

City Council Meeting
December 9, 2008

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

Also Present: Public Works Supervisor John Bleth, City Attorney Gary Ryder, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, Police Sergeant Cory Hert, and Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Jan Morgan

Mayor Williams 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 Ellison moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Becker seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Ellison asked about Claim Nos. 12477 and 12488. City Clerk/ Treasurer Richards explained the claim to LP Contracting is for grounds maintenance for the month of October and the claim to DiJulio Displays is for Christmas decorations that the fire department displays. Councilperson Hert asked about Claim No. 12451. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards reported it was submitted by the fire department for a culvert repair. Motion carried with all in favor.

- a. Minutes of 11/25/08 Regular Meeting
- b. Claims Roster 12/05/08
- c. Journal Voucher 09-03

Departmental Reports:

Department Reports were given by Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Morgan, Police Sgt. Hert, City Attorney Ryder, Public Works Supervisor Bleth, and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards in addition to written reports provided in Council's packets.

Public Comment and Participation:

Jim Atchison of SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation updated the City Council on the grant received from the USDA for a recycling baler. The location of the baler and other details will need to be worked out with the city. Councilperson Harbin asked if this is strictly for cardboard or are other recyclables included. Jim explained that it will be cardboard only to begin with but aluminum cans could also be baled.

Mayor Williams opened the hearing at 7:20 pm for the Conditional Use Permits for the Colstrip Medical Center. Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Morgan introduced the request from the clinic for an apartment in the medical clinic for visiting medical personnel. They would also like

permission to park a camper trailer on their property for a traveling nurse. Both of these uses are not allowed in the General Commercial District. Jan recommends if the council allows the camper trailer to restrict it to only this individual and to limit it to one year. No comments or objections from the public were received. Mayor Williams closed the hearing at 7:24 pm.

Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Williams requested City Council approve a paid holiday for city employees for the day after Christmas, December 26th. Councilperson Harbin moved to approve December 26th of this year as a recognized city holiday. Councilperson Ellison seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin asked how much this would cost the city, if the police department would be paid double time, and if there would be a crew available in case it snows. Mayor Williams anticipates the cost to the city at \$2,400; emergency personnel would be paid at their regular compensation plus 8 hours of holiday pay; and if necessary, the Public Works personnel would be called out. Councilperson Becker abstained due to being an employee of the city; Councilperson Hert abstained since her husband is employed by the city; Councilpersons Harbin and Ellison voted in favor; and Mayor Williams voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Williams reported students of the Pinebutte Elementary School made ornaments and brought them to City Hall last week to put on the city's tree. Mayor Williams would like this to become an annual event.

Mayor Williams reminded everyone of the Coal Board meeting this Friday in Colstrip at the new City Hall.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Councilperson Ellison moved to approve a Conditional Use Permit for the Colstrip Medical Center to allow an apartment in the basement of the facility. Councilperson Hert seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin stated there previously was an apartment in the original building before the addition was built. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Hert moved to approve a Conditional Use Permit for a camper for a limit of one year at the Colstrip Medical Center, and for this to only apply to current employees and cannot be extended to future employees. Councilperson Ellison seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Ellison commented there is a trailer park available in town and feels it should be parked in the trailer park. Councilperson Harbin stated the Zoning Commission discussed this issue at their meeting earlier tonight and is concerned about allowing this when overhaul personnel are not allowed. Councilperson Harbin feels it would be inappropriate to allow this and would set an unwanted precedent. Attorney Ryder feels hardship issues have to be factored with these types of requests, but in this case there is an alternative available. Mayor Williams visited with John Poole, manager of the clinic, who stated the clinic may lose the nurse if the council denies this request. Mayor Williams suggests only allowing it for one year or less to give enough time for other accommodations to be made. Councilperson Harbin stated there

may be apartments available to rent and feels it is the burden of the medical clinic to arrange proper housing. Councilperson Hert moved to amend the motion to a limit of 3 months. Councilperson Ellison seconded. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin asked about tabling this and having more discussions with Mr. Poole. Councilperson Hert stated the three months would allow the clinic time to replace the nurse if she chooses to leave. Councilperson Becker asked why the clinic can't rent a lot in the trailer park. Councilpersons Ellison, Becker and Harbin voted against the amendment. Councilperson Hert voted in favor. Amendment failed 1-3. Councilpersons Ellison, Becker, and Harbin voted against the motion. Councilperson Hert voted in favor. Motion failed 1-3.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer