

## **Regular Meeting September 23, 2008**

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

Absent: Councilperson Rick Harbin

Also Present: Public Works Supervisor John Bleth, City Attorney Gary Ryder, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, Police Chief Larry Reinlasoder, Fire Chief Ryan Reid and City Judge Gail Beckham

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Consent Agenda:**

Councilperson Ellison moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Becker seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Ellison asked about the finance charge on the claim to First interstate Bank/Corporate Credit Card. Clerk/Treasurer Richards explained this was caused by an employee not turning in an invoice and purchase order for a purchase made on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The invoice and purchase order was received today and will be processed for payment at the next council meeting. Motion carried with all in favor.

- a. Minutes of 9/09/08 Regular Meeting
- b. Claims Roster 9/19/08
- c. August Treasurer's Report

### **Departmental Reports:**

Department Reports were given by Clerk/Treasurer Richards, Fire Chief Ryan Reid, Police Chief Reinlasoder, Public Works Supervisor Bleth and City Attorney Ryder in addition to written reports provided in Council's packets.

### **Public Comment and Participation:**

Mayor Williams opened the Variance Hearing at 7:22 pm for 9 Maple Court. No objections or comments were received. Mayor Williams closed the hearing at 7:23 pm. Councilperson Ellison moved to approve a variance for 9 Maple Court to the rear setback requirement to allow a garage to extend 8' into the rear setback. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Jim Atchison, Executive Director of SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC), thanked the city for renewing its membership with SEMDC and presented a Certificate of

Appreciation. Last year SEMDC started the process to obtain a USDA Grant to create a 0% revolving loan fund for value added energy and agricultural related equipment. Two applications were submitted and were first told they were declined. However, SEMDC was notified they changed their mind and have been approved. One of the applicants is a recycling contractor from Forsyth wanting to expand to Colstrip, which will benefit city operations due to paying Waste Connections of Miles City for renting and emptying the recycling containers.

### **Mayor's Communications:**

Mayor Williams contacted the Public Employment Retirement Administration about the state's deferred compensation plan. Mayor Williams would like the city to consider offering a deferred compensation plan to its employees. Mayor Williams plans to invite Kathy Samson of the PERA to a council meeting in November to explain the plan more.

The Montana League of Cities of Towns Legislative Committee meets in Helena on Thursday. Mayor Williams is on this committee. The number one issue will be the Local Option Tax proposal. Mayor Williams will share information with the council members when he returns from the meeting.

The County has approved the additional street lights on Pinebutte Drive as requested by the city. The street has been marked where the new lights will be installed, which hopefully will be before winter.

### **New Business:**

Councilperson Hert moved to allow the Mayor to purchase furniture for the new City Hall in the amount of \$30,724.00. Councilperson Ellison seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Hert wants to make sure it is professional looking for both the City Court and Council chambers. Councilperson Ellison hopes the building will be utilized by the community so the furniture needs to be able to withstand that and look professional. Two vendors have been contacted for proposals. Motion carried with all in favor.

### **Administrative Matters:**

Councilperson Ellison moved to change the November 11<sup>th</sup> regular council meeting to November 12<sup>th</sup> due to the Veteran's Day holiday. Councilperson Becker seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:49 pm.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer