

City Council Meeting  
June 9, 2015

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

Also Present: Fire Chief Ryan Reid, 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 Koczur moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 5/26/15 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 6/5/15
- Journal Voucher No. 2015-04

**Departmental Reports:**

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

**Mayor's Communications:**

Mayor Hanser will be attending the Montana Coal Board Meeting in Hardin this Friday. The City of Colstrip's Wastewater Treatment Rehabilitation grant application will be considered by the board.

**Public Comment:**

Jim Atchison, SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation and a resident at 7405 Castle Rock Lake Drive, requested to be on the next meeting agenda to give his annual SEMDC membership presentation. Mr. Atchison asked about permitting for Colstrip Days. Previously the City had given an exemption to the Colstrip Chamber of Commerce for this event but the Chamber is no longer active and the Quality of Life Corporation has stepped up to organize the event. Mr. Atchison reported the State of Montana received a D- for wastewater on an Infrastructure Scorecard completed by the American Association of Civil Engineers. He will be sharing this information with the Coal Board. The Tongue River Railroad public meetings are going on throughout southeastern Montana regarding the draft environmental impact study. Mr. Atchison encouraged everyone to attend the meeting in Colstrip.

Richard Vasicek, 4019 Prospector, addressed the City Council and asked about zoning authority, what ordinance says his residence must be inspected as commercial and the status of his business license. He also stated he does not make deals with state building inspectors. City Attorney Ryder responded he received a letter from Mr. Vasicek's attorney that she is no longer representing Mr. Vasicek. He will work with city officials to respond to Mr. Vasicek's questions.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve Engineering Task Order No. 11, Amendment 4 with Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson in the amount of \$4,039. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Miller moved to approve Lift Station Improvements Project Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$4,854.96. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve the Special Events Permit for Fireworks during Colstrip Days for John Bleth. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Hanser requested the City Council to consider approving a Resolution of Intent at the next council meeting to increase sewer rates and an SRF Loan for the Phase I Wastewater Project. Councilperson Koczur asked if this had not already been decided to use banked mill levies to pay for this project. Mayor Hanser explained since the time of that discussion, the water tank replacement situation has come up. The Sewer Fund is in the better position to obtain and repay a bond loan and interest rates are very low at this time. The City has a grant application that will be considered this Friday at the Coal Board meeting and the grant application specifies the city will be obtaining an SRF Loan. Councilperson Koczur moved to move forward with a Resolution of Intent to increase sewer rates. Councilperson Miller seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Miller is in favor of obtaining a loan due to the really low interest rates and also agrees with a rate increase. Councilperson Williams feels in this particular situation it would be in the city's best interest to move forward with a rate increase and would put the city in a better position with the Coal Board to obtain grant funding.

Public Comment: Jim Atchison, 7405 Castle Rock Lake Drive, is not in favor of raising rates and taxes but interest rates are at an all-time low and we don't want to create any doubt with the Coal Board on our funding resources. He stated everybody is going through the same thing

with failing infrastructure with much higher rate increases due to federal mandates and deferred maintenance.

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-R04, to appeal the Reinlasoder verdict. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

**Administrative Matters:**

Mayor Hanser asked to schedule budget review meetings. It was decided the Budget/Finance Committee of the Whole will meet June 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am and June 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

A Zoning Commission hearing will be held June 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm regarding Mr. Vasicek's Conditional Use Permit request to operate a Bed and Breakfast.

Councilperson Koczur asked that Colstrip Park and Recreation District be contacted about the fountain next to City Hall.

**Adjournment:**

Councilperson Miller moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion. Mayor Hanser adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer