

RESOLUTION NO. 2023- _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, ESTABLISHING SUPPORT FOR THE IDAHO FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

WHEREAS, Idaho Falls has had a library since the 1880s when Rebecca Mitchell opened a book lending system in her home; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Falls Public Library has long been a place that has introduced countless numbers of children to stories and books, has provided a study space for students, has provided community access to information and life-long learning opportunities, and has established a welcoming gathering place for people; and

WHEREAS, public libraries in the United States have long been institutions founded on the democratic ideal of free public access to information and a meeting space for a cross-section of members of society; and

WHEREAS, a group of women associated with the Village Improvement Society and the Round Table Club established a library board as a part of their mission to bring the benefits of culture and education to the community; and

WHEREAS, in 1916 these women, working alongside the City Council, applied for and received a grant from the Carnegie Foundation to build a public library building on the corner of Elm Street and Eastern Avenue; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Carnegie funded the construction of free local public libraries throughout the United States in communities like Idaho Falls as an essential piece of an “enduring civilization” and the “democratization of information;” and

WHEREAS, in 1974 the community of Idaho Falls overwhelmingly passed a \$2.6 million bond financing the construction of a new library building completed in 1977 on the corner of Broadway Avenue and Capital Street in downtown Idaho Falls; and

WHEREAS, the greater Idaho Falls community has long been well served by a Library Board of Trustees consisting of volunteers dedicated to the intrinsic value of free public libraries; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Idaho Code Title 33, Chapter 26, the Library Trustees operate independently of the direct supervision of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, over the many years of the Library’s history, the Library Board of Trustees has consistently dedicated itself to establishing library policies that balance the goal of free public access to materials with the appropriateness of the collection.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IDAHO FALLS, THAT:

1. The City Council and Mayor are committed to the principle that public libraries serve a foundational role in maintaining democracy in the United States as a place for free, public access to information, as a place that encourages the exchange of ideas, as a place of study for students and life-long learners, and as a gathering place for citizens of all ages.
2. The City Council and Mayor are committed to the current Idaho Law providing for the independence of the Trustees, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. the appointment of Trustees by the Mayor and City Council; and
 - b. the responsibility of the Trustees to hire and evaluate the Library Director; and
 - c. the responsibility of the Trustees and Director to establish, independently from the direct control of City Council and Mayor, the Library's policies for maintaining the collection and the public access to the collection.
3. The City Council and the Mayor support the Idaho Falls Public Library Board of Trustees in its duty to oversee Library operations in Idaho Falls.

ADOPTED and effective this ____ day of December, 2023.

ATTEST:

CITY OF IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

Corrin Wilde, City Clerk

Rebecca L. Noah Casper, Ph.D., Mayor

(SEAL)

STATE OF IDAHO)
) ss:
County of Bonneville)

I, CORRIN WILDE, CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO, DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

That the above and foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Resolution entitled, “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, ESTABLISHING SUPPORT FOR THE IDAHO FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES.”

(SEAL)

Corrin Wilde, City Clerk