

City Council Meeting
August 25, 2009

Present: Mayor John Williams, Councilpersons Dan Becker, Betty Jo Ellison, and Evan Stewart

Absent: Councilperson Rick Harbin

Also Present: City Attorney Gary Ryder, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, Police Chief Larry Reinlasoder, and Zoning/Code Enforcement/Building Inspector Jan Morgan

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

- a. Minutes of 8/11/09 Regular Meeting
- b. Claims Roster 8/21/09
- c. Journal Voucher 09-08

Departmental Reports:

Department Reports were given by Police Chief Reinlasoder, Zoning/Code Enforcement/Building Inspector Morgan, Attorney Ryder and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards in addition to written reports provided in Council's packets from Public Works Supervisor Bleth.

Councilperson Ellison asked Attorney Ryder about regulations restricting texting on cell phones while driving. Attorney Ryder responded the city council does have the authority to adopt an ordinance addressing the issue. Police Chief Reinlasoder stated he is aware of at least two vehicle accidents in town caused by the driver texting. Attorney Ryder also mentioned public service education might be helpful.

Councilperson Ellison moved to accept the proposal from Valuations Northwest to conduct a fixed asset and inventory valuation. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Public Comment and Participation: None.

Mayor's Communications:

A deer management plan meeting was held August 12th at City Hall with representatives from PPL Montana, Western Energy, MT Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Colstrip Sportsman's Club, and the Colstrip Park and Recreation District. Changes this year will be the number of permits issued and there will be no additional permits as allowed in the past.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Councilperson Ellison moved to approve the Solid Waste Special Assessments. Councilperson Becker seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Councilperson Ellison moved to approve the Preliminary 2009-2010 Fiscal Year Budget. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Becker has a problem with the proposed budget. He does not feel the \$76,000 budgeted for a Chief Administrative Officer is necessary for the size of this city and the money could be put to better use. Mayor Williams stated it is his recommendation for the city to hire a Chief Administrative Officer and it is in the city's charter to allow for this. Mayor Williams asked for any other discussion. There being none, Councilpersons Stewart and Ellison voted in favor; Councilperson Becker voted nay. Motion carried 2-1.

Administrative Matters:

Councilperson Ellison will not be in attendance at the September 8, 2009 meeting.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.