

**City Council Meeting  
February 11, 2014**

Present: Mayor Rose Hanser, Councilpersons John Williams, Greg Koczur and Lawretta Miller

Absent: Councilperson Tom Jankowski

Also Present: Deputy Clerk Tana Pippin, Police Chief Cory Hert, Public Works Director Bryan Swan, Building/Planning Official Jan Morgan, Fire Chief Ryan Reid, and City Attorney Gary Ryder.

Mayor Hanser called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Deputy Clerk Pippin called the Roll Call.

**Consent Agenda:**

Councilperson John Williams moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Greg Koczur seconded the motion. Discussion: None. Motion carried with all in favor.

- a. Minutes of 1/28/14 Regular Meeting
- b. Claims Roster 2/6/14

**Departmental Reports:**

Reports were given by Police Chief Hert, Building/Planning Official Morgan, Fire Chief Reid, Public Works Director Swan and City Attorney Gary Ryder.

Steve Ketterling, Vice President, First Interstate Asset Management Group Executive, gave a presentation regarding the city's investments. Government funds are strictly regulated; therefore, the investments are very conservative. The overall market was down in 2013. Mayor Hanser inquired whether the city may have a chance to obtain better interest rates this year. Mr. Ketterling explained that if the economy improves the rates will improve. Councilperson Williams explained to the public that the city has approximately 1 ½ million invested.

Attorney Ryder explained that the current case before the federal court was upheld. Attorney Ryder is working on the Public Works Lead Operator employee training program.

**Mayors Communication:**

Mayor Hanser said the city newsletter will be completed this week. The newsletter will be on the city website. Mayor Hanser explained that it is time to offer the public the opportunity to conduct a governmental review. This review is an option for the citizens to decide if they approve of the current Mayor/Council government or if they would like to consider different options. Information will be available at city hall and on the city website.

**Public Communication:**

Lu Shomate, SHAC Director, explained that the foundation has been completed on the building. The handicap ramp will be done as soon as the weather permits work to be completed. Lu explained that there will be a Gone to Pieces Quilt show on February 23. The public is welcome to come to SHAC and enjoy this show. SHAC is open on Wednesday evenings until 7:00 p.m.

**New Business:**

Councilmember Lawretta Miller moved to approve the Encroachment Deed Easement at 315 Olive Drive. Councilmember Greg Koczur seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilmember John Williams expressed that the property owner had proven the hardship requirement. Public Comment: None. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Hanser recommended Cheryl Fulkerson, Tony Goyette, and Zane Longacre for the Zoning Commission appointments. Councilmember Greg Koczur made a motion to approve Cheryl Fulkerson, Tony Goyette and Zane Longacre to the Zoning Commission. Discussion: None. Public Comment: None. Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Miller made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2014-R05/Montana Voter Review. Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilmember Williams inquired if information will be available for the public? Mayor Hanser explained that there will be the information and resolution will be on the web site and at city hall within a week. Mayor Hanser said that there would be a \$20,000.00 limit of funds utilized on this voter review. Councilmember Williams asked if this amount was the same as the last time we conducted the review. Mayor Hanser explained that the city Clerk/Treasurer utilizes a formula to establish funds needed. Council Member Williams expressed the importance of citizens to become involved in such an important study. Mayor Hanser explained that the funds would be utilized for registration, training, meals and other expenses.

Councilmember Miller made an amended motion to include the \$20,000.00 limit to conduct the government review and approve the Resolution no. 2014-R05/Montana Voter Review. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Councilmember Miller made a motion to approve Resolution No.2014-R06/Construction & Inspection Fees. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. Discussion: None, Public Comment: None.

Motion passed 2 to 1 with Councilmember Williams voting yes, Councilmember Koczur nay, and Councilmember Miller yes.

Councilmember Williams made a motion to discuss the dewatering well rate. Councilmember Miller seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilmember Williams explained that we are currently charging \$46.00 per month per well. Councilmember Williams asked Public Works Director Bryan Swan if the city is losing money by charging this amount. Public Works Director Bryan Swan explained that he believes we are losing money. We have been having trouble with the sewer system in this area and may have caused residential sewers to back up. Councilmember Williams requested Public Works Director Bryan Swan to compile more accurate numbers for the council to review. The council can look at changing the contract to compensate for the change. Public Comment: None. Motion failed with all council members voting nay.

Councilmember Miller made a motion to consider raising the Senior Resident Water & Sewer Snowbird Rates as these were not included in the recent water and sewer increase. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion to discuss the issue. Discussion: Mayor Hanser explained that the rates would increase the same amount as all other water and sewer rates. This action would require public hearings and resident notices. Councilmember Williams believes that all rates should be tied together but did not vote for the water and sewer increase therefore, could not vote for this motion. Council Member Koczur explained that he does not agree with this increase. Councilmember Miller expressed that she believes all residents should be treated equally. Public Comment: Resident Ken Stokes, of 11 Sage Court,

expressed that he believes the increase in the Senior Snowbird rate was ludicrous as there are only about 6 people that utilize this service. Mr. Stokes offered to pay this charge himself. Motion failed 2 to 1, with Councilmember Williams voting nay, Councilmember Koczur voting nay and Councilmember Miller voting yes.

**Administrative Matters:**

Councilmember Williams asked Mayor Hanser if she knew how much the protested taxes were. Mayor Hanser said she believed it was approximately \$129,000.00 or 1.5 mills. Councilmember Williams said that he thought that it was closer to \$200,000.00 and would like the actual amount confirmed. Councilmember Williams asked if the city has considered asking if we could dump our backwash into the PPL ponds. Mayor Hanser explained that it was too late at this time to consider this option as the city is already moving forward with the engineer's plan.

The meeting went into executive session at 8:05 pm to discuss litigation matters.

Executive session ended at 8:18 pm.

Councilmember Koczur made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

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Tana Pippin, Deputy Clerk