

City Council Meeting  
January 23, 2018

Present: Councilpersons Jolene Verlanic, Greg Koczur, Mike Esser and Lori Shaw

Absent: Mayor John Williams

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

Council President Verlanic called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards called the Roll Call.

**Consent Agenda:**

Councilperson Esser moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Shaw seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 1/9/18 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 1/19/18

**Departmental Reports:**

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

**Mayor's Communications:**

The Colstrip Community Impact Advisory/PSE Settlement meeting will be on Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 am at City Hall.

**Public Hearings:**

Council President Verlanic opened the Public Hearing at 7:11 pm to hear a variance request for 1537 Piedmont. Larry Eckart would like to build a garage larger than the size allowed by City Code. Mr. Eckart addressed the City Council about his request and stated he will merge his two lots if the variance is approved. No other public comment was received. Council President Verlanic closed the hearing at 7:15 pm.

**Public Comment:**

Jim Atchison, 7405 Castle Rock Lake Drive and Executive Director of Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC), recommended the City update its Growth Policy, which was last updated in 2013. Mr. Atchison reported the Coal Board Grant for implementation of the Economic Diversification Strategy submitted by SEMDC and sponsored by the City of Colstrip was approved by the Coal Board last week. Federal matching funds have also been secured.

**Unfinished Business:**

Attorney Ryder developed proposed language to amend the City Code to allow optional permits for Special Events on private property. Council had no objections to the language proposed by Attorney Ryder. Mr. Ryder will prepare an ordinance for first reading for the next council meeting.

**New Business:**

Councilperson Koczur moved to approve a garage size variance for 1537 Piedmont to build a 1600 square foot garage. Councilperson Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: Attorney Ryder suggested adding the condition that the lots be merged. Planning/ Building/Code Official Egan stated this will be included in the variance and the owner has no objection and plans to merge the lots.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Koczur and Councilperson Esser were selected to be authorized signers on the city's checking account.

Council Committee Assignments were discussed. Council President Verlanic suggested the Public Works/Utilities and Public Safety Committee should meet quarterly. Councilperson Koczur moved to approve the following committee assignments and that the committees meet quarterly:

- Public Safety – Councilpersons Koczur and Verlanic
- Public Works/Utilities – Councilpersons Esser and Shaw
- Zoning Commission – Councilperson Koczur
- Planning Board – Councilperson Esser

Councilperson Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

**Adjournment:**

Council President Verlanic adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer