

## City Council Meeting October 28, 2014

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

Also Present: City Attorney Gary Ryder, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, Planning/Building/Zoning & Code Official Janet Morgan, Assistant Police Chief Kris Egan and Public Works Director Bryan Swan

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

- Minutes of 10/14/14 Regular Meeting
- Minutes of 10/06/14 Work Session Meeting
- Claims Roster 10/24/14
- September Financial Report
- Journal Voucher Nos. 2014-07 & 2015-01

### **Departmental Reports:**

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

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

A letter of support for financial assistance for Eastern Montana communities for infrastructure projects, fire, emergency services and law enforcement is being prepared to send to Governor Bullock and Montana Senators and Representatives prior to the start of the 2015 legislative session.

Training for public officials and employees is being conducted this Friday in Billings by MMIA and the MSU Local Government Center.

Mayor Hanser submitted a written report from Element 8 regarding contract negotiations with the employee collective bargaining units.

**Public Comment and Participation:** None.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Councilperson Williams moved to waive the reading of the ordinance in its entirety and approve first reading of Ordinance 2014-01, regarding the care and maintenance of trees within city limits. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Williams stated the city needs to move forward in the process of updating the tree ordinance and addressing areas such as

the health and maintenance of trees. Attorney Ryder stated he will probably be recommending Section 19 of the ordinance be removed as he doesn't feel it is legally supportable. He will prepare a written recommendation for the next council meeting. No comment from the public was received. Motion carried with all in favor.

**New Business:**

Councilperson Jankowski moved to award the bid for the Lift Station Improvements Project to Dick Anderson Construction in the amount of \$474,500.00. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Jankowski stated the lift stations are in poor shape and the city needs to move forward with repairs. Councilperson Williams asked what the starting date would be for the project. Public Works Director Swan explained a start date has not been determined due to the weather. Hopefully construction would begin in the spring after all the pumps and parts have been ordered and received. Councilperson Williams also asked if all three lift stations have to be done. Mr. Swan replied that they do. He feels their condition is precarious and doesn't want to delay repairs any longer. He also stated that the citizens of Colstrip will benefit far more from the lift station replacements than from the backwash project that DEQ has mandated. Councilperson Koczur asked if Coal Board funds could be applied for this project. Mayor Hanser replied that when the City presented its grant application to the Coal Board for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the City told the board that the City is already paying for replacement of the lift stations without assistance from the Coal Board. No public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve the Special Events Permit for the Annual Freedom Walk and Veterans Day Presentation. Councilperson Miller seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Jankowski commented this is an excellent community event that pays respect to veterans of the past, present and future. No public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Koczur moved to reschedule the first regular meeting in November to Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> due to the Veterans' Day holiday. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Administrative Matters:**

Mayor Hanser asked to schedule a work session meeting to discuss the water and sewer base rates, the funding of the backwash project and a possible sewer rate increase. A work session was scheduled for 9:00 am on Monday, November 10th.

Councilperson Williams reported the Montana League of Cities and Towns Board of Directors will be meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> to select a new Executive Director.

**Adjournment:**

Councilperson Jankowski moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion. Mayor Hanser adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.