

City Council Meeting  
February 24, 2015

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

Also Present: City Attorney Gary Ryder, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, Fire Chief Ryan Reid, Building/Planning/Zoning/Code Official Denise Sisson 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 2/10/15 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 2/19/15
- January Financial Report

**Departmental Reports:**

Reports were given by Fire Chief Reid, City Attorney Ryder, Public Works Director Swan, and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards.

**Mayor's Communications:**

Mayor Hanser stated since the council members just received the proposed union contracts at the beginning of this meeting, a 30-minute recess may be called in order for the council to review those contracts prior to acting on them. She also submitted a report from the management negotiating team.

**Public Comment and Participation:**

Gail Beckham, City Judge, has questions about the non-union pay raises and how they decided those.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve the purchase of a skid-steer loader from Titan Machinery in the amount of \$34,427.80. Councilperson Miller seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Koczur asked if the city would be trading in the bobcat for this skid-steer. Public Works Director Swan responded the bobcat will not be traded in and will probably be surplus at a later time. No public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-R01, declaring surplus equipment. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Koczur noted the bobcat is not included. No public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

Attorney Ryder addressed the City Council on the city employee and police union contracts. Councilperson Williams stated tonight is the first time he has seen the proposed union contracts. He feels the council needs time to go through the contracts themselves prior to any action being taken. He encouraged the other council members to table these contracts until they have time to look them over. It bothers him that the information was presented at the last minute and that is irresponsible. Councilperson Koczur would like to meet with everyone involved in the negotiations. Mayor Hanser suggested having a special meeting later this week or beginning of next week for the council to review and discuss the contracts. Councilperson Miller supports the fact that agreements have been reached even though she hasn't seen them but would agree to wait to review them. Councilperson Jankowski understands the concerns of those individuals who haven't seen the agreements. He would like to move forward with approving the contracts but respects the request of those who haven't seen them to wait. Public Comment: Darcy Dahle, Montana Public Employees Association, has not seen the final contracts either and she would like time to review them. Darcy stated the membership would not be hurt if the council waits. Councilperson Williams moved to table the City Employee Union Contract until the next meeting. Councilperson Koczur seconded. Discussion: Councilperson Koczur wants everyone who was ever involved at the meeting. Public Comment: Gail Beckham, City Judge, is glad the council is going to take time to review the contracts. She doesn't begrudge anyone wage raises but would like to know how they came up with them because the non-union employees received increases ranging from 2% to 11% and how they arrived at those decisions. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Williams moved to table the Police Union Contract until the next meeting. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Koczur would like everyone involved present at the meeting. No public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Williams moved to approve the proposal from Epcon Signs to replace the 'Welcome to Colstrip' signs in the amount of \$18,800.00. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion. Discussion: Mayor Hanser stated the proposal does not include removal of the current signs and the city budgeted \$13,000 for this project. Councilperson Williams would like to move forward and suggested the Public Works Department should be able to remove the current signs. Councilperson Miller would like to stay within budget. Councilpersons Koczur and Jankowski would like to move forward. No public comment received. Councilpersons Williams, Koczur and Jankowski voted in favor. Councilperson Miller voted nay. Motion carried 3-1.

#### **Administrative Matters:**

Mayor Hanser reported 75 Montana Mayors submitted letters of support for the local option tax authority bill.

Mayor Hanser will be attending the Executive Forum in Helena next Wednesday and Thursday.

**Adjournment:**

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

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer

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