

City Council Meeting February 23, 2016

Present: Mayor John Williams, Councilpersons Tom Jankowski, Greg Koczur, Jolene Verlanic and Mike Esser

Also Present: City Attorney Gary Ryder, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, Police Chief Cory Hert and Fire Chief Rob Pontius

Mayor Williams 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 Verlanic seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Jankowski asked about Claim #21013 to Carquest Auto Parts regarding the purchase of a windshield repair kit. There was no public comment. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 2/9/16 Special Meeting
- Claims Roster 2/19/16
- Journal Voucher Nos. 2016-03

Departmental Reports:

Reports were given by Police Chief Hert, Fire Chief Pontius, City Attorney Ryder and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards. Mayor Williams reported on behalf of Public Works Director Bryan Swan.

Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Williams reported on the Labor/Management Committee meeting yesterday. One of the issues discussed is the Safety Award Incentive Program and if the current award system is in compliance with state law. The definition of reportable accidents was also discussed. Amendments to the Safety Reward Program will be presented to the City Council based on the committee's recommendations.

Public Comment:

Mary Kay Bullard, Librarian at the Bicentennial Library, gave a history presentation of the local library and of the current services and programs offered by the library. The library is funded by Rosebud County although in 2004 the City of Colstrip contributed \$110,000 to the expansion of the library. Mrs. Bullard stated Rosebud County will be reducing their budget 5% in each of the next four fiscal years. The library and building front entrance are in need of a remodel and the bathrooms are not ADA compliant. The library is asking the City of Colstrip to consider assisting in the annual funding of the library and the repairs/remodel.

Jim Atchison, Director at SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation and resident at 7405 Castle Rock Lake Drive, is willing to meet with the City Council to review the recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy that was completed with input from the public. A

Community Marketing/Diversification Plan was highly rated and Mr. Atchison estimates the plan would cost in the range of \$40,000-\$50,000. SEMDC can apply for a Big Sky Trust Fund Grant to assist in the funding of the study but it does require a 50% match. Mayor Williams suggested a possible Coal Board Grant for the other 50%.

Carl Jackson, engineer with Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson, gave an update of current and upcoming projects. Councilperson Koczur asked what happened to the Castle Rock Lake Drainage issue discussed last year.

Joe Novasio, no address given, stated he has been flooded several times and wants the drain fixed. He stated it has been three years. He and one of his neighbors have spent numerous hours unplugging the drain. He said it doesn't need all the stuff suggested in the engineer's report, just an adequate sized drain.

Unfinished Business:

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve Amendment #1 to Engineering Task Order 20 for the reconstruction of Willow Avenue in the amount of \$323,100. Councilperson Esser seconded.

Discussion: Councilperson Koczur feels the public should be involved in the decision of installing medians in the center of the street. Mayor Williams explained the intention of the medians is to take advantage of the opportunity to beautify during the reconstruction of the street and for public safety. The engineers approached Town Pump management about the design and they had no objections. Mayor Williams has consulted with Police Chief Hert about the medians and he agreed medians are helpful and essential for safety, especially in front of Town Pump. There would not be a median along the entire length as access to businesses and other properties will need to be provided. Heavy truck traffic will continue to be routed to Power Road for deliveries to the power plant and enforced by the police department to lengthen the life of the street and protect the utilities underneath the street. Councilperson Verlanic asked if any other roads have been identified as a higher priority. Mr. Jackson stated Homestead, Main and Castle Rock Lake Drive have been evaluated. Mayor Williams explained the City has already evaluated the priority of street repairs and Willow Avenue was selected as the highest priority.

Public Comment:

Lawretta Miller, 6912 Blackhawk Circle, does feel the medians are important but asked the City to consider the cost and labor of maintaining grass and trees. Homestead Boulevard has grass and trees in the median and boulevards and are not being maintained well or cleaned up. She is looking forward to the improvements on Willow Avenue, especially sidewalks on both sides and lighting.

Joe Novasio, 7423 Castle Rock Lake Drive, feels the road should be built to support the power plant and not worry about making it pretty. Truck drivers that use a GPS are directed to use Willow Avenue to get to the power plants. He feels the City needs to build a road adequate to support the service trucks and other equipment that uses Willow and proper signage needs to be installed for the truck route.

Councilperson Jankowski stated public safety is the number one concern and doesn't want anything done to impede the fire department and ambulance service. He is in favor of a median in front of Town Pump but not for the rest of the street. Councilperson Koczur agreed with Lawretta Miller about

the maintenance of the existing boulevards. He would also like to see the fountain next to City Hall fixed and operational. Mayor Williams will contact CPRD about the fountain and the City's maintenance contractor about the boulevards. Motion carried with all in favor.

New Business:

Councilperson Koczur moved to approve Resolution No. 2016-R02, establishing an abandonment fee of \$250 plus labor, materials and equipment for permanent abandonment of water and/or sewer service. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Koczur asked if the City would complete the abandonment or would a contractor be hired. The customer can do the digging or hire it done but the City will do the actual disconnect to verify it is done properly.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve Resolution No. 2016-R02, establishing a water meter installation fee of \$25.00 minimum that includes the first half-hour of work and \$50.00 per hour after the initial half-hour. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Jankowski asked if this fee would apply to meter change outs for malfunctioning meters. Mayor Williams stated it will not be charged to replace broken meters, replace batteries in MXUs, etc.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve and move forward with the Water Plant Pipe Purchase in the amount of \$12,860.91 from Dick Anderson Construction. Councilperson Verlanic seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Jankowski explained this project was delayed due to the Alder Court Lift Station repair. The contractor purchased the pipe in good faith and has done a good job on the other project. Councilperson Verlanic asked when the project will be completed. Mayor Williams is unsure of the exact completion date of this project.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Administrative Matters:

Senator Duane Ankeny will be holding a community meeting this Thursday at 6:30 pm at the high school auditorium regarding the Washington legislation affecting the power plants.

Councilperson Koczur asked if the drainage issue on Castle Rock Lake Drive will be looked at. Mayor Williams will find out the status of this issue from Public Works Director Swan.

Adjournment:

Councilperson Koczur moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:28 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer