correction moved to approve the minutes of December 15th, 2021 and dispense with the reading. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Goode moved to approve the accounts payable dated December 14th through December 31st, 2021 along with the payroll for the month of December 2021. Councilmember Lau seconded the motion. Councilmember Goode asked if the \$872.30 payment to Chemsearchfe was a monthly fee. Attorney Haney stated yes, it is for monthly chemical monitoring and treatment of the boiler. Mayor Robinson added the School Dist. uses the same service for their boilers and he had recommended it to maintain the boiler. Councilmember Lau asked about the payment to Coats & Coats to clear out a sink line at the Enders Building. Attorney Haney explained it was a stopped-up drain pipe that caused some water damage from the restroom just above the restaurant area. Councilmember Goode noted the payroll looks high due to there being three payrolls in the month. A vote on the motion was called. All in favor, motion carried.

(SEE ATTACHED PAYROLL & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS FOR DETAIL)

Mayor Robinson administered the oath of office twice to Jori Nate who will be serving on the Greater Soda Springs Community Development Committee and on the Library Board. The Mayor noted he had recommended her for both positions and feels she will serve well and professionally.

The Mayor and Council reviewed the budgeted snow removal items City Director Hansen had previously submitted by email to the Council. Councilmember Goode moved to approve the purchase of two box pushers and a snow blower attachment as presented for a total cost of \$14,795. Councilmember Lau seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Director Hansen explained the purpose for the new equipment. The snow blower will be used to help clear walkways and the box pushers are able to contain more snow with the intent of cutting down on the time it takes to clear the snow from the main roads. He noted they have used the new box pusher on Main Street twice now and it cuts the time in half. For the amount of the purchase, it was well worth it.

The project list was briefly reviewed. Engineer Skinner noted he had added the sewer line replacement on 3rd East Street that is located in the back yards and under buildings, where a backup recently occurred in a home. Regarding the 46kV transmission line he mentioned the engineers are in the process of putting together a formal bid package for the project that will be approximately \$400,000. He also mentioned he is waiting to hear back on the status of the #4 Hydro Plant turbine reconditioning and still need to decide on the additional options.

Mayor Robinson declared Councilmember's Lau and Goode as Soda Springs Super Heroes for their years of service to the community. Also, on behalf of a grateful community he presented them with plaques for 8 years of leadership and commitment to the citizens of Soda Springs as City Councilmembers. He stated it had been an honor and a privilege to serve with them.

The Mayor noted we live in a constitutional republic and therefore get to choose those that represent us welcoming the newly elected Councilmembers. Clerk Vorwaller then administered the oath of office to Mayor, Austin W. Robinson for his second term. Mayor Robinson administered the oath of office to the newly elected Councilmember's Ryan Carpenter and Rod Worthington.

During the time for citizen input the Mayor offered some comments about the recent snow accumulation and a power outage. He noted we live in an area blessed in beauty including snow, with the hardships that brings along with experiencing a recent a power outage that fortunately wasn't too long. He stated this is a good test for everyone to evaluate whether they are prepared and have flashlights, blankets and other items needed in case of emergencies. Because we never know what may come.

Director of City Services, Justin Hansen reviewed and asked the Mayor and Council for input on the City's snow removal policy. He pointed out the City code was vague and provided limited information on the City's snow removal policy and presented an old policy

that was more detailed. He explained his reason for the review was to see if the policy needed to be updated and possibly adopted as code in order for the residents to be made aware of the policy and understand why the City does things a certain way. Director Hansen understands with winter and snow comes lots of man and equipment hours along with frustration from staff and residents. Councilmember Carpenter asked if the City moves snow beyond the right-of-way line in certain areas. Director Hansen explained they do clean-up trouble areas/intersections which there is a lot of them so it's usually after they complete the plowing then they go back and push the snow piles back further and clean-up. He pointed out it is against City code for property owners to pile or push their snow onto the City's right-of-way and it's supposed to be kept on their own property. He added they want to do the best job they can to make it safe and they are never trying to make it hard or a mess for people because at the end of the day the crew has to go home and clean-up the snow at their own house just like everyone else. Councilmember Gambles expressed his thanks stating he feels the crews have done a great job the last few winters and he would rely on Director Hansen's recommendations. Director Hansen also pointed out the Police Department has done a great job trying to get cars off the streets and the Water Department has been helping also. The Mayor noted they had been trying to communicate better through social media and suggested a condensed version of the snow removal policy could be put online to help get the information out to the community. Councilmember Worthington commended the crews for long hours moving snow when getting a lot of snow all at once like recently and he also witnessed our crew helping people get unstuck. He noted we cannot control the amount of snow that comes down. Councilmember Carpenter asked how many miles of streets the City has and commended the crew's plowing efforts which he thinks are doing a great job and understands the limitations. Director Hansen noted there are 19.26 miles of road which equate to 110 lane miles. He added his thanks to all the Departments for the city-wide effort. Mayor Robinson asked for Attorney Haney's opinion on the snow removal policy. Attorney Haney feels the policy describes the process well but one problem he feels is the cars on the road and some are not willing to move which becomes a hazard when they get buried. The current ordinance on towing was reviewed.

Director Hansen also pointed out how it takes the entire community when there is a power outage like the recent one. It takes the Police helping with the traffic and the residents help identify where the problem is. He appreciates the general concern to help get the issue rectified. He noted also that Rocky Mountain Power's crew are professionals and awesome at what they do.

Director Hansen reviewed with the Mayor and Council the snow removal equipment needs. A list, prepared jointly by Director Hansen and Councilmember Hart, of the current equipment information and proposed replacements was reviewed. Director Hansen noted these replacements are needs not wants in order to provide this essential service to the community but understands the City must be fiscally responsible. He explained they have had a lot of down time due to the old equipment and feels putting off budgeting and purchasing has been stretched out as far as it can. It's very frustrating to the crew when they can't complete a route due to continual breakdowns. Estimated replacement costs

were reviewed, and whether to buy all at once or try to spread it out with a five-year plan. Director Hansen mentioned the biggest need and benefit to the efficiency of the snow removal process will be to upgrade to plow trucks that are also sanders. His recommendation, at the least, would be to budget for two of these new trucks in the next fiscal year. The Mayor and Staff discussed options including leasing equipment and updating regularly if it would be more economical due to the costs to maintain the equipment. Councilmember Carpenter asked about multi use for the equipment along with if renting is a good option for like the sweeper. Engineer Skinner and Director Hansen explained their experience with renting made it not a good option because it is very expensive and the sweeper is used quite a bit. The Mayor asked what would help immediately. Director Hansen answered a newer plow with sander unit. He explained the availability is very limited; he found one for \$77,500 and it was gone in two days. Councilmember Worthington asked how many plows the City currently has. Director Hansen stated there are four trucks that run three main routes and 3 of the 4 trucks need to be replaced. He is going to try and get through this season and plan to get some new equipment before next season. Councilmember Worthington suggested staying proactive with upgrading the equipment to not get in an emergency state.

Water/Wastewater Supervisor Dan Squires informed the Mayor and Council of the possibility of septic sludge dumping coming to the City's wastewater plant due to other local plants not accepting it anymore. Also, some of it may be coming from out of state. Supervisor Squires explained the City's plant can take up to 2000 gallons a day if the plant is operating optimally but he will not accept sludge if the plant is upset. He will not jeopardize the plant getting a violation. He expressed concerns about taking sludge from out of state and asked the Mayor and Council's opinion. Engineer Skinner reminded the Council that the County helped pay for the system to be able to take sludge from County residents. The Mayor and Council discussed at length and basically agreed to not accept dumping from out of state and to review what other plants charge.

Engineer Skinner explained in order to be eligible for funds that may become available for water and sewer projects the City needs to submit letters of interest to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for projects the City is wanting to pursue. He explained grants are only available for planning studies so the funds will be made available through low interest loans with possible principal forgiveness. Another option to receive funds may be to add to the balance of the current loans which were for the wastewater treatment plant upgrade. He also mentioned the City's planning studies have to have been updated in the last 5 years and he thinks we will be able update them with an addendum to the current planning studies. The proposed projects listed on the letters of interest prepared by Engineer Skinner were reviewed and briefly discussed. Councilmember Carpenter noted Supervisor Squires name and license number attached to the documents and asked if Supervisor Squires had reviewed. Supervisor Squires stated he had not. The effect on eligibility from the City's median income and required sewer fees was reviewed and discussed. Councilmember Worthington mentioned the same limitations effect the School District. The Mayor and Council supported the letters of interest.

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

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 19TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2022.

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk