

## City Council Meeting September 26, 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/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 Verlanic moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 9/12/17 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 9/22/17
- Journal Voucher No. 2017-08

### **Departmental Reports:**

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

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

Mayor Williams reported on the Coal Board Meeting held last week. All applications were tabled due to a lack of funds available. The Department of Commerce is taking a more conservative approach regarding Coal Board Grant disbursements due to the lack of revenue.

Mayor Williams met with Governor Bullock in Helena last week along with nine other Mayors from across the state at his request due to the state's revenue shortfall. Budget reductions are being considered and possible tax increases to cover the shortfall. Mayor Williams suggested being more forward thinking and development of the state's natural resources.

Mayor Williams will be attending the Montana League of Cities & Towns Conference in Great Falls the rest of this week.

### **Public Hearings:**

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing for Solid Waste Collection Assessments at 7:13 pm. No comments from the public were received. Mayor Williams closed the hearing at 7:13 pm.

**Public Comment:** None received.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Councilperson Jankowski made a motion to move Resolution No. 2017-18 to the first item of New Business on the agenda. Councilperson Esser seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve Resolution No. 2017-R18, amending Resolution No. 07-R12 regarding boomers at high school football games. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Councilperson Verlanic would like to amend the resolution by including the following requirements: responsibility for the cost of the boomers, location of the firing of the boomers and written permission of the property owner, proof of liability insurance, anything outside of homecoming that the school district make a written request to the City (City Council approval not necessary) and fire restrictions be considered. Fire Chief Pontius reported that the fireworks company will provide insurance for the boomers.

**Public Comment:** Janelle Loyning, no address given, supports having the boomers at every game. She feels it gives the kids something to be proud of and it is something positive. She also feels permission shouldn't be necessary, it should always be allowed.

Kory Austin, 520 Olive Drive, is a captain on the fire department and an assistant football coach. He is in support of having the boomers at every football game. He stated other teams in other places have the boomers and it keeps the kids excited and motivated.

Robert Pontius, 203 Cherry Street and Fire Chief, would love to see boomers at every football game but if only one game per season is allowed, he asked that the fire department be given discretion to choose which game. After speaking with a sales representative with Big Sky Fireworks, Mr. Pontius will substitute a 2" boomer instead of the current 3" to lessen the impact to the neighborhood. Mr. Pontius also suggested the fire department purchase "thunder shirts" for residents with animals to help them cope with loud noises including thunder storms and blasting at the coal mine. He noted there are several high school students in attendance at tonight's meeting which shows how important this is to them.

Stacey Yates, 4324 Remington Drive, spoke in favor of allowing boomers. He stated there are only three home football games this season and usually only four. He stated there are other schools that have something similar to boomers.

Jerry Gillespie, 7438 Castle Rock Lake Drive, supports the use of the boomers at football games and any other event the school deems worthy.

Neil Dennehy, representing the power plant, offered the power plant will pick up the cost of the boomers and vests if that is an issue.

Attorney Ryder noted there has been no input from the Colstrip School District. He suggested forming a committee with representatives from the school district, city and fire department to address the issues and suggestions made tonight.

Motion failed with all members voting nay.

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve Resolution No. 2017-R15 regarding employee compensation for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Councilperson Esser seconded.

**Discussion:** None.

**Public Comment:** None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve the Resolution No, 2017-R16 regarding elected officials compensation for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Councilperson Verlanic moved to amend the motion to separate the Mayor's compensation from the council members. Councilperson Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion on the amendment: Councilperson Jankowski asked what the purpose of separating the two. Councilperson Verlanic responded in case someone wants to vote in favor of one but not the other. No public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve Resolution No. 2017-R16 (a) regarding the Mayor's compensation only. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** None.

**Public Comment:** None received

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve Resolution No. 2017-R16 (b) for city council's compensation. Councilperson Esser seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received.

Councilpersons Esser and Jankowski voted in favor. Councilpersons Verlanic and Koczur voted nay. Mayor Williams voted in favor to break the tie. Motion carried 3-2.

Councilperson Koczur moved to approve Resolution No. 2017-R17, approving Solid Waste Collection Assessments. Councilperson Verlanic seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** None.

**Public Comment:** None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve the Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with National IPA. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** None.

**Public Comment:** None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve Resolution No. 2017-R19 adopting the map for the Street Lighting District. Councilperson Verlanic seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** None.

**Public Comment:** None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

**Adjournment:**

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

---

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer