

City Council Meeting
March 9, 2010

Present: Mayor John Williams, Councilpersons Dan Becker, Tom Jankowski, Rick Harbin and Evan Stewart

Also Present: City Attorney Gary Ryder, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, Zoning/Code Enforcement/Building Inspector Jan Morgan, Police Chief Larry Reinlasoder, Fire Chief Ryan Reid, and Public Works Supervisor John Bleth

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 Becker moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. Discussion: Mayor Williams pointed out that the draft minutes do not include a second to the motion made by Councilperson Harbin to approve submission of a grant application to the Montana Coal Board. The audio tape did not detect a second motion but Mayor Williams recalls Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. Councilperson Jankowski confirmed he thought he seconded the motion. The minutes will be corrected to include Councilperson Jankowski's second. Motion carried with all in favor.

- a. Minutes of 2/23/10 Regular Meeting
- b. Claims Roster 3/5/10

Departmental Reports:

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

Public Comment and Participation:

Jim Atchison, Executive Director of SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation, reported that SEMDC completed and submitted a grant application on behalf of the City of Colstrip, City of Forsyth, Town of Hysham and the Rosebud Water and Sewer District for a shared sewer camera system. This application will be considered at the Coal Board's next meeting in April.

Lu Shomate, Director of the Schoolhouse History and Art Center, updated the City Council on recent and upcoming events at SHAC. Lu reported the meeting with the Rosebud County Commissioners was positive and they are optimistic the county will provide some funding for SHAC.

Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Williams met with representatives of PPL Montana regarding the Raw Water Transportation. The revised rate would cost the city approximately \$22,000 more per year based on the amount of water consumed by the city in 2009. This is less than the initial increase that would have cost more than \$100,000 per year. The calculation used to develop the rate includes the current interest rate of T-bills, which is .47% but PPL will not agree to lock in on that rate. Mayor Williams suggested using an average of the previous 5 years. Mayor Williams also asked about basing the calculation on the amount of water the city uses rather than the city's water right. Mayor Williams recommends the city have an outside entity look at the rate calculation, such as the Public Service Commission, that has more knowledge and experience with rate development.

The Compensation & Benefit Survey being conducted by Public Sector Personnel Consultants continues. Mayor Williams has received a draft report and is currently reviewing position descriptions they developed.

Mayor Williams reported on the Mayor's Academy he attended last week, which was one of the best seminars he has attended. There are some parliamentary procedure changes he would like to make regarding making motions and explained those to council members.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Councilperson Jankowski moved to accept the Personnel Committee recommendation to treat the on-call employee the same as other employees when called out for an emergency situation. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Jankowski feels this is a fairness issue and if this type of matter is not addressed it could become a morale issue. He also stated there will be minimal monetary effect to the city's budget and being on-call means you give up some family time and other activities. Councilperson Harbin doesn't know if he is opposed or not but he tried to do the same thing at CPRD and he was told by the Department of Labor that this type of thing is not allowed. He would like this checked with the Department of Labor. Councilperson Stewart feels there should be a distinction in the policy manual of what is an emergency and what is just "on-call" duties. Councilperson Stewart asked since there is a question of whether the city can count holiday pay as time worked for computing overtime, is there a way the council can postpone a decision on this matter. Councilperson Jankowski requested to withdraw his motion. There were no objections to the request to withdraw the motion. Motion withdrawn. The Personnel Committee meets tomorrow. Attorney Ryder will contact the Dept of Labor in the morning if he has time and report his findings before the meeting.

Councilperson Stewart moved to approve hiring a temporary employee to conduct a Tree Inventory. Councilperson Becker seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Stewart stated the council has already been made aware of this due to the grant request and extra help is needed to complete the project. Councilperson Harbin asked if more than one person will be hired. Mayor Williams stated it will depend on the applications received. Motion carried with all in favor.

The City Council went into Executive Session at 8:00 pm to discuss a Personnel Matter. The City Council returned from Executive Session at 8:50 pm.

Administrative Matters:

Attorney Ryder will check his schedule and consult with Mayor Williams to reschedule the Public Safety Committee meeting.

Councilperson Stewart reported he will be absent from the next council meeting.

Councilperson Stewart moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Becker seconded the motion. Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:51 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer