

City Council Meeting
June 11, 2013

Present: Mayor Rose Hanser, Councilpersons Evan Stewart, Tom Jankowski, Lawretta Miller, and John Williams

Also Present: Fire Chief Ryan Reid, Public Works Director John Bleth, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, Police Chief Cory Hert, City Attorney Gary Ryder, and Building/Planning Official Jan Morgan

Mayor Hanser called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, City Clerk/Treasurer Richards called the Roll Call.

Consent Agenda:

Councilperson Stewart moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

Departmental Reports:

Reports were given by Police Chief Hert, Building/Planning Official Morgan, Fire Chief Reid, City Attorney Ryder, Public Works Director Bleth and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards.

Mayor's Communications:

A Budget/Finance Committee meeting has been scheduled for next Tuesday, June 18 at 6:30 pm.

Public Comment and Participation:

Carole Raymond, Rosebud County Emergency Services Coordinator, introduced Barb Beck of Beck Consulting. Ms. Beck is a consultant hired by Rosebud County to update the county's Disaster and Mitigation Plan. She explained by having the plan that FEMA can assist if requested in case of a disaster. A plan is already in place but the state and FEMA require the plan be updated every five years to remain eligible for assistance. There is no cost to the City; Rosebud County received a grant to pay 80% of the plan update and the county is funding the other 20%. However, a project for Colstrip needs to be identified and included in the plan. One suggestion was a backup generator for City Hall or the Water Plant in case of a power outage. A draft of the plan will be submitted for a six week comment period, then submitted to the state for approval, then submitted to FEMA for approval and then be brought back for local approval.

Lu Shomate, Director at Schoolhouse History and Art Center (SHAC), reported the building foundation repair has begun and should be finished by the end of the month. Lu also reported on the handicap ramp replacement, SHAC received an \$8,500 grant from PPL to replace furnaces, and minor flooding in the basement recently due to the rain. The summer programs started last week and will run through the end of July. An update will be given to the Coal Board at their meeting this Friday regarding the foundation repair.

Tracee Raymond Waples, 2719 Chisholm, has problems with garbage collection on dates it is supposed to be picked up. Public Works Director Bleth will look into it.

Deryl Waples, 2719 Chisholm, asked why the city changed to the small roll-out blue containers instead of the 300 black containers. Public Works Director Bleth explained the reasons for the switch.

Darius Stahl, 2716 Chisholm Drive, commented on the proposed water rate increase.

Unfinished Business:

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2013-02 regarding animals in the R-3 District. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Williams asked what percentage increases are proposed on the water and sewer rate increases. Instead of adopting automatic increases for future years, he feels the City Council should review the revenues and expenses every year and enact increases only if necessary instead of a pre-determined fixed amount since circumstances can change. Councilperson Williams also feels the City should use entitlement share money to pay down the bond debt. Councilperson Stewart asked Attorney Ryder if it is legal to schedule future rate increases. Attorney Ryder explained as long as the public is notified before the decision is made and allowed to comment it is legal. Councilperson Miller stated she doesn't like to have increased bills but the city needs to start planning for replacement of the current system and purchase necessary items like a generator at the water plant in case of a power outage. She stated we need to consider what is best for the community as a whole instead of just focusing on having to pay more and is in favor of Option 2. Councilperson Jankowski commented he doesn't like to see increases either but the council needs to make the funds viable and do what is necessary to meet debt and capital replacement requirements. He favors Option 2 but doesn't like idea of taking revenue away from the general fund by using entitlement share money. Councilperson Stewart would rather select Option 2 also and feels the entitlement share money should only be used one year instead of every year through 2017. He hopes for regular reviews and modest increases in the future and cautions the City Council against using general fund money to pay for enterprise funds.

Lloyd Gange asked about the Senior Snowbird Rate. Mayor Hanser stated an increase is not being considered at this time.

Councilperson Stewart moved to approve Option 2 for the Water and Sewer Rate Increases as follows:

- 1) \$100,000 entitlement share money for FY 2014 only for water fund depreciation
- 2) \$3.92 base rate increase (3/4" service) and \$0.18 variable rate increase on October 1, 2013 for the water fund
- 3) \$3.92 base rate increase (3/4" service) and \$0.18 variable rate increase on April 1, 2014 for the water fund
- 4) \$1.99 (3/4" service) increase for the sewer fund with half effective on October 1, 2013 and other half effective April 1, 2014

Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Miller would like information sent out to the public explaining the cost of operating the water and sewer

systems. Councilpersons Stewart and Jankowski voted in favor. Councilpersons Miller and Williams voted nay. Mayor Hanser voted in favor. Motion carried 3-2.

New Business:

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve the Special Events Permit for fireworks for Eleanor Swenson on June 21- 23, 2013 between the hours of 11:00 am to 11:00 pm only. Councilperson Miller seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Stewart doesn't feel it is appropriate to designate a time period since it is not currently part of the process. Councilpersons Jankowski, Williams and Miller voted in favor. Councilperson Stewart voted nay. Motion carried 3-1.

Councilperson Stewart moved to approve a base salary of \$78,000 per year and moving expenses not to exceed \$5,000 with receipts for the new Public Works Director. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Stewart feels there needs to be a cap on the moving expenses. Councilperson Williams disagreed; he feels the city should pay actual moving expenses based on receipts. Councilperson Williams made a motion to amend the motion to pay actual moving expenses based on receipts. Councilperson Stewart seconded. No public comment received. Councilperson Stewart voted nay. Councilpersons Miller, Williams and Jankowski voted in favor. Amendment motion carried 3-1. Councilpersons Jankowski, Miller and Williams voted in favor of the main motion as amended. Councilperson Stewart voted nay. Motion carried 3-1.

Councilperson Williams made a motion to approve Change Order No. 1 for the City Shop Project in the amount of \$3,498.00. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Williams moved to approve Change Order No. 2 for the City Shop Project in the amount of \$509.00. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

Administrative Matters:

City Council went into Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. to discuss litigation matters. The meeting reconvened at 8:59 p.m. No action was taken.

Adjournment:

Mayor Hanser adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer