

City Council Meeting
February 8, 2011

Present: Mayor John Williams, Councilpersons Evan Stewart and Rick Harbin

Absent: Tom Jankowski and Dan Becker

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

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 Stewart moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Harbin seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Stewart noted a correction to the minutes. Under New Business the reference to the City Court Case should be City Police Case. The correction will be made. Motion carried with all in favor.

- a. Minutes of 1/25/11 Regular Meeting
- b. Claims Roster 2/4/11
- c. Journal Voucher No. 2011-03

Departmental Reports:

Department Reports were given by Police Chief Reinlasoder, Building/Planning Official Morgan, City Attorney Ryder, Public Works Director Bleth and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards in addition to written reports provided in Council's packets.

Public Comment and Participation:

Jim Atchison, representing SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation, reported SEMDC has been working on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the past six months. The plan has not yet been approved by the feds but Jim will provide a copy when it has been approved. Housing needs and infrastructure are two of the challenges identified. SEMDC and two other organizations have successfully obtained Brownfield Funds from the EPA. The Eastern Montana Brownfields Coalition has been formed to provide funds to clean up brownfield sites and the four counties SEMDC serves, both public and private, will be eligible

for these funds. On Friday February 26th, SEMDC is helping sponsor a report from Legislative Representatives on the current legislative session.

Mayor’s Communications:

Mayor Williams has prepared a letter to PPL Montana and an invoice has been calculated for reimbursement of costs experienced since 2008 for maintenance of the sewer lines serving their dewatering wells. The agreement with them concerning these wells has expired and we will need to develop a new one. Councilperson Harbin asked if the city could transfer the liability associated with these wells, as we have experienced two large sewer backup claims due to these wells.

Due to the closure of the One Stop Wash & Lube there would be nowhere for city residents to properly dispose of waste oil from residents servicing their own vehicles. Mayor Williams has contacted Miles City Sanitation about the city providing the service. Waste Connections will not charge for the 800 gallon storage drum or to collect the oil. The city will have to test the oil for contamination and keep track of those who dispose of oil.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

City Clerk/Treasurer Richards opened bids received for a new Garbage Collection Truck. The following bids were received:

Montana Peterbilt	2012 Peterbilt 320 w/ISL Engine	\$230,647.00
Montana Peterbilt	2012 Peterbilt 320 w/ISX Engine	\$235,151.00

Public Works Director Bleth will review the bids and submit a recommendation for council’s consideration at the next meeting. Councilperson Harbin asked if there was a trade option in the bid specifications. Mayor Williams stated there was not a trade option. The city plans to sell the oldest garbage truck and keep the newer truck for backup.

Councilperson Harbin moved to approve Grant Agreement #UCF-11-036 for \$1,000 with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin asked if this is for the Arbor Day Celebration. Mayor Williams confirmed it is. Councilperson Stewart asked if the city’s match is \$350.00. Mayor Williams confirmed it is. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Stewart moved to approve Grant Agreement #SPF-11-005 for \$14,809.47 with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Councilperson Harbin seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin asked what the project will be for this grant. Mayor Williams explained it is to replace some trees that have died, to plant more trees along Main Street and to do necessary tree trimming. Motion carried with all in favor.

The City has not finalized its response yet to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's Consent Order. The city's response will propose to change some of the limits on the dissolved aluminum, turbidity, and total suspended solids and to request that there not be double violations. Language will also be added to recognize the city's responsiveness and ongoing negotiations with DEQ since the administrative order makes it sound like the city has been ignoring the problem for a relatively small issue.

The Public Works Committee met and is recommending increasing the Water and Sewer Rates charged for providing these services. The rates would increase 27% for the average residential water user and 48% for the average residential sewer user. Councilperson Harbin suggests maybe phasing in the rate increases. Councilperson Stewart is in favor of approving the recommendation as made but is open to waiting until full council is present to make a final decision. Councilperson Stewart made a motion to move forward with the Water and Sewer Rate Increases as recommended by the Public Works Committee. Councilperson Harbin seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Administrative Matters:

Mayor Williams will be going to Seeley Lake the first part of next week. The District Girls and Boys Basketball Tournaments will be held next week in Colstrip.

Adjournment:

Councilperson Stewart moved to adjourn. Councilperson Harbin seconded the motion. Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:14 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer