

## City Council Meeting August 8, 2017

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

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

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 Koczur seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 7/25/17 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 8/4/17

### **Departmental Reports:**

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

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

Colstrip Park & Recreation District has requested the installation of street lights along the bike path between the community center and the power plant. However, the City cannot take action on the request until the cost is provided.

Lt. Governor Mike Cooney and Montana's State Director of Labor and Industry Pam Bucy were here last week at City Hall to announce the Power Grant Award to the State of Montana for the Dislocated Worker Program. This award comes from the US Department of Labor's Dislocated Worker Program, which has a threshold of \$4.6 million. The grant award is allocated toward workers in 21 eastern Montana counties. \$2 million has been designated to date.

A Deer Management meeting was held at City Hall on August 3 with 20 people in attendance, including representatives from Rosebud County, Western Energy, Talen Energy, Montana Fish & Game and the city's police department. No incidents or issues were recognized. There will be 150 special tags available for this special harvest.

Mayor Williams attended the Montana League of Cities & Towns, MMIA and Local Government Center joint training and regional meeting. Lt. Governor Cooney was present along with the Directors of the DEQ, Commerce, DNRC, and Transportation. The meeting included discussion on the additional gas tax funding and the process to utilize and obtain those funds.

**Public Hearing:**

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing at 7:20 pm regarding the city's intention to apply for a Coal Board grant to purchase a motor grader. Public Works Director Swan explained the city's current grader is over 30 years old and needs replaced. The plan is to purchase a newer used motor grader in the \$100,000 price range. The grant application will be for half of the cost, \$50,000. Jim Atchison of 7405 Castle Rock Lake Drive, is in favor of the purchase of the road grader and applying for a coal board grant. There is no environmental impact involved. Mayor Williams closed the hearing at 7:23 pm.

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing at 7:24 pm regarding the city's intention to apply for a Coal Board Grant to hire a consultant to implement the Colstrip Economic Diversification Strategy. Jim Atchison, Executive Director of SEMDC, explained SEMDC does not have the staff to implement the strategy. They have applied to and received a \$175,000 Assistance to Coal Communities Grant from the federal government. There is no environmental impact involved. No other comments were received. Mayor Williams closed the hearing at 7:26 pm.

**Public Comment:**

Jim Atchison, 7405 Castle Rock lake Drive, thanked the City Council for the information flyer regarding the Willow Avenue Reconstruction project. Jim reminded everyone of the Energy Open being held in Colstrip August 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Councilperson Verlanic moved to waive the reading in its entirety and approve Resolution No. 2017-R09, the Supplemental Bond Resolution for the Wastewater Treatment Rehabilitation in the amount of \$1,094,000. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve the application to the Montana Coal Board in the amount of \$175,000 for a consultant to implement the Economic Diversification Strategy. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve providing \$5,000 for a local match for the Montana Coal Board in the amount of \$175,000 for a consultant to implement the Economic Diversification Strategy. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

The Preliminary 2017-2018 Budget was discussed. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards explained there is not enough money in the Water Fund to pay for regular operating expenses and the WTP High Service Pump project requested by the Public Works Department. Since this is a high priority for the City, the chip/seal of Pine Butte Drive will be removed from the budget and half of the Overpass Pavement Overlay will be paid out of the Gas Tax Fund. The City has decided to purchase a used motor grader instead of a new one so that will save \$200,000 and the Fire Department purchased used washers and dryers for a savings of \$12,000. These combined savings in the General Fund will allow the City to transfer money from the General Fund to the Water Fund. The utilities budget for the Schoolhouse History and Art Center was increased to \$8,500 and Mayor Williams requested \$10,000 be budgeted in the City Hall budget for an electronic information message center. Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve 2017-2018 Preliminary Budget as discussed. Councilperson Verlanic seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Preliminary Budget discussion.

**Adjournment:**

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer