

City Council Meeting August 23, 2016

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

Absent: Councilperson Tom Jankowski

Also Present: City Attorney Gary Ryder, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, Police Chief Cory Hert, Public Works Director Swan, Fire Chief Rob Pontius and Planning/Zoning Official Denise Sisson

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 Verlanic moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Esser seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 8/9/16 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 8/17/16
- Journal Voucher No. 2016-08

Departmental Reports:

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

Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Williams attended the Montana League of Cities and Towns Resolutions Committee meeting last week in Helena. Mayor Williams submitted the resolutions being considered by the Montana Legislature's Energy and Telecommunications Committee regarding the closure of units 1 and 2 of the power plant. The MLCT Resolutions Committee voted unanimously to support these resolutions. The resolutions will be submitted to the league membership at the annual conference in October.

Mayor Williams received an invitation from Governor Bullock to attend a meeting with the US Department of Energy regarding carbon capture and enhanced oil recovery on August 31st in Helena.

Mayor Williams reviewed the maximum salary and wage levels and submitted his recommendation to the City Council.

The annual Energy Open was held last week in Colstrip. Mayor Williams shared a letter with Council members that was read from Senator Daines in support of the community of Colstrip.

Judge Beckham has made a request for increased compensation. Mayor Williams' position is that she accepted the position as offered in January and he doesn't feel a change is warranted.

Public Comment:

Gail Beckham, City Judge, explained the reason she has requested additional hours and compensation. During the past fiscal year, she averaged 36 hours per week and her case load has increased.

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Budget at 7:25 pm. No comments received. Mayor Williams closed the hearing at 7:25 pm.

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing regarding the Solid Waste Assessments at 7:26 pm. No comments received. Mayor Williams closed the hearing at 7:26 pm

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve Resolution No. 2016-R13, amending the preliminary budget and adopting the budget for fiscal year 2016-2017. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Koczur moved to approve Resolution No. 2016-R14 setting the mill levy at 67.11 mills for fiscal year 2016-2017. Councilperson Verlanic seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Koczur moved to approve Resolution No. 2016-R15 setting employee compensation and personnel levels for fiscal year 2016-2017. Councilperson Verlanic seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Verlanic would only consider Judge Beckham's request for additional compensation if she would be willing to be in her office and open to the public an additional day of the week. Attorney Ryder stated an ordinance change would be necessary. Judge Beckham stated she pretty much already does that and doesn't know if it would be fair to change the terms after her appointment.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Koczur moved to approve Resolution No. 2016-R16 setting compensation for City Council members. Councilperson Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Verlanic would like to consider an increase in compensation for the office of Mayor. Mayor Williams appreciates the recommendation but would like to wait until next year.

Public Comment: None received.

Councilpersons Esser and Koczur voted in favor. Councilperson Verlanic voted nay. Motion carried.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve Resolution No. 2016-R17, setting the solid waste special assessments for fiscal year 2016-2017. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.
Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve Resolution No. 2016-R18, approving funding for the Schoolhouse History and Art Center during fiscal year 2016-2017. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Adjournment:

Councilperson Verlanic moved to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer

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