

**CITY OF COLSTRIP**  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
Regular Meeting  
November 27, 2007

Council President Gale Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards called the roll. The following were:

Present: Councilpersons Gale Palmer, Betty Jo Ellison, and Rick Harbin

Absent: Mayor John Williams and Councilperson Susan Hert

Also Present: City Attorney Gary Ryder, Police Sergeant Cory Hert, Public Works Supervisor John Bleth, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Jan Morgan, Fire Chief Ryan Reid, and City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards

**Consent Agenda:**

Councilperson Harbin moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Ellison seconded the motion. No Discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

- a. Minutes of 11/13/07 Regular Meeting
- b. Claims Roster 11/23/07
- c. October's Treasurer Report

**Departmental Reports:**

In addition to written information included in council's packets City Clerk/Treasurer Richards, Public Works Supervisor Bleth, Police Sergeant Hert, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Morgan, Fire Chief Reid, and City Attorney Ryder gave departmental reports.

**Public Comment and Participation:**

Jim Atchison, of SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation, reported a First Time Homebuyer course will be given December 15<sup>th</sup> in Forsyth. Mr. Atchison also gave an update on the Assisted Living Facility currently being investigated by the Community Care Task Force. SEMDC submitted a grant application to the Big Sky Economic Development Trust to fund a feasibility study for the facility. 70% of the estimated \$20,000 cost was approved. Mr. Atchison will meet with the Rosebud County Commissioners to request assistance in funding the

remaining 30%. Mr. Atchison also thanked the city for the recent street improvements completed on Olive Drive and Castle Rock Lake Drive.

Council President Palmer opened the Public Hearing for 3078 Cheyenne Drive at 7:24 pm. Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Morgan explained the owners are requesting a variance to the front setback for a 16 x 80 trailer home. The lot is 100' long and the setback requirements are fourteen feet in the front and ten feet in the back. Councilperson Harbin pointed out that most trailer homes are larger than when the lots were established and the city may need to change its requirements to accommodate these homes. The hearing was closed at 7:27 pm.

Council President Palmer opened the Public Hearing for 2158 Chisholm Drive at 7:28 pm. Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Morgan explained the owners are requesting a variance to the front setback for their home and front deck. The property pin in the front yard was not found until after construction was completed. The front deck was cut back but still extends into the front setback by 5'4" and the house by 1'3". No public comment was received. The hearing was closed at 7:30 pm.

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

Fire Chief Reid reported that the Rosebud County Commissioners responded to the Mayor's request to assist in the purchase of a Wildland Fire Truck. The commissioners requested several stipulations if they provide funding. It is the Mayor and Chief Reid's opinion the stipulations would not be in the best interests of the city. City Council agreed and other funding options will be explored.

The Personnel Committee is recommending the City Christmas Party be held at CPRD on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The Close-Up organization will be paid to do the cleanup. Councilperson Ellison moved to approve the City Christmas Party at a cost of \$20.00 per person limit. Councilperson Harbin seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Councilperson Harbin moved to accept the bid submitted by Heberle Ford in the amount of \$65,915.00 for a Fire Equipment Vehicle. Councilperson Ellison seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Ellison moved to approve the contract with TCT West, Inc. to allow their equipment on city property for \$1,200 per year. Councilperson Harbin seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Ellison moved to approve Resolution No. 07-R16, distributing the leftover Flexible Spending Account Contributions for years 2000-2006. Councilperson Harbin seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin commented this is only valid for these years and nothing should be expected with the future leftover contributions. Councilperson Palmer

commented it is nice to be able to do this for the employees but the city does pay 100% of the employees' health insurance premiums and very few public entities do this anymore. The funding of the flex plan comes from the taxpayers and water and sewer rate payers and doesn't think this is the right thing to do. Councilpersons Harbin and Ellison voted in favor. Councilperson Palmer voted nay. Motion carried 2-1.

**New Business:**

Councilperson Harbin moved to approve the bid from Wolf Mountain Enterprises in the amount of \$11,704.00 for improvements at the Animal Pound. Councilperson Ellison seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin is very happy the city is doing something with the animal pound situation and thanked the Police Chief and others involved for getting it done. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Harbin moved to approve the Variance Request for 3078 Cheyenne for a front setback variance. Councilperson Ellison seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin commented again on looking into the situation with the Zoning Commission on the longer trailer homes. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Ellison moved to approve the Variance Request for 2158 Chisholm Drive for a front setback variance. Councilperson Harbin seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Administrative Matters:**

Councilperson Harbin moved to change the second regular meeting in December to Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at noon. Councilperson Ellison seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Personnel Committee Chairman Rick Harbin stated the committee will not be meeting in December.

Councilperson Ellison reminded everyone that the next Coal Board meeting is December 8<sup>th</sup> in Billings and support from the community and City Council would be appreciated.

Council President Palmer adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer