MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD AUGUST 21, 2024.

ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor
Mitchell J. Hart, Pres.
Rod Worthington
Paul Gritton
Ryan Carpenter

EXCUSED:

ALSO PRESENT:

Alan Skinner, City Engineer
Andrea Haderlie, Clerk
Celeste Billman
Scott Shaw, Police Chief
Justin Hansen, Director
Dan Squires, Director
Thomas Smith, City Attorney
Nikki Hansen, Director
Hope Hansen, Library Director
Sherrie Gritton
Toni Salvi
Steve Smith
Chelsey Davids, P&Z Secretary
Debbie Dumont
JoAnna Ashley
Brock Byram
Tamera & Tyler Henesh
Stephanie of Porter Pub
Chris Guedes & Children

1. Roll call & Additions to Agenda:

Mayor Robinson opened the Council meeting at 6:00 PM. Councilman Worthington led the invocation, and Mayor Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Robinson stated that all council members were present for the meeting. Councilman Gritton added an item to the agenda with the council's approval: Geyser Park restroom repairs and city hall repairs.

2. Review & Approval:

Councilman Worthington moved to approve the August 7, 2024, council meeting minutes. Councilman Carpenter seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Mayor Robinson asked council members to review August 1- 19, 2024 account payables. Councilman Hart motioned to approve the accounts payables for August 1-19, 2024, and Councilman Gritton seconded the motion. Councilman Hart questioned vendor 2070. We're spending about $500 on the boiler at Enders. He questioned vendor 2895. The city is paying for the internet for the Enders building, depending on its disposition. In the future, we may want to rethink or restructure that. He questioned vendor 9363 wiper blades changed by Point S for $68. Can't we do that ourselves? He asked about the equipment for the library. Librarian Hansen stated Bayer paid for new computers. He questioned 10570 police cell phones and $693. Chief Shaw commented that it's for our cell phones and the internet in the patrol cars. 11210, a new recreation trailer was out in the parking lot. Recreation Director Hansen commented that it is a recreation concession. Councilman Gritton questioned vendor 11187, Ender's walk-in cooler, whether we had repairs a couple of months ago with an identical charge. Engineer Skinner stated this was the thermostat. The other was the cooler fans and the thermostat freezing things up; same contractor but different repairs. He questioned vendor 11149 for the police department uniform and boots for $8,752. Is that something besides boots? Chief Shaw stated it was for vests, boots, and uniforms. Councilman Carpenter questioned vendor 3520 Engineering on Main Street. Engineer Skinner said it was engineering, construction inspections, including marking all underground lines and compaction testing and continued issues with the railroad, updating the current, and submitting documentation, so there's a combination of everything. The council briefly discussed the status of the railroad permit to bore under it. Engineer Skinner mentioned we're sending them new prints tomorrow. Councilman Gritton questioned the payments for Chip and Seal to County Employees. Director Hansen mentioned we have to pay them for their time helping us chip and seal on their days off.

Councilman Carpenter abstained from the vote. All other council members were in favor, and the motion was carried.

3. Citizen Input:

There was no citizen input from the audience.

4. Appointments:

Mayor Robinson opened the Public Hearing. Clerk Haderlie read the Public Hearing notice out loud. A public hearing, pursuant to Idaho Code 50-1002, will be held for consideration of the proposed budget for the fiscal year from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025. The hearing will be held at City Hall, 9 West 2nd South, Soda Springs, Idaho, at 6:15 pm, August 21st, 2024. All interested persons are invited to appear and show cause, if any, why such a budget should or should not be adopted. Copies of the proposed City Budget in detail are available at the City Hall during regular office hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm, weekdays). City Hall is accessible to persons with disabilities. Any person needing special accommodations to participate in the above-noticed hearing should contact the City Office at 208-547-2600 prior to the public hearing. The proposed 2025 Fiscal Year Budget is listed as FY 2025 Proposed Expenditures and Revenues. Mayor Robinson opened the floor for public comment at 6:20 pm. Clerk Haderlie stated no written comments were received. There was no public comment from the audience. Mayor Robinson closed the floor for public comment at 6:21 pm and opened the floor to the council. Councilman Hart explained to the audience that the budget of almost $24 million includes about $14 million in grants. If we get the grants, we will spend the money. If we don't get the grants, we will not spend it. Councilman Carpenter iterated this point quite a bit: Just because it's in the budget does not mean we have to spend it. It's easier to put it in the budget than to back up the budget and get more money out of it. Councilman Hart pointed out that it is included in the budget for enterprise funds: garbage, water, power, and sewer; we are proposing increases in those as a courtesy and as required by code. We'll hold a public hearing at the second meeting in September. There's a slight increase, which we'll talk about today, in our garbage budget. We'll talk about water and sewer. We're proposing 5% increases to be slightly higher because we normalized or standardized some of the rates and power a 3% increase. Mayor Robinson closed the public hearing at 6:24 pm. Councilman Carpenter motioned that we close the public hearing for the budget for the fiscal year 2025. Councilman Worthington seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Hart introduced Ordinance #704, entitled
ORDINANCE NO. 704 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025. AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2024 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025, APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF $23,566,257 TO DEFREY THE EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS FOR SAID FISCAL YEAR, AUTHORIZING A LEVY OF A SUFFICIENT TAX UPON THE TAXABLE PROPERTY AND SPECIFYING THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSES FOR WHICH SAID APPROPRIATION IS MADE.

A motion was then made by Councilmember Carpenter 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 in its entirety. A roll call showed the following vote:

Those voting aye:
Austin Robinson
Mitch Hart
Paul Gritton
Ryan Carpenter
Rod Worthington
Motion Carried.

Those voting, nay: none

Absent: None

Clerk Haderlie read Ordinance #704 at length. Councilmember Hart then approved the adoption of Ordinance #704 as presented. Councilmember Carpenter seconded the motion for adoption. A roll call showed the following vote:

Those voting aye:
Austin Robinson
Mitch Hart
Paul Gritton
Ryan Carpenter
Rod Worthington
Motion Carried.

Those voting, nay: none

Absent: None

Mayor Robinson opened the floor to Debbie Dumont and JoAnna Ashley for the results of the Enders survey.

Debbie Dumont explained that the first two pages to talk about Joanna and Debbie's process of creating the survey and collecting the information. It's essential for her to say this because of the number of people in the audience. Still, the City Council never participated in designing, collecting, or evaluating the survey results. It's completely independent of the city. Joanna and Debbie did this independent survey to gather information about what the community would like the city to do with the building. They collected information here from the city, from Clerk Haderlie, regarding ledgers, Ender lease agreement, copies, and spreadsheets that other councilmen have prepared. We also spoke with Engineer Skinner about different things regarding it. We also interviewed the current business owner of the building for the security of the unbiasedness of the survey; we used a subscription platform called Survey Planet. This survey is an online platform that makes surveys available, and it's super easy to use. You set up your questions. It tracks IP addresses so only one person from each device could take the survey. JoAnna Ashley mentioned the survey was live from August 1 through August 19, when it closed for the duration, and Debbie and JoAnna would check in on the provided results. She pointed out that she was in an accident in July that subsequently made her unavailable to do some of the duties on the survey, and some of the probating and stuff that she was supposed to do didn't happen. People complained about that, too. Then, the outcome was that there was one note that we were both checking in and following the data, and there was a notable date when some of the survey results started trending away about what the city should do with the building. That happened after August 4, and on that date, Terah Jones made a Facebook post on our disclosure about her position regarding the Ender survey and her position on the matter. To summarize her post, she said that she hoped the city would decide to sell Enders and would also like to purchase the building. After that post, we recognized that most individuals responded that they wanted the building sold. We do have the data, and we can show you the dates the responses were received, and that's something that we can show you. We didn't prepare that precisely because we wanted to be concise tonight. Debbie Dumont commented before the Facebook post that most respondents wanted the city to keep Enders and continue to lease it. After the Facebook post, it changed. The majority of the respondents wanted the building sold. You can notably see the swing of the trend through the data on that day. JoAnna commented that they have an Excel file available where you can search for the data, and it shows you all that information. Debbie and JoAnna went through the questions. Number one, the majority of the respondents, close to 50%, were between 30 and 49 years. Two. Where do you reside? The majority, 65 and a half percent, reside within the city limits of Soda Springs. Question four: Do you prefer the city to do with the Enders building? Almost 50% said to sell Enders. 35.5% said to keep Enders and continue to lease it. 11.2% said to keep Enders and convert it to City Hall, and 4.2% said they have no preference.

The feedback was based on residents versus non-residents of Soda Springs and business owners the last time we met. JoAnna pulled that data from the Excel spreadsheet to quantify it. The result of that question was this. Of the respondents, 216 lived in Soda Springs, and 217 who lived outside city limits but owned a business in Soda Springs because the term was people who had skin in the game. It was one of the conversation pieces we had. Of the 217 respondents, the way that their responses broke down was that 110 voted to sell Enders. Seventy-two voted to keep it and continue to lease it. Twenty-nine voted to convert it to City Hall, and six had no preference. Debbie explained that in question 5, 73% of the respondents wanted to continue to lease it. And 27.3% wants you to convert it to City Hall. On the next page, if the city chooses to sell it, what kind of selling price would you prefer? The next question was, what option would you prefer if they decided to sell it? JoAnna explained that 68% said they preferred that the city the city saw under protecting its historical integrity. This could be in contribution, where 31% sell under without protecting historical integrity. But then you know that the buyer could change its nature. There was 60% that did care or were concerned with the history,

Debbie explained that if the city chooses to keep Enders and convert it to City Hall, which of the following would you prefer to lease the portion of the building that is not used for city offices and city business? That would be the kitchen, cafe, the lobby, the hotel rooms on the third floor, and the ballroom. That response was 71.2%, leasing the unused rooms as offices, 20%, and not leasing any portion of the museum items. This was something that many people were concerned about. She will say that during this survey, she fielded over 200 phone calls from individuals in the city, all wanting to express their opinions verbally. Her phone ran off the hook non-stop for a while and at the time. She did not know that if something happened to enter the items, they would be returned to the initial owners. Councilman Hart clarified that's not true. There's an inventory of all the items. We have a written inventory, as well as a video photographic inventory. There is no documentation of who the original owners are with or of any item other than what Maughan said; here are the keys.

It's all yours. We asked what you wanted to do with the personal photos. They said it's yours. The building is yours. There is no documentation of who owns what. We were told that the city owns everything in it, and if someone claims that they had donated, given, put on consignment, or whatever else. It's their word, and we deal with it from there. There is no attribution of any ownership to any of that other than the city. We gave a grace period for that. We did, and some people came in and took some things. It was like a handful of stuff, but no one else came. Question 9 is very applicable. Then it says that if you guys choose to sell Enders, what would you prefer to be done with the museum items? 85% wanted the items donated to the care of the historical society.

Before these last two questions, Debbie explained that she wanted to comment because, at the previous city council meeting, this raised some misunderstanding of the intent of these last two questions. These last two questions ask how much confidence you have in this survey. And then the very last question asked, how much confidence do you have in the city council making a decision that is in the best interest of the City of Soda Springs? She wanted to clarify with 100% certainty that those questions were not written to disrespect or make any city councilman feel inadequate or lead anybody in any way. Councilman Gritton asked what they have to do with the question of what the city should do with Enders.

Debbie explained that the last time a panel was put together, it was repeatedly complained about, that it was biased, and that it was not an accurate representation of the city. She wanted feedback that this survey was valuable to the community, and that's what this survey asks. Do you have confidence in us doing this survey? Councilman Hart asked. It says 170 archives. What does that mean? Debbie explained that this is where there was a duplicate answer in the questions, so archive one is the same, as I have much confidence in the survey results. If you read the note at the bottom, two responses were the same, so people selected both, and when we caught it, we went in and disabled one so they would continue to the other. Essentially, you need to combine the red one and the blue one to get that total. Those numbers are written at the bottom. Okay, so that's what that was. The very last question is about confidence in the city council. She asked this question because she felt it's essential for city council to understand how the citizens of Soda Springs feel about your representation of them. Unfortunately, it set off some people last week, and she felt at the previous city council meeting that a particular city councilman spoke to her in a disrespectful, downgrading way. She is entirely open to criticism. She feels that part of her job involves this. She also thinks it's part of your job as a city councilman to do that. But she is not a child and not an employee; she is doing this as a volunteer, and she feels like this information is valuable to you; she feels like you should know how the community feels you're doing your job. That's why it was included in the survey. Councilman Gritton stated that we haven't done that job yet. Have we? Debbie said no, it's not their confidence in your plan, and you are taking the survey seriously. Councilman Gritton asked if there was potentially an effort to influence our job in the future. Councilman Worthington stated he still stands on his comments from the last meeting. Debbie stated, "You're entitled to those comments. Rod, you have no right to raise your voice at me and talk down to me. She can 100% take criticism, but not in the way you did." JoAnna clarified that when her efforts with the survey ended, it was with question seven. She believes that was where her efforts ended with the survey before her accident. According to our minutes, Councilman Worthington said she threw you under the bus. JoAnna stated her only request is my intention with sending this out, with anything that she has done in the public efforts in the last ten years that she has been in public service to ensure that the people are heard. She saw that a lot in her capacity and planning and zoning and the disenfranchisement of people, and so her effort in taking on the survey was to honestly try to provide an avenue that the community as a whole had an opportunity to express their feelings on a somewhat contentious matter. That was her intention from the beginning. It's been her intention to present. Her hope with that is with these results, simply asking that the consideration for the public input and the value there be offered, and that would be it. Mayor Robinson stated that we agreed to review the information and consider that. Councilman Gritton stated he appreciated your time tonight discussing this and the time you guys put into it and thanked you for your efforts. He would also encourage other folks in our community to get involved in our local issues, like you guys did.

M.R. & E fee increase Toni and Steve, Steve Smith explained that the cost of everything has skyrocketed, and it's no different for M.R. & E. The expenses of a garbage business are given as some examples. But the repair costs for their business went from 21% to 23%, up 45%, fuel costs from 21% to 23% to 60%, and our pay has increased from 21% to current. 46%, plus we have included health care and health insurance for our employees, and truck prices have risen from 21% to 23% up 33%, so it's getting more complex. And we're just asking; we've been trying to hope the economy will settle down, and it hasn't, so we're asking for a 4.9% increase to help us deal with this.

Toni added that we've upgraded our shop a lot. We bought a truck lift. We're not paying $150.00 an hour for repairs anymore. We're doing it in our place, doing transmissions. And the repairs are still as high as they were, just because of the parts. The biggest thing going on right now is that we were paying guys $15 to $20 an hour, but now it's $22 to $30. As far as you know, it's higher than what the United Auto Workers got, percentage-wise. We have had two people in three and a half years come in and put an application in. Councilman Hart questioned the current base rate. $12.39 this will bring $ it to $13.00, and commercials will cost $31.50. Councilman Hart suggested we have a public hearing on September 18. We can't include the garbage, and we don't need to because it's less than 5%, but we could. Let's make it an agenda item for that meeting to resolve, and then it'll go effective October 1.

5. Unfinished business:

Mayor Robinson opened the discussion for Planning and Zoning Commissioner Joe Turner of the Sheriff's Department. In his continued effort to keep the panel as professionally diverse as possible, with different backgrounds, he thinks that her experience in law enforcement and dealing with the public in that capacity would be of great value to that committee; he recommended her for the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Mayor and Council discussed the previous commissioners who resigned, and two open seats need volunteers to serve on the commission. Councilman Gritton motioned to accept Joe Turner as a Planning and Zoning Commission member. Councilman Carpenter seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Mayor Robinson stated he would swear her in at an upcoming council meeting.

Engineer Skinner presented the Mayor and Council with pictures of Maverick's interior of the building. They have their health department inspection planned for the 28th of next week, and then they expect the final plumbing, electrical, and HVAC somewhere between the end of this week and next week. At the entrance on the east side, they were pouring today. They've got the whole West half to pour to start on. They are starting the road work. They sent him some information on painting to get approved by the Idaho Department of Transportation. We've got to get the telecommunications cable down. That's all been replaced underground, but the line is still up. The new poles are all in, but the old ones remain. They want to be done first, roughly on the first of September, and be open to the public right around the first of October is their plan. We'll start seeing that roll out as they finish the concrete.

Update on Tosobia Falls development: Outline the four parcels they purchased. You can see that the platted Road, 3rd South, and 4th South are included and taken out of that property. There's a 5th East that runs down the west side of the property. Their initial plans are to finish the 5th East and extend the 4th South to the existing. A public hearing is coming up for a couple of weeks for a zone change. They showed the upper lot, parcel three, and parcel four up to the highway—the C-2 and storage Units. The Council discussed the development at length.

Mayor Robinson asked about the state's public request results for ITD, but nothing has been released yet. Engineer Skinner commented the deadline was two weeks ago. Next week, there's a video conference call on the Safe Routes to School or Sidewalk grant. It sounds like they want to put the actual awarding until November. Next year, we should be in line for some.

Engineer Skinner updated the Hayes house up by the high school. He took two pictures of their home yesterday, showing where they're at today. They're putting a roof on. Still, they're down the road for two or three weeks.

Councilman Hart asked what they were doing in the high school. That's the new welding shop.
All that's where that's called. That's the new welding shop. And there's a picture of the structure. The frame is up as long as the Gerts are up. They've done that in the last week and a half.

Councilman Hart asked what our building was going to look like. Director Hansen commented that we've cleared the spot where we will build it. That's where all the transformers were. They will be pouring the foundation. Only power will be stalled. Engineer Skinner: We will have some issues because there's no insulation or doors, or maybe half of the Gerts got damaged when they tore it down. There'll be some subcontractors, things we'll have to hire for materials, but we get the foundation and the mainframes up and go from there.

Liberty Dodge: They were supposed to pour this approach Tuesday morning. They still haven't started yet. But in the two pictures, you can see the frames around some of their stormwater collection areas, and the front of the building is also getting ready. They've got some forms set up on the east side of the building. And you see all the pedestals for their lighting system. They've got a sign permit now. They're going to start on that in a couple of weeks. They have a sign on the side of the entrance they will put in.

Engineer Skinner updated: We found underground storage tanks on Main Street in front of the flower

shop. We think it's just heating oil. The following picture shows an electrical cable off to the side. We're assuming that's controls. And the other one shows the tank. We're working through the rules on that. He will have an on-site meeting wit.. DEQ at 11 o'clock tomorrow to see if it's heating oil; they're not regulated. If it's not heating oil, we'll have to go through the permitting process, and we may have to do the sampling either way. We can remove the tanks, inspect the soil underneath them, and do testing if required. We've also discussed the railroad we're still working through. We did get our permit today to work on the right of way out here by the signal lights. A+ can start on that and do both water and sewer tie-ins with approved traffic control plans. We ran into some groundwater on the sewer line in the south. A little 2000 gallons an hour. We should finish the waterline and sewer line tie-ins for the next two weeks. We'll start installing water lines. We've got the East Side businesses, which all have sewer lines connected, except for the courthouse and US Bank. And they'll do those tonight, tomorrow. Then we'll start on the waterline, get that put in, disinfected, and approved, and then we will start connecting. Tamera Henesh is concerned about the green pipes and the gravel if kids are going by and putting gravel down those three pipes. Engineer Skinner will call and get some caps placed on them.

Councilman Gritton asked about low water pressure. Director Squires stated there are 10-inch PRVs and a four-inch PRV. We usually run the four-inch. The four-inch mainlines. The four-inch needs to be rebuilt. He has to get the 10-inch working. The 10-inch is not working. He shut the four-inch off and rebuilt it. He Pulled the 10-inch apart yesterday; today, he pulled it apart three times and put it back together. He doesn't know what's wrong with it, but we will figure it out. Right now, the pressure is 65, and it's okay. That PRV was put in in 1988, a long time ago. We figured out that pressure should be acceptable. He wishes people would call and let him know because it went on for two days. Please don't put it on Facebook. Call City Hall because he doesn't follow Facebook.

Stephanie from Porter's Pub asked if there was any way to get detour signs to direct people where to go. Tyler Henesh, I have a general question regarding the project: What will the process be with concrete removal and sidewalks? How's that going to play out? Is there a schedule? Engineer Skinner stated that once the water connections are done, they'll come in and remove the concrete, install conduit for all the street lights, and then start putting it back in.

Engineer Skinner mentioned a couple of pictures of twin homes—nine and ten of 12. The roofs are on. They're starting to dry them in for the winter.

Clerk Haderlie presented to review the fee schedule. She mentioned that many things still needed to be updated while reviewing the fee schedule. She had the department heads look it over and see if they wanted to make changes. She explained in red on the right side are the suggestions and who they're from. She noted the inflatable bounce houses. We have been renting those out, but they have yet to be on the fee schedule. Tausha had put amounts on the paperwork we handed out to the people for when they are rented for and refundable deposits. The excavation permit for the ordinance we did at the last meeting is there for $6500.00. The return check fee is said to be $15.00, but we have been charging $37.50, and she doesn't know when that changed. Nikki just wanted to say adult recreation when she adds new recreations for the adults to have just one. Then, the utilities, the hookups, or the utility disconnected connect fees. They were not on here, so she added them, so they're on here. And then Dan would like to discontinue the water connection and disconnection after hours. Councilman Hart and Engineer Skinner suggested new rates for water hookup: $1250.00 and sewer $1550.00. Councilman Carpenter asked Director Squires, could you elaborate on your reasoning for discontinuing the water disconnect after hours? Director Squires stated that what's happening is people don't want to call because they know we're going to charge them; they do it themselves and that $50 now turns into $500.00 because now they break the valve, or they have to replace it because the city owns it. Now, he would almost rather not even get paid to do it and do it because it saves him a ton of work in the long run. Councilman Hart asked for an increase of the bond to $6500.00. Once that implemented, we will make some effort to let our contractors, or wherever they have bonds in place, be able to or just let them know that they need to update their bond. Councilman Gritton asked about the airport; there's an item listed at the land lease office, parking; could he have somebody explain to me what that is? Engineer Skinner explained how to lease and pasture lease work.

6. New Business:

Mayor Robinson moved to New Business department head reports because staff in attendance needed to leave. Recreation Director Hansen reported updates; we passed out all the little Rec bags to the kids at Thirkill Elementary. Tha.. you, Rob, for letting us do that. We did it so that they'd all have a shirt. It has a cardinal so that they can have it for Cardinal Day. She thought it was a great way to advertise our local rec department, and the parents were thrilled. She appreciated

our student council for coming in and handing out the bags. We've been rained out twice in soccer, but thanks to Mother Nature, we had a good turnout. We're trying to get our flag football going. We have a volunteer problem. We don't have enough coaches, so we're working on that to fulfill that and continue to find ways to help kids stay active.

Councilman Gritton formally introduced our head librarian, who was recently hired to fulfill the city librarian role and as a liaison library. He has attended several meetings, and he is confident that she will serve our community well. Librarian Hansen reported that the library is excellent, and we're starting our programming in September. It's just a great place to be and very active. Many people sign up and come in, and we have several clubs and just different programming. Councilman Gritton asked her to give a little idea of participation in the summer reading program. We had our highest numbers this year. We had over 600 participants in summer reading; she expects it to grow yearly. We had our most participate with kids, and then we have teens and adults; all were our highest participation so far. Councilman Gritton asked her what she sees as the most significant challenge in the future. She stated that it is currently the air conditioner and lighting. She is pretty optimistic. She doesn't have too many concerns about things coming down the road—just more room. Councilman Carpenter asked how our numbers compare statewide for the summer reading program. She said we are one of the highest. Councilman Carpenter stated that we are number two in the state, and Boise is number one.

Chief Shaw reported all the patrol cars, but one are marked. The other vehicle will be done either at the end of this week or the first part of next week. Kelly Rice was with us for nearly 14 years in animal control. She moved on to greener pastures and full-time position benefits. He elected to use Jenny in that capacity and the secretary for right now. That gives us animal control access for actually eight hours instead of just four. It also cuts back on the salary of Animal Control staff. We will try that out for a while and see how it goes. We did give her a raise, but what we'll do is allocate that amount out of the animal control portion so it doesn't affect the police department's budget at all. This year, we did pick up some extra money due to a vacancy in Officer Steele's position, where he's gone with the National Guard. We started the process and picked up everything we needed for the department, hopefully suitable for the next five to ten years, if not longer.

Director Hansen reported that we're just working on sweeping up chips from chip and seal. We made some progress in the last couple of weeks on a couple of our larger projects with power; the Maverick is now hooked up, and we saw their signs fired up. Liberty Dodge has power. Our geyser, our world-famous geyser, is showing its world-famous age. We will eventually have to put in a new system, valve, timer, line, and hydraulic lines, and pump the whole system. It's just that hard water, as we all know, is very hard. We keep band-aiding it, and it works sometimes, most of the time, sometimes it doesn't, and we're going to fix it. But just as a warning. It's a good word for it. But just a heads up. Councilman Hart suggested finding a grant to help with repairs for the geyser.

Director Squires reported having a few leaks and issues with Formation PRV. He has worked on it for the last two days but has yet to fix it. We'll get it fixed. Those are the electrical issues of the treatment plant. He thinks Bear River Electric finally got them figured out. It's been a few days down there. We've got the wires pulled. We got to the end of what the problem was. We will start pouring pads for those backup generators at the lift stations. Electricians must do the conduits transfer switches in the next couple of weeks. We'll set the generators and get all that done. It's nice to have backup generators up throughout the station so they'll dictate themselves and have power issues. Councilman Gritton asked how your progress is on your fill station. It is ordered. Probably next week. We will run the waterline, tap it, run it over, and put the curb stop in so that part will all be done. They will put it on a raised pad with some boulders around it, but we'll get the water line run. Hopefully, we will get a curb stop-in on a two-inch line over there next week. Councilman Gritton commented for anyone who doesn't know what we're talking about. It's a water-fill station that will be installed at the RV dump site, which is behind Dave's Tackle and the liquor store. People needing substantial quantities of water can go back there and fill up and swipe a credit card to pay for what they're getting.

Update on the fire department. Chief Squires stated it's been quiet. We had a phone call today. They're looking for structure trucks for that fire at Stanley Fire. They want to know if he could release a structure truck and two guys for 48-hour shifts. Love to, but we can't. The fire is still burning, and that same one has been burning for a month. It's getting close to structure. We don't have the manpower or people to send the structure truck.

Councilman Hart and Attorney Smith updated the service missionary MOU addendum for approval. Attorney Smith commented that he was concerned because there were two things: there wasn't anything in there to clarify the insurance coverage for the church because the missionaries will be covered by ICRMP for liability insurance and then

covered by this. There's an addendum in there that clarifies that those won't extend to the church. If somebody sues the city because of what the missionaries do. Church isn't going to be covered by that. Then the other thing was minimum liability insurance. The MOU wanted a million dollars. The city may already provide a million, but the statutory minimum was 500,000, so they agreed to drop that down to 500,000 per client. That way, the city isn't required to provide more than required under statute. They agreed to that. There's an addendum as a part of that, so if the council approves, I think it's ready for signature. Councilman Hart motioned that we authorize you to approve and sign the MOU and the addendum to the MOU, which allows the city to work with the service Missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ to Latter-day Saints. Councilman Carpenter seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Robinson opened the discussion by adding the Geyser Park restroom to the agenda. Councilman Gritton stated it had come to my attention that the Geyser Park building is much more than bathrooms. It has some rooms where visitors to the area, tourists, etc., can look at the kiosks. He noticed a lot of people in it. He met with Justin on Monday or Tuesday, and when he arrived, there were people there looking things over, more tourists. The city's summer help did some work there. He proposes that we consider doing a little bit more work on that. There are many visitors to the Geyser Park area, and that's an excellent opportunity for people to get in that building and look stuff over. We should put our best foot forward, and it definitely could use a facelift. He mentioned Councilman Hart did a little research on our budget and what we have available for those types of projects, and he identified some and communicated that with him and Justin. Structurally, there are some areas of concern, such as one corner of the building and the brick foundation, which was removed accidentally and needs to be addressed. There are several bricks on the front of the building, around the entrance, that need grout. The cement between the bricks is coming out. Some of the bricks may even be coming loose due to the grout disappearing, which is the best way to say it. We discussed some things and came up with ideas about what we could do. Councilman Hart identified approximately $42,500 available for building maintenance from a couple of budgets in the current fiscal year into September. If we get after it, we'd spend that money by the end of September. Otherwise, if it goes into the next fiscal year, there are 12 months to arm wrestle with other projects. Councilman Gritton stated They tried to prioritize the list of repairs, and maybe structure, the parts, the bricks, and stuff, were a number one priority. Paint and we talked about carpet. The carpet looks rough in there, and it is adhered down everywhere. It looks dirty. There are paths in the carpet. He is proposing that we spend approximately $15,000 on that Geyser building, up to the point that $15,000 is expended in that order: the structure, then paint. He proposed to hire a professional carpet cleaner. And then next year, we could look at replacing that carpet if the professional cleaning doesn't get it looking significantly better than it is now. He recalled we had a conversation about carpet in the building we currently are in. He looked at this building and the carpet. She mentioned that it is approaching the point of being a safety hazard for the staff here. He proposes that we authorize the expenditure of up to $20,000 in carpeting this building. Even though there may be questions about the building's future, regardless of what comes of the building, ultimately, we have to maintain it, and if we don't keep up with the maintenance of it. We may still have this building five years later and be in shambles. And he doesn't think any of us would probably treat our homes with that process in mind, keep pushing off projects, wondering if we might sell it. He proposes that we authorize the expenditure of up to $20,000 for carpet in the current city hall building and $15,000 on the geyser building for a total of $35,000, which would leave a buffer of $7,500 for any maintenance issues that might arise between now and end of the budget. Councilman Worthington seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

7. Citizen Input:

Councilman Gritton asked about the trail system at the new Nutrien property. Engineer Skinner requested the survey data or the trail layout data and started sending letters out. Councilman Gritton stated he is beginning to get some questions about that. There's growing excitement and anticipation
on Facebook.

Justin Hansen stated he always preface it with this as my comment as a resident of Soda Springs, not as an employee of the City of Soda Springs. An earlier discussion today on the garbage rates was good, and he feels that our current garbage contractor does a good job and wants to do better where they can. His personal feeling as a resident here and as a taxpayer is that the city should not be facilitating the billing and carrying the debt on a private business because that business should be no different from any others, and the city does not bill anyone else's customers for them, even for a small fee. He doesn't think the city should be in the business of facilitating billing for a private business.

8. Executive Session:

Pursuant to Idaho code I.C. 74-206 (1) (f), To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation. Councilmember Gritton made a motion to move into executive session to discuss possible litigation, seconded by Councilmember Carpenter.

Those voting aye:
Mayor Robinson
Mitch Hart
Rod Worthington
Ryan Carpenter
Paul Gritton
Motion Carried.

Those voting, nay, none

Absent: none

Councilmember Gritton motioned to exit the executive session, seconded by Councilmember Hart. All in favor, motion carried. No decision was made.

Councilman Carpenter motioned to adjourn. Councilman Hart seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

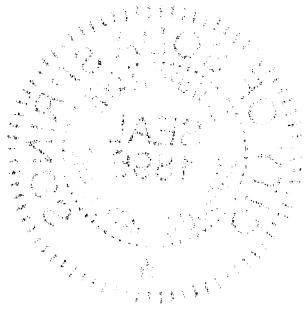
PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 4TH OF SEPTEMBER 2024.

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST

Andrea Haderlie, Clerk

CITY OF SODA SPRINGS CORPORATE SEAL 1896 CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 (FY 2025)
CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, IDAHO

A **public hearing**, pursuant to Idaho Code 50-1002, will be held for consideration of the proposed budget for the fiscal year from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025. The hearing will be held at City Hall, 9 West 2nd South, Soda Springs, Idaho at **6:15pm, August 21st, 2024**. All interested persons are invited to appear and show cause, if any, why such budget should or should not be adopted. Copies of the proposed City Budget in detail are available at the City Hall during regular office hours (8:00am to 5:00pm, weekdays). City Hall is accessible to persons with disabilities. Any person needing special accommodations to participate in the above noticed hearing should contact the City Office, 208-547-2600 prior to the public hearing. The proposed 2025 Fiscal Year Budget is listed as FY 2025 Proposed Expenditures and Revenues.

EXPENDITURES

	FY 2023 Actual Expenditures	FY 2024 Budgeted Expenditures	FY 2025 Proposed Expenditures
GENERAL FUND:			
Mayor & Council	17,356	28,863	25,426
Office/Other	129,207	273,772	1,087,774
Legal	21,792	22,904	35,102
Police	998,434	1,184,519	1,095,424
Fire	157,420	119,867	90,500
P & Z/Building Inspection	19,470	31,406	34,937
Animal Control/Shelter	19,818	22,730	22,372
Clean Up/Weed Control	46,397	42,602	42,334
Community Service/Parks	180,249	1,323,290	1,071,266
Recreation Transfer	67,081	143,880	125,000
Library Transfer	150,000	150,000	175,000
Interfund Transfers	0	315,236	0
Total General Fund	1,807,224	3,659,069	3,805,135
Street Fund	183,390	2,820,042	1,648,906
Airport Fund	134,575	129,954	40,453
Liability Insurance Fund	20,813	25,789	33,501
Recreation Fund	99,491	235,924	243,544
Library Fund	264,396	376,925	373,574
TOTAL TAX SUPPORTED FUNDS	2,509,889	7,247,703	6,145,113
ENTERPRISE FUNDS:			
Garbage	426,886	420,000	420,000
Water	761,939	7,391,471	7,571,298
Power	2,432,233	3,089,045	3,272,259
Sewer	1,197,697	5,845,722	6,141,587
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS	4,818,755	16,746,238	17,405,144
SPECIAL FUNDS:			
Greater SS Comm-Development	21,000	21,000	16,000
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	21,000	21,000	16,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES ALL FUNDS	**7,349,644**	**24,014,941**	**23,566,257**

REVENUES

	FY 2023 Actual Revenues	FY 2024 Budgeted Revenues	FY 2025 Proposed Revenues
PROPERTY TAX LEVY:			
General Fund	761,155	771,962	788,311
IC 63-1305 Judgements	0	0	0
Street Fund	98,699	100,000	100,000
Airport Fund	17,741	45,000	45,000
Liability Insurance Fund	14,311	24,000	32,000
Recreation	34,513	40,000	40,000
Library	113,457	115,000	125,000
TOTAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUE	1,039,876	1,095,962	1,130,311
OTHER REVENUE:			
General Fund	1,027,001	876,263	2,274,225
Property Tax Replacement Funds	15,973	31,850	31,850
Street Fund	347,190	602,897	525,109
Airport Fund	16,469	22,250	22,250
Liability Insurance Fund	4,910	310	310
Recreation Fund	96,111	192,280	172,900
Enterprise Funds	5,632,809	5,656,072	5,392,530
Greater SS Comm-Development	439	9,100	9,100
Library Fund	158,824	158,090	183,090
Grants	93,207	13,057,500	11,195,000
From Cash Reserve		2,312,367	2,629,582
TOTAL	7,392,933	22,918,979	22,435,946
TOTAL REVENUE ALL FUNDS	**8,432,809**	**24,014,941**	**23,566,257**

The proposed expenditures and revenues for fiscal year 2024-2025 have been tentatively approved by the City Council. Publication dates for the notice of public hearing are August 8th & August 15th, 2024 in the The Idaho Enterprise Caribou County.

Andrea Haderlie, City Treasurer

ORDINANCE NO. 704
ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2024 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025, APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF $23,566,257 TO DEFREY THE EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS FOR SAID FISCAL YEAR, AUTHORIZING A LEVY OF A SUFFICIENT TAX UPON THE TAXABLE PROPERTY AND SPECIFYING THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSES FOR WHICH SAID APPROPRIATION IS MADE.

BE IT ORDAINED By the Mayor and City Council of the City of Soda Springs, Caribou County, Idaho.

Section 1. That the sum of $23,566,257 be, and the same is appropriated to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the City of Soda Springs, Caribou County, Idaho, for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024.

Section 2. The objects and purposes for which such appropriation is made, and the amount of each object and purpose, are as follows:

FUND	FY 2025 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES
MAYOR & COUNCIL	$25,426
OFFICE/ELECTION/OTHER	1,087,774
LEGAL	35,102
POLICE	1,095,424
FIRE	90,500
P & Z/BUILDING INSPECTION	34,937
ANIMAL CONTROL/SHELTER	22,372
CLEAN UP/WEED CONTROL	42,334
COMMUNITY SERVICE-PARKS	1,071,266
RECREATION TRANSFER	125,000
LIBRARY TRANSFER	175,000
STREET FUND	1,648,906
AIRPORT FUND	40,453
LIABILITY INSURANCE FUND	33,501
RECREATION FUND	243,544
LIBRARY FUND	373,574
GARBAGE	420,000
WATER	7,571,298
POWER	3,272,259
SEWER	6,141,587
GREATER SS COMM-DEVELOPMENT	16,000
TOTAL ALL PROPOSED EXPENDITURES	**$23,566,257**

Section 3. That a general tax levy on all taxable property within the City of Soda Springs be levied for the amount of $1,130,311 for the general purposes of said City for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024.

Section 4. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed

Section 5. The City Treasurer of the City of Soda Springs is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this Ordinance with the Secretary of State in accordance with Idaho Code 50-1003.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication in one issue of the Idaho Enterprise, Caribou County, the official newspaper of the City of Soda Springs, Idaho.

PASSED under the suspension of the rules, upon which a roll call vote was duly taken and duly enacted at a regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council held on the 21st day of August 2024.
APPROVED by the Mayor on this 21st day of August 2024.

AUSTIN ROBINSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ANDREA HADERLIE, CITY CLERK

Publish August 29, 2024