

City Council Meeting  
November 24, 2015

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

Also Present: City Attorney Gary Ryder, Assistant Police Chief Kris Egan, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, Fire Chief Rob Pontius, 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 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 11/10/15 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 11/18/15

**Departmental Reports:**

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

Carl Jackson of Kadmas, Lee and Jackson gave an update of the city's current infrastructure projects including the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade – Phase I, Water Backwash System Improvements, Water Quality Modeling, High Service Pump Station Surge Analysis and the Alder Court Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation. Upcoming projects include Willow Avenue Reconstruction, Wastewater PER Phase III Recommendations, Water Zone 3 Pump Replacement and Zone 3 Water Tank Replacement.

**Mayor's Communications:**

Mayor Hanser looked into the responsibility of the fence along Highway 39. The Colstrip Park and Recreation District usually gets tasked with the maintenance/repair of the fence. However, Mayor Hanser found that the last recorded owner is Western Energy.

**Public Comment:**

Public Hearing regarding water and sewer rate increases was opened by Mayor Hanser at 7:29 pm.

Rick Harbin, Executive Director of the Colstrip Park and Recreation District (CPRD) asked the City Council to please look at all of the enterprise fund charges each year so that reasonable adjustments can be made and avoid large increases at one time. He thanked the City for looking at this more often. CPRD is taking steps to reduce their water consumption and conserve water.

Councilperson Williams commented that the City has been utilizing State Entitlement Share funds and property tax dollars to pay for water and sewer infrastructure projects to ease the burden on the water and sewer rate payers.

Councilperson Koczur commented that he would still like to find a way to reduce the charges for irrigating purposes to turn the brown grass back to green grass.

Carl Jackson, engineer at Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson, complimented the City for going through this difficult process and encouraged the City to look at this on an annual basis. From his perspective as the city's engineer to protect the public's health and safety and keeping track of federal and state legislation it is one of the most important news items and it is absolutely necessary. The project at the wastewater plant will make operations cleaner and safer for the employees and there are energy efficiency benefits also.

Mayor Hanser closed the Public Hearing at 7:42 pm.

No other public comment was received.

**Unfinished Business:**

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-R19, approving increases to the water and sewer base rates. Councilperson Miller seconded the motion.

No discussion.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

**New Business:**

Councilperson Koczur moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-R20, the intention to establish minimum monthly water and sewer rates for services that are shut-off. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mayor Hanser pointed out that the minimum monthly water and sewer rates will be based on replacement/depreciation and debt service expenses and will not include operation and maintenance expenses.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve Change Order No. 2 for the Alder Court Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$6,053.00. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

No discussion.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve new Position Description for the Planning/Zoning/Code Official. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

No discussion.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

**Administrative Matters:**

The Montana Coal Board will be meeting in Colstrip at City Hall on Thursday and Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The meetings are open to the public.

Senator Duane Ankeny will be hosting a meeting at City Hall on Wednesday, December 2 regarding the future of coal and the power plants.

SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation will be hosting their annual Town Meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup> at City Hall regarding the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) document.

**Adjournment:**

Councilperson Jankowski moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion. Mayor Hanser adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer