

CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
August 12, 2008

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance City Clerk/Treasurer Richards called the roll. The following were:

Present: Mayor John Williams, Councilpersons Betty Jo Ellison and Susan Hert

Absent: Councilpersons Dan Becker & Rick Harbin

Also Present: City Attorney Gary Ryder, Fire Chief Ryan Reid, Police Chief Larry Reinlasoder, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Jan Morgan, Public Works Supervisor John Bleth and City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards

Consent Agenda:

Councilperson Ellison moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Hert seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Ellison asked about Claim #11991 to LP Contracting regarding grounds maintenance at the new City Hall. Motion carried with all in favor.

- a. Minutes of 7/22/08 Regular Meeting
- b. Claims Roster 8/08/08
- c. June Treasurer's Report
- d. Journal Voucher No. 08-06

Departmental Reports:

In addition to written information included in the council's packets Police Chief Reinlasoder, Fire Chief Reid, Zoning/Code Enforcement/Building Inspector Morgan, Public Works Supervisor Bleth, City Attorney Ryder and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards gave departmental reports.

Public Comment and Participation:

The Public Hearing for a variance at 410 Wildrye Street was opened at 7:18 p.m. Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Morgan explained the variance is for a deck and steps into the front entrance of the home. They are replacing the existing concrete steps and it would be impossible to meet the 20' front setback requirement. No comments or objections from the public were received. The hearing was closed at 7:19 p.m.

Councilperson Ellison moved to approve a Variance to the front setback requirement at 410 Wildrye Street to construct a deck and new steps for the front entrance of the home. Councilperson Hert seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Jim Atchison, Executive Director of SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation, reminded the City Council of the Energy Open being held this week in Colstrip and that registration is still open for the golf tournament. Mr. Atchison also thanked the City Council again for co-sponsoring the dinner/social mixer.

Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Williams thanked the city's department heads for staying within their budgets for the fiscal year 2007-2008.

A Deer Management Plan Meeting was held last week and attended by Police Chief Reinlasoder, Mayor Williams, Fish & Game Warden Bill Dawson and representatives from the major property owners. The program will be continued this year and special tags issued by Fish and Game.

Mayor Williams and Jim Atchison of SEMDC met with Ecophaser Energy Corporation. They plan to build a 35 megawatt power plant in Ashland at the old sawmill site. The plant would burn wood products to generate electricity.

Councilperson Hert asked if there has been any progress on the recycling issue. Mayor Williams reported the grant SEMDC applied for was denied but other options will be pursued.

New Business:

Councilperson Hert moved to approve the recommendation from the Colstrip Community Care Task Force to select TSP, Inc. for the Preliminary Architectural Report for the Continuing Care Retirement Community. Councilperson Ellison seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Hert moved to approve the purchase of a generator for Lift Station "C" up to a maximum of \$26,000. Councilperson Ellison seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Ellison suggested Public Works Supervisor Bleth contact AM West for a price quote on a generator also. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Ellison moved to approve the contract with Total Asphalt & Repair for Paving of the Power Road Overpass, a section of Chisholm Drive and two sections of Homestead Boulevard in the amount of \$33,281.00. Councilperson Hert seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Hert clarified this contract is for asphalt repair, not seal-coating. Mayor Williams confirmed it is for asphalt repair. Councilperson Hert asked if the city did not have to go out for bid for this contract. Mayor Williams explained since the project is under \$50,000 the city did not have to put it out for bid. Councilperson Hert asked if the city has worked with this

contractor before. Public Works Supervisor Bleth said the city has worked with them before and highly recommends them. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Ellison moved to approve a Change Order to the contract with General Contractors for City Hall construction in the amount of \$22,733 for the change in area drain and hookup, French drain and down spout and removal of the existing concrete. Councilperson Hert seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Ellison moved to approve the Preliminary Budget for fiscal year 2008-2009 as submitted for 24.68 mills. Councilperson Hert seconded the motion. Discussion: Mayor Williams recommends the City Council levy the maximum levy allowed by law, which is 26.29 mills, and make adjustments to the budget to allow for this. Mayor Williams asked City Clerk/Treasurer Richards for her thoughts on the budget. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards reported all of the cushions put into previous years' budgets have been taken out in anticipation of a tight budget due to the construction of City Hall. Due to change orders and furniture needs, the City Hall budget will need to be adjusted. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards offered to put together a list of recommendations for the City Council to consider at the next meeting if they wish to levy the maximum levy of 26.29 mills. Attorney Ryder asked if there is a contingency for the possible medical bills for prisoners the city may have to pay for. Clerk/Treasurer Richards stated there are no contingencies or extra money anywhere in the budget and every department will have to stay within their budget as there will be nowhere to transfer funds from. Mayor Williams also reminded the City Council that the city has 31 unused mills leftover from previous years that can be used and protested taxes that have not been accessed. Motion carried with all in favor.

Administrative Matters:

Councilperson Ellison reported she will be absent from the August 26th City Council meeting.

Councilperson Hert asked about the sewer rate changes. Mayor Williams has not received the information back from Montana Rural Water Systems, who are assisting the city with the rate analysis.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer