

## City Council Meeting April 8, 2014

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

Absent: Councilperson Tom Jankowski

Also Present: City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, Assistant Police Chief Kris Egan, Public Works Director Bryan Swan, Building/Planning Official Jan Morgan, City Attorney Gary Ryder and Fire Chief Ryan Reid

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

### **Consent Agenda:**

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

- a. Minutes of 3/25/14 Regular Meeting
- b. Claims Roster 4/03/14

### **Departmental Reports:**

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

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

Mayor Hanser has proclaimed April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month after being contacted by the Custer Network Against Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault. Information promoting awareness is available at City Hall and will be posted on the city's website

The public hearing regarding the city's Wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report is on tonight's agenda. The City will be submitting a grant request to the Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) the first part of May. SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC) will be writing the TSEP grant and also a DNRC grant to help fund the improvements mentioned in the Wastewater PER. SEMDC will also administer the grants if the city's grant applications are successful.

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

Evan Stewart, 3329 Appaloosa Drive, invited everyone to a candidate forum hosted by the Bicentennial Library for the six candidates running for state legislative offices. This will be a moderated question and answer session and not a formal debate. It will be held at the Colstrip High School Auditorium on May 2, 2014.

Terry Olson, 4015 Prospector Drive, asked about plowing snow in the city's parking lot south of City Hall since it has not been plowed during the past ten years. He asked how the lease cost can justify a city employee and equipment plowing snow for the business located in the lot. He would like to know the reasoning for plowing it when city streets don't always get plowed. Councilperson Williams requested Mayor Hanser respond to Mr. Olson's concern and provide a copy to the City Council members.

Mayor Hanser opened the Public Hearing for the Wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) at 7:20 pm. Andy Evensen of Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson Engineering gave a presentation explaining the PER process, the condition of the wastewater facilities, solutions recommended by the engineers and the impact to the city's ratepayers. Councilperson Koczur asked about life expectancy of new lift stations. He also commented on the target rates proposed by the Department of Commerce. Councilperson Williams commented on possible Coal Board funding for Phase 2 of the PER. Their next meeting is in June.

Mayor Hanser asked for comment from the public on the PER:

Jim Atchison, Executive Director of SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation, stated SEMDC will be working on both the TSEP and DNRC Grants to help fund the solutions in the PER. This is SEMDC's priority for the next thirty days and they are excited to get started.

Mayor Hanser closed the Public Hearing at 7:48 pm.

**Unfinished Business:**

Councilperson Miller moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-R09, providing a health insurance benefit for the Office of the Mayor. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Koczur commented that the resolution presented doesn't address increasing the discretionary fund and giving the Mayor the option of using funds from the discretionary fund to purchase insurance or not as recommended by the Personnel Committee. Councilperson Williams commented that the level of compensation for the Mayor is \$1,200 per month plus a \$750 personal spending allowance to be used towards medical costs, etc. He feels the City Council needs to address the Mayor's compensation and is long overdue. He doesn't feel the compensation should be tied to health insurance and that it is poor timing due to the union contract negotiations currently going on. Councilperson Koczur prefers increasing the personal spending allowance and letting the Mayor choose whether to use it for insurance or not. Councilperson Miller feels the city should be providing insurance coverage for the Mayor. Councilperson Williams cannot support a \$500 benefit for the Mayor at this time. Motion failed with all voting nay.

Councilperson Koczur moved to approve an additional full-time equivalent employee in the Public Works Department. Councilperson Miller seconded. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

**New Business:**

Councilperson Miller moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-R10, approving transfers for the 2013-2014 fiscal year budget. Councilperson Williams seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Williams still has an issue with spending over \$24,000 in the Wastewater Treatment Plant Supplies budget when only \$12,000 was budgeted. \$15,000 was budgeted for fixing the clarifier at the sewer plant but it has not been done. Mayor Hanser explained \$15,000 is not enough to properly address the clarifier issue so it will not be used for that at this time, so it was decided to use the funds needed elsewhere. Councilperson Williams feels this should have been brought to the City Council prior to the expenditures being made. No public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Miller moved to approve the request from the fire department to purchase fireworks in the amount of \$7,378.50 for the Colstrip Days Celebration in June. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Williams commented that CPRD has assisted in the funding of the fireworks and request they be contacted again this year. No public comment received. Motion carried with all favor.

Councilperson Miller moved to approve the request from Public Works Director Swan to install a concrete pad in the amount of \$10,410.50 in front of the new city shop. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion. No public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Miller moved to approve the request from Public Works Director Swan to purchase anthracite for the water treatment plant in the amount of \$27,662.50. Councilperson Williams seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Miller asked how long it was open to received price quotes. Public Works Director Swan responded it was open for a month and only one quote was received. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Hanser requested City Council consider a small change to the proposed updated safety program. The proposed program includes a City Council member on the safety committee but the current safety committee does not have a council member on it and they typically do not. Councilperson Williams moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-R11, adopting an updated Employee Safety & Health Program with the exclusion of one City Council member on the Safety Committee. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Williams feels the exclusion of council member makes sense to him. No public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Adjournment:**

Councilperson Koczur moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Hanser adjourned the meeting at 8:23 pm.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer