

City Council Meeting  
July 13, 2010

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

Also Present: Public Works Director John Bleth, City Attorney Gary Ryder, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, Police Chief Larry Reinlasoder, Fire Chief Ryan Reid and Building/ Planning Official Jan Morgan

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: Councilperson Jankowski noted a correction to the minutes; the Boilermakers Dedication during Colstrip Days was for Spencer Benson not Heath Becker. Councilperson Stewart asked about Claim Number 14586 to Hill's Pet Nutrition dated 3/19/10; why was it just now submitted for payment. Police Chief Reinlasoder stated it was an uncommon situation with the vendor's accounting practices; they would get paid several times and go back to the most past due bill. Councilperson Jankowski asked about the two claims for software maintenance & support. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards explained one of the claims was for the police department and the other for programs at City Hall. Motion carried with all in favor.

- a. Minutes of 6/22/10 Regular Meeting
- b. Claims Roster 7/9/10
- c. Journal Voucher No. 2010-01

**Departmental Reports:**

Department Reports were given by Police Chief Reinlasoder, Building/Planning Official Morgan, Fire Chief Reid, City 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 SEMDC, gave his annual membership presentation to the City Council explaining the accomplishments of SEMDC and the Small Business Development Center over the past year and the types of projects they are involved with.

**Mayor's Communications:**

Mayor Williams made a recommendation to City Council for an annual employee compensation increase of 3%. Mayor Williams explained his recommendation is based on the consumer price index for the six-month period ending March 31, 2010 which is 2.3%. Councilperson Harbin

asked about the effect on the police department bargaining unit. Mayor Williams contacted the Public Employees Association representative to notify them of his recommendation. The past two negotiation meetings were cancelled. Councilperson Harbin moved to approve a 3% compensation increase for all employees effective July 1, 2010. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin stated that not applying the percentage to the average of the top 3 paid employees is fiscally responsible and that if the agreement with the police bargaining unit is more than 3% that it not be compounded. Attorney Ryder stated he didn't think wage increases is a big issue for the bargaining unit. Councilperson Jankowski asked if a larger wage increase is included in the union contract, what would be the effective date. Mayor Williams stated that would be up to the City Council to decide. Councilperson Becker abstained due to conflict of interest; he is an employee of the City. Councilpersons Harbin, Stewart and Jankowski voted aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Williams recommends increasing the stipend paid to the Volunteer Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief. No increase was given last year. Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve a \$50 per month stipend increase effective July 1, 2010 for the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief. Councilperson Becker seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Jankowski stated he is in favor of the increase since there was no increase last year and their roles in the community are very important to protect human lives and safety. No objections or other comments were made. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Unfinished Business:**

Ordinance 2010-04 was presented for second reading. Mayor Williams asked to waive reading the ordinance in its entirety. Councilperson Harbin moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2010-04, adopting the 2009 Energy Conservation Code effective in 30 days. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin stated the additional information was presented to the City Council as requested and this is something that the City has to do and don't really have a choice. No objections or other comments were made. Motion carried with all in favor.

A new Raw Water Transportation Agreement with PPL Montana was presented. Mayor Williams thanked Randy Smith and Loy Martens of PPL Montana for working with the City on developing the agreement. Mayor Williams explained some of the requests made by the City that PPL agreed to. Randy Smith explained the major portion of the rate is the fixed cost even though the consumption by town users has decreased. Mr. Smith feels this is a very fair and equitable rate for the residents of Colstrip. PPL Montana would like the effective date of the rate to be 7/1/10. Councilperson Harbin asked Mr. Smith what are the biggest factors driving the rate. Mr. Smith explained the two biggest factors are electricity cost for pumping water 30 miles from the river and capital costs due to use of the facilities. Councilperson Becker moved to approve the Raw Water Transportation Agreement with PPL Montana effective July 1, 2010. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Becker stated this is much better than originally proposed and doesn't think we could get a better deal. Councilperson Harbin thanked Mayor Williams, City Clerk/Treasurer Richards, Randy Smith, and Loy Martens for working cooperatively on this agreement. Motion carried with all in favor.

**New Business:**

Councilperson Harbin moved to approve the purchase of a Recycling Baler from Recycling Systems for \$10,800. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin stated this will save the City money from renting containers from Miles City Sanitation and the grant will help pay for it plus recycling is good for the environment and will prolong the life of the landfill. Councilperson Jankowski asked how much the grant is for. Clerk/Treasurer Richards stated the city received a grant for 95% of the baler cost. No objections were made. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Harbin moved to approve Journal Voucher No. 2010-2, transferring \$180,000 to Capital Improvement #1 (Fund 4000) and \$150,000 to Capital Improvement #2 (Fund 4001). Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin stated a Capital Improvement Program allows the city to have a savings account for future capital improvements allowed by state law for local governments. Councilperson Stewart stated he would like to see more going into the fire fund for a new fire truck but is satisfied with the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Administrative Matters:**

Councilpersons Becker and Jankowski will be absent from the next meeting; they will be out-of-state.

**Adjournment:**

Councilperson Becker moved to adjourn. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. Mayor Williams adjourned at 8:33 pm.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer