

## City Council Meeting August 11, 2015

Present: Mayor Rose Hanser, Councilpersons Lawretta Miller and John Williams  
Absent: Councilpersons Tom Jankowski and Greg Koczur  
Also Present: 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 Miller moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Williams seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with Councilperson Miller, Councilperson Williams and Mayor Hanser voting in favor.

- Minutes of 7/28/15 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 8/6/15
- Journal Voucher Nos. 2015-07 & 2015-08

### **Departmental Reports:**

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

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

SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC) thanked the City of Colstrip for its continued support and membership. The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Energy Open will be held August 20-21 in Colstrip.

Bicentennial Library sent an Appreciation Certificate for helping to support their Summer Reading Program.

### **Public Comment:**

Richard Burnett, owner of Colstrip Properties, owns 65 vacant RV spaces. If the City moves forward with the minimum monthly water and sewer charge, he will remove the meters and turn everything off. The ordinance change will kill his RV business. He feels it is torturous interference with his business and is actionable and he will be retaining an attorney. He had a title search done on his property and feels he owns the water and sewer mains in his trailer court since he couldn't find where Western Energy transferred these to the City of Colstrip. Former Police Chief Reinlasoder told him there were numerous meetings over 15 years about how to screw the Burnetts when the previous Mayor was in office and that the City Attorney was involved in some of these meetings. He will be filing a complaint with the BAR Association about our City Attorney advising how to interfere with his business. The City dug up a lot in his trailer court and left a crater and then said it is his problem. He wants the anti-Burnett stuff to stop. He is also upset with the recent cease and desist order on a house he is building as he doesn't feel it was right.

**Unfinished Business:**

Councilperson Miller moved to waive the reading of Ordinance 2015-01 in its entirety and approve First Reading, amending City Code Section 9-1B-3. Councilperson Williams seconded.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: Richard Burnett asked why the dates were changed from January 1, 2016 to the past few years. Mayor Hanser explained this was discussed and changed at the last council meeting. Mr. Burnett asked if removing the meters would exempt him from the charges. Mayor Hanser responded that if the service has been activated in the past few years, he will be billed the minimum monthly rate.

Motion carried with Councilperson Miller, Councilperson Williams and Mayor Hanser voting in favor.

Councilperson Miller moved to approve Engineering Task Order No. 17 with Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson in the amount of \$260,000 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade – Phase I.

Councilperson Williams seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Williams is concerned about the cost of this task order since this is public funds and he has the responsibility as a council member to verify and raise issues. He has confidence and faith in KLJ's ability but the City has limited funds with big projects. He will not support any additional cost associated with this task order as there has been plenty of time to investigate and review everything. He still is not comfortable and wonders if the City should get a second opinion. The Council needs to be cognizant of the upcoming projects and the dollar amount involved.

Public Comment: Richard Burnett, Colstrip Properties, stated after the previous Mayor spent six million dollars on a police force over the past 15 years, he can't believe he is concerned about the budget.

Motion carried with Councilperson Miller, Councilperson Williams and Mayor Hanser voting in favor.

**New Business:**

Councilperson Miller moved to approve the Preliminary 2015-2016 Budget. Councilperson Williams seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Williams would like to levy the maximum amount authorized under state law and decide where those funds should be directed.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with Councilperson Miller, Councilperson Williams and Mayor Hanser voting in favor.

**Administrative Matters:**

Councilperson Williams commented on the Insurance Services Office (ISO) report received. He is curious to know the rating of other fire departments similar in size and the impact of the report.

A Budget/Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for August 18, 2015 at 9:00 am regarding the budget.

**Adjournment:**

Councilperson Williams moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Hanser adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer