

City Council Meeting
July 22, 2014

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

Absent: Councilperson Tom Jankowski

Also Present: City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, Building/Planning Official Janet Morgan, Police Chief Cory Hert, Public Works Director Bryan Swan, 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, 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 7/22/14 Regular Meeting
- b. Claims Roster 7/17/14
- c. Journal Voucher No. 2014-04

Departmental Reports:

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

Public Comment and Participation:

Dan Becker, 3834 Chinook, was requested to attend the meeting and read a letter from Darcy Dahle of Montana Public Employees Association (MPEA) regarding the Drug & Alcohol Testing Policy that is on the agenda. Ms. Dahle requested that no action be taken be on any implementation, expansion or change to a policy until it has been addressed with MPEA.

Jim Atchison, SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC), invited the Mayor and City Council members to the 11th Annual Energy Open on August 21 and 22, 2014. The City of Colstrip and Rosebud County traditionally sponsor the evening dinner and he requested the City consider again co-sponsor this event. Jim thanked the City of Colstrip for their continued support over the years.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Councilperson Miller moved to approve the request from Public Works Director Swan to purchase 200 96-gallon garbage cans in the amount of \$13,395.00. Councilperson Williams seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Koczur asked if the current garbage cans are being replaced due to service life or another reason and how old they are. Public Works Director Swan stated alot of the cans originally purchased by the City have broken and a second set of cans purchased did not hold up as better as the others. No public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Miller moved to approve the request from Public Works Director Swan to purchase a Duraco Durapatcher in the amount of \$74,870.00. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Miller asked how the durapatcher would extend the life of city streets. Director Swan stated he is not sure how long it will extend the life but will be cheaper than doing an overlay. Councilperson Williams feels it will be put to good use and is a good purchase for the City. He asked if it would be delivered this year before winter. Director Swan stated they anticipate being able to use it this summer and fall and it can be used during cooler temperatures. Public Comment: Jim Atchison, SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation, stated from an economic standpoint maintaining and repairing the streets is a positive step to attract new businesses and make a good impression. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Miller moved to approve a 3-year contract with Olness & Associates for auditing services. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Miller asked what services are included in the audit contract. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards explained in addition to reviewing revenues and expenditures, they look at grants, compliance with state laws, fixed asset accounting, financial report preparation, budgeting process, etc. No public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Hanser reviewed the changes proposed to the current Drug & Alcohol Testing Policy. Attorney Ryder feels the union representatives should be given a copy for their review. He feels the most important change is the training for supervisors for reasonable suspicion testing. Councilperson Koczur would like the policy reviewed with the employees either individually or in a group meeting so that any questions they have will be answered. Councilperson Williams noted the language is stronger in the discipline section and he feels the employees should have input into the process. Councilperson Miller feels the dollar amount should be removed for post-accident testing on page 10. The employer should set the standard of employee conduct and she doesn't mind the employees having input but it should be the city's decision to make policy decisions. Mayor Hanser explained the union contract only allows input from the employees. Councilperson Koczur moved to table the Drug & Alcohol Testing Policy until the union representatives have time to review it. Councilperson Williams seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Williams commented that this situation would have been a great opportunity to utilize interest-based problem solving and the City needs to seriously consider moving towards that process. Councilpersons Williams and Koczur voted in favor. Councilperson Miller voted nay. Motion carried 2-1.

Administrative Matters:

Councilperson Williams has heard that both union contract negotiations are moving towards mediation because a couple of issues cannot be worked out. He has some questions about issues, in particular the amount of health insurance premiums paid by the City. Mayor Hanser explained the City's proposal regarding health insurance and the medical flexible spending account. Councilperson Williams stated the City of Colstrip has historically paid 100% of health insurance premiums for the employees and Colstrip Park and Recreation District also pays 100%.

Councilperson Koczur will be unavailable for the two regularly scheduled council meetings and asked about changing the meeting dates. No action was taken.

Adjournment:

Councilperson Koczur moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Hanser adjourned the meeting at 7:52 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer

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