

City Council Meeting
December 13, 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 Koczur moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Verlanic seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 11/22/16 Special Meeting
- Claims Roster 12/8/16
- Journal Voucher Nos. 2017-01 & 2017-02

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, with City Council's approval, would like to declare December 23rd as a Holiday for City Employees this year. Public Works on-call personnel and law enforcement will still be available. Councilperson Koczur moved to approve declaring December 23 as a holiday for City Employees this year. Councilperson Verlanic seconded.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None

Motion carried with all in favor.

There will be two public meetings this week regarding diversifying Colstrip's economy. Jim Atchison will be providing more information during Public Comment.

Mayor Williams would like to have a dinner for employees and council members in January to celebrate the new year. Funds are included in the budget for this.

Mayor Williams will be attending the Coal Board meeting on December 19th in Billings. The City of Colstrip has a grant application for the purchase of a new fire truck included on the board's agenda.

Public Comment:

Jim Atchison, SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC), thanked the City Council for renewing its membership with SEMDC and presented a certificate of appreciation. Mr. Atchison also thanked the City Council, Mayor and Public Works Director for the additional sidewalks and sidewalk cuts for handicap accessibility recently installed. Jim reported on three studies involving Colstrip currently underway. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is an annual study completed by SEMDC. The Coal Country Coalition is a regional effort to identify coal revenues for Montana and create a directory of workforce training opportunities for displaced coal industry personnel. The third study is the Colstrip Economic Diversification Strategy. Public meetings are being held this week to gather input from the public and stakeholders.

Carl Jackson and McKenzie Butcher, engineers with Kadmas, Lee and Jackson, gave project updates on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades, Willow Avenue Reconstruction, Sidewalk & Landscape Improvements, and the Zone 3 Water Tank Replacement. Upcoming projects include Wastewater Recommendations, a High Service Pump Station, Water Supply Alternatives, Vista Drive Drainage Improvements and a Storm Water Master Plan.

Councilperson Koczur commented there are several street signs in town that need replaced.

New Business:

Councilperson Verlanic moved to accept the Prosecution Services Contract with Hanna Schantz as presented. Councilperson Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: Hanna Schantz explained there are no changes to the contract from the previous years.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve the City Attorney Services Contract with Gary Ryder as submitted. Councilperson Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: Attorney Ryder stated he appreciates working with the City of Colstrip.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Koczur moved to obtain the services of lobbyist Bob Gilbert during the upcoming legislative session. Councilperson Verlanic seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: Jim Atchison, SEMDC, stated Mr. Gilbert is well respected in Helena and will do a good job for us. He feels it makes sense to have a lobbyist representing us and supports this action.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve Resolution 2016-R21 declaring surplus property.

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-R22, intent to sell a police car to the City of Deer Lodge and hold a public hearing in accordance with 7-8-101 MCA. Councilperson Verlanic seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Koczur moved to approve Amendment No. 2 to Engineering Task Order 20 in the amount of \$38,850.00 for the Sidewalk & Landscape Improvement Project. Councilperson Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve Amendment No. 1 to Engineering Task Order 22 in the amount of \$7,250.00 regarding the Willow Avenue Reconstruction project.

Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Administrative Matters:

Council discussed whether to change the date and/or time of the second meeting in December. It was decided to leave the meeting at its regularly scheduled day and time.

Adjournment:

Councilperson Verlanic moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:47 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer