

City Council Meeting  
March 10, 2015

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

Also Present: Planning/Building/Zoning & Code Official Denise Sisson, City Attorney Gary Ryder, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, 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. Discussion: Attorney Ryder would like his comments included in the minutes regarding the two collective bargaining units ratifying the proposed contracts on the Thursday and Friday prior to the last City Council meeting. Councilperson Jankowski moved to amend the minutes to include City Attorney Ryder's comments regarding the collective bargaining agreements. Councilperson Miller seconded the motion to amend. No public comment received. Motion carried as amended with all in favor.

- Minutes of 2/24/15 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 3/4/15

**Departmental Reports:**

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

**Mayor's Communications:**

Mayor Hanser attended the Executive Session in Helena last week. An ongoing issue with a lot of cities and towns in Montana are the Department of Environmental Quality's regulations regarding water and wastewater systems.

There are some bills and positive things going on in the Montana Legislature that would help cities/towns with infrastructure such as Coal Board funding.

**Public Comment:**

Gail Beckham, 3870 Chinook, asked how the city determined the non-union employee wage increases. It appears the City Judge's increase was smaller than the other department head raises. She would like to know how they arrived at those and what they took into consideration. Mayor Hanser responded that several proposals were made but the City Council made the decision. Councilperson Miller did not agree with the raises that were approved either and feels performance reviews should be part of the basis for raises. Gail feels the raises

need to be fair and is dissatisfied with what was done. Councilperson Williams suggested the information that was reviewed and discussed by the City Council be provided to Gail. Councilperson Koczur thinks all employees should know what has been decided and how it was derived at. Gail feels as a citizen she has the right to know how the employees are paid.

**Unfinished Business:**

Councilperson Koczur moved to approve the four-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the City Employee Unit. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Williams asked about retroactive pay increase for former employee Jan Morgan. Since it wasn't included in the collective bargaining agreement he would like the City Council to address it. He also commented he likes the formation of the Insurance Committee and approach regarding health insurance. Mayor Hanser responded the city is checking with PERS to find out if there would be a negative impact to Mrs. Morgan's retirement. Public Comment: Paula Peplow thanked the City Council for giving consideration to a retroactive pay increase for Jan Morgan. Mrs. Morgan continues to help and assist even though she is no longer employed. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Police Unit. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Williams noted that even though the cost of the police unit contract is more than the other contract the Police Officers compensation needed to be increased due to the compensation of the county sheriff's deputies and the difference in retirement plans. Mr. Williams also had the same comments regarding health insurance as the other union contract. Motion carried with all in favor.

Attorney Ryder addressed the City Council regarding the City being served with a lawsuit pertaining to a Public Records Request for billing records for the attorney hired by MMIA in the Reinlasoder vs. City of Colstrip lawsuit. Councilperson Miller moved to authorize City Attorney Gary Ryder to respond to the lawsuit. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Koczur asked what the response will be. Attorney Ryder stated the response will be 1) the city does not have the records since the contract for the attorney is between MMIA and the attorney and 2) the city offered to obtain the records and redact any information contained in the records that falls under attorney/client privilege for the cost of the copying and redaction time. Mayor Hanser noted that a summary of the billing costs was provided but they want the detail. No public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

**New Business:**

Councilperson Miller moved to approve the city's response to the fiscal year 2014 audit. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Administrative Matters:**

City Council went into Executive Session at 7:45 pm to discuss litigation matters. They returned at 8:00 pm.

**Adjournment:**

Councilperson Jankowski moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Hanser adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer

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