

## City Council Meeting September 12, 2017

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

Absent: Councilperson Mike Esser

Also Present: Fire Chief Rob Pontius, City Attorney Gary Ryder, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, Assistant Police Chief Kris Egan, Public Works Director Bryan Swan and Planning/Zoning/Code 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 Jankowski moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Verlanic seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Verlanic noted the minutes did not mention changing the city's policy regarding the boomers set off by the fire department at high school football games. Attorney Ryder will prepare a resolution to change the city's policy to the Homecoming football game only. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 8/22/17 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 9/8/17
- Journal Voucher No. 2017-07

### **Departmental Reports:**

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

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

Mayor Williams will be attending the quarterly Coal Board meeting next Friday in Hardin.

Mayor Williams reported the Loss Control Achievement in the Workers Compensation Program will be awarded to the City of Colstrip by Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority at the Montana League of Cities & Towns Conference in Great Falls the end of this month.

City employees have been working with the School District on a water issue at Pine Butte Elementary School. The school hired a plumber and said there were no leaks. However, city employees investigated and found a large leak in their irrigation system.

Attorney General Tim Fox was in Colstrip today to discuss Puget Sound Energy's rate case before the Washington Public Utilities Commission regarding the closure of units 1 and 2 of the power plant.

**Public Comment:**

Steve Christian thanked the City for working with him through the Goodwill process regarding the damage to his basement.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve beginning wage adjustments as recommended by Mayor Williams as follows: Certified Police Officers - \$23.72; Non-certified Police Officers - \$22.72; Certified 911 Dispatchers - \$17.83; Non-certified 911 Dispatchers - \$16.83; and Custodian - \$14.22.

Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Jankowski commented he is not against giving anyone a raise but since these positions are part of a bargaining unit, it is very uncommon to adjust wages in between contract negotiations that are not included in the contract. He is concerned of the precedence it could set.

Councilperson Verlanic suggested waiting to act on the police officers and dispatchers until contract negotiations since this is the last year of the contract. She is also concerned of the precedence this could set.

Mayor Williams responded if it is not approved tonight and we have a police officer or dispatcher terminate, he will be coming back to the City Council asking for this again so that the City can attract applicants and remain competitive. Rosebud County starts their deputies at \$24.03 per hour.

Public Comment: Pat Campbell, has 20 years of experience in labor and feels the certified police officers are fine but need to address the non-certified officers and custodian. He stated the city can advertise and hire at a higher rate than what is in the contract.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve Resolution No. 2017-R13 for 2016-2017 year-end budget transfers. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve contracts with NorthWestern Energy for street light maintenance and electrical services. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Verlanic asked if the City verified the lights on the map provided by NorthWestern Energy are correct. Mayor Williams responded we have not.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve the Safety Incentive Award change. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Jankowski asked if the safety incentive award is included in the bargaining unit agreements. Councilperson Koczur asked if the employee receives any monetary award during the year they have a recordable accident. Mayor Williams clarified they do not.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve the request from Fire Chief Pontius to solicit bids for roof repairs at the Fire Training Center. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve Resolution No. 2017-R14 declaring surplus equipment.

Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve soliciting bids for the purchase of a road grader as requested by Public Works Director Swan. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Koczur moved to approve Change Order No. 3 in the amount of \$47,160.17 for electrical upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

**Administrative Matters:**

Councilperson Jankowski reported that one of the employees at the power plant suggested a flashing light at the pedestrian crossing near the entrance to the power plant like the ones the City installed in school zones for safety reasons. The power plant may be interested in sharing the cost of this.

**Adjournment:**

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer