

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2021.

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

ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT: MITCHELL J. HART, PRES.  
JON D. GOODE  
ROBERT M. LAU

EXCUSED: AUSTIN W. ROBINSON, MAYOR  
SCOTT K. GAMBLES

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Steele Alan Skinner, Engineer  
Paige Byram Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk  
Chief Scott Shaw II Gregg Haney, Attorney

The invocation was given by Council President Hart and he then led everyone in the 'Pledge of Allegiance'.

The previous meeting minutes were presented for review. Councilmember Goode stated he had reviewed and suggested an addition to the bottom of page one clarifying the conversation was in regards to the proposed Kelly Park subdivision. He then moved to approve the minutes of September 2nd, 2021 with the suggested addition and dispense with the reading. Councilmember Lau seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The accounts payable were reviewed. Councilmember Goode moved to approve the accounts payable dated September 1<sup>st</sup> through September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, seconded by Councilmember Lau. All in favor, motion carried

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER FOR DETAIL)

Council President Hart added to the agenda, under unfinished business, a brief update on the phosphate legacy center proposal.

Engineer Skinner reported only one bid was received on the South 2<sup>nd</sup> East Street project. The bid was received from A+ Contractors for \$399,800. Engineer Skinner mentioned the bid amount is about \$110,000 less than the prior estimate. The bid was reviewed by Forsgren Engineers who stated it was complete and eligible for consideration. Councilmember Goode moved to approve the A+ Contractor bid and move forward with upgrading utilities and reconstruction of South 2<sup>nd</sup> East Street. Councilmember Lau seconded the motion. Engineer Skinner stated they should be able to mobilize in a week or two depending on materials. Council President Hart questioned why this project was not done earlier in the season. Engineer Skinner explained the funds weren't available earlier. A vote on the motion was called. All in favor, motion carried.

Engineer Skinner reported Riverside Inc., an electrical contractor out of Boise will be here tomorrow to test the generator and look at the switch gear in order to assist in finishing a

repair and design plan for Hydro Plant #4. The generator guy is hopeful it's not a generator problem. They will be putting together an estimate for the repairs. Bat Electric Inc. out of California will build the replacement switch/control gear.

The Soda Sip/Point S egress plan and estimated costs were reviewed. Engineer Skinner noted \$11,332 is the estimated cost which includes a 30% contingency but the gravel driveway can be done ourselves. Councilmember Hart recommended doing the project in two parts; first install the delineators and see how the traffic flows and then see if the south access is needed. Engineer Skinner will make a final review with the Byrams. The Council agreed to proceed.

Council President Hart gave a brief report on the annual update provided today by the Greenfield Environmental Trust Representatives regarding the clean-up efforts at the former Kerr McGee/Tronox site. They are currently looking at two options regarding the ground water contamination where they would let mother nature takes its course through a monitored natural attenuation which would take 50 years to complete the clean-up. The second option would be to inject the ground water with something that would speed up the natural process which is basically an emulsified vegetable oil and it could accelerate the timeline by about 15 years. The Trust is working through the legal aspects and paperwork and before they do anything they will be scheduling a public outreach open house the first half of next year. The Council appreciates Greenfield for being good to work with and giving the annual update.

Council President Hart reminded everyone of the Phosphate Legacy Center proposal previously discussed and the letter that was sent out a couple a months ago requesting the local and historic industries to participate with a grant of \$15,000 each to fund a feasibility study. The idea included a museum, community center and other agreed upon critical City facilities. The proposal asked the industries to respond by September 15<sup>th</sup> which is today and the City has only received one response from Union Pacific Railroad who directed us to their grant program. In summary the proposal can be termed a swing and a miss.

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Energy Conservation agreement expires annually and needs to be renewed. They are implementing a new tracking system to help manage the programs. Councilmember Lau moved to authorize the Council President to execute the amendment renewing the City's Energy Conservation Agreement Contract in the Mayor's absence which is due by Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Engineer Skinner presented a request from Water/Wastewater Supervisor Dan Squires to purchase two additional STM Aerotor replacement sprockets from Custom Iron Works. He mentioned the ones Custom Iron cut out for Aerotors #1 and #2 are working well and don't seem to be wearing any faster than the others. They are much cheaper than the original ones and Supervisor Squires wants to get two more made to have on hand for Aerotors #3 and #4. Councilmember Lau, seconded by Councilmember Goode moved to contract with Custom Iron to fabricate the two sprockets for \$3,150 each. All in favor, motion carried.

Clerk Vorwaller reminded the Council of the overage of funds that have built up in the Recreation Fund due to the establishment of the new fund and the automatic transfers she initially set up. She explained she would like to correct this overage by transferring up to \$80,000 back to the General Fund which she needs approval to do. Councilmember Lau, seconded by Councilmember Goode moved to approve the transfer of funds as recommended. All in favor, motion carried.

The utility rate increases of 3% previously proposed during the budgeting process were revisited and the resolutions for approval presented. Councilmember Goode moved to approve resolutions 2021-3, 2021-4 and 2021-5 to increase water, power, and sewer rates each by 3%. Councilmember Lau seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Councilmember Lau commented on how the City has been trying to just do a small increase every year so the Citizens are not hit with a large increase like was necessary in the past. Councilmember Goode agreed and explained how the City wanted to tackle a substantial utility upgrade project yearly and the only way to do that was to get the rates high enough to make the funds available each year. The Council thanked the City Staff's efforts in keeping operating costs down as much as possible.

Clerk Vorwaller reviewed the reporting requirements for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. She stressed the need to separate the water and sewer portions of a project for bidding and billing to meet the reporting requirements. She also noted the City has until December 31, 2024 to obligate the funds and they must be expended by December 31, 2026. Councilmember Goode mentioned the option of recouping up to 10% of the funds to offset overhead costs. He asked the Council and City Attorney to review the guidelines to see if they agreed.

There was no citizen input at the designated time.

Councilmember Lau, seconded by Councilmember Goode moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:30pm. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 6TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2021.

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Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk