

**CITY OF COLSTRIP
CITY COUNCIL**

Regular Meeting

January 8, 2008

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards called the roll. The following were:

Present: Mayor John Williams, Councilpersons Betty Jo Ellison, Susan Hert, Rick Harbin and Dan Becker

Also Present: Attorney Gary Ryder, Public Works Supervisor John Bleth, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Jan Morgan, Administrative Assistant Kathie Bailey, City Judge Gail Beckham, Police Chief Larry Reinlasoder and City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards

Oath of Office:

City Clerk/Treasurer Richards administered the Oath of Office to newly elected officials John Williams, Mayor; Dan Becker, City Council; and Rick Harbin, City Council.

Consent Agenda:

Councilperson Ellison moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Hert seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

- a. Minutes of 12/20/07 Regular Meeting
- b. Claims Roster 1/04/08

Departmental Reports:

In addition to written information included in council's packets Police Chief Reinlasoder, Public Works Supervisor Bleth, City Judge Gail Beckham, Attorney Ryder, City Clerk/Treasurer Richards, Administrative Assistant Bailey and Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer/ Building Inspector Morgan gave departmental reports.

Public Comment and Participation:

Gale Palmer, 103 Olive Drive, asked the City Council to consider letting the residents vote on the proposed new City Hall. He thinks it is important to get the buy-in of the public so that it is “our” City Hall instead of “your” City Hall.

Councilperson Becker asked if Mr. Palmer’s request could be put on the agenda for the next City Council meeting. Mayor Williams responded that the City Council already voted on this subject.

Mayor’s Communications:

Mayor Williams has been working with architect Durward Sobek to finalize the details for preparing the bid documents for building a new City Hall.

A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow with Morrison Maierle and JEM Contracting to discuss the ramp portion of the driveways that were not installed according to ADA regulations on Olive Drive.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Councilperson Hert nominated Councilperson Ellison for Council President. Councilperson Becker seconded the nomination. No other nominations were received. Councilpersons Becker, Hert and Harbin voted in favor. Councilperson Ellison abstained. Motion carried.

Mayor Williams asked for volunteers to serve on the various Council Committees. Councilperson Ellison moved to affirm the following appointments to Council Committees:

- Public Safety: Betty Jo Ellison and Dan Becker
- Public Works: Rick Harbin and Susan Hert
- Finance/Budget: Dan Becker and Rick Harbin
- Building: Betty Jo Ellison and Susan Hert
- Personnel: Betty Jo Ellison and Susan Hert

Councilperson Hert seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Harbin moved to re-appoint Gary Ryder as City Attorney. Councilperson Ellison seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Ryder received an email from city resident Joe Oberth regarding his request for an Attorney General’s opinion on a city employee serving on the City Council and serving on Council Committees. There are a couple of previous opinions on city employees serving on

governing boards but situations were a little bit different. Councilperson Harbin asked if the opinion would be based on just Mr. Oberth's question or a wider spectrum. Attorney Ryder thought it should be a broader scope. Councilperson Ellison moved to authorize Attorney Ryder to request an Attorney General's opinion on a city employee serving on the City Council. Councilperson Hert seconded the motion. No discussion. Councilpersons Harbin, Hert and Ellison voted in favor. Councilperson Becker abstained. Motion carried.

Police Chief Reinlasoder reported Trevor Quiroz has completed his one year probationary period as a Police Officer with the Colstrip Police Department and has exhibited exemplary performance. He attended and graduated from the Montana Law Enforcement Academy on December 7, 2007. Councilperson Harbin moved to confirm Trevor Quiroz as a permanent full-time Police Officer II and increase his compensation to \$18.35 per hour. Councilperson Becker seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams reported Ryan Dunster also attended and graduated from the Montana Law Enforcement Academy. Councilperson Hert moved to approve the advancement of Ryan Dunster to Police Officer II and increase his compensation to \$18.10 per hour effective December 7, 2007. Councilperson Ellison seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin asked if a year from now the council would do the same thing as with Officer Quiroz. Mayor Williams explained Officer Dunster will complete his one year probationary period in May and at that time he will be eligible for permanent appointment. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Harbin moved to match Rosebud County's contribution of up to \$3,000 for the Community Care Task Force's feasibility study for an assisted living facility. Councilperson Ellison seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin asked where this funding would come from in the budget. Mayor Williams said there is money in the Economic Development budget for this. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Harbin moved to approve the Amendment to Task Order No. 5 with Morrison Maierle for \$9,516 in additional engineering services for the Wastewater Facilities Plan. Councilperson Ellison seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin asked if this is an ongoing process to perfect the wastewater permit. Public Works Supervisor Bleth explained in addition to the current discharge permit the city is working on there is another discharge permit the state will require regarding the leaking lagoon. This task order will also address the backwash pond issue at the water treatment plant. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Ellison moved to authorize Mayor Williams to enter into negotiations with PPL Montana to acquire land adjacent to the city's Water Treatment Plant for a discharge pond. Councilperson Becker seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer