

CITY OF COLSTRIP
CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
February 12, 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 and Councilpersons Betty Jo Ellison, Susan Hert, Rick Harbin and Dan Becker

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

Consent Agenda:

Councilperson Ellison moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Harbin seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Becker asked about the cell phone charges. Mayor Williams explained the city switched carriers and owes the former carrier for early termination fees. Motion carried with all in favor.

- a. Minutes of 1/22/08 Regular Meeting
- b. Claims Roster 2/08/08

Departmental Reports:

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

Public Comment and Participation:

Jim Atchison, representing SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation, presented a property tax comparison on a \$100,000 home from several Montana cities & towns. Colstrip has the lowest property taxes of the 16 communities contacted.

Mayor's Communications:

Councilperson Ellison moved to confirm the reappointment of Jim Atchison as the city's representative to the Eastern Plains Resource Conservation & Development Council, with Michelle Richards as alternate. Councilperson Becker seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Unfinished Business:

Councilperson Harbin moved to approve the updated Comprehensive Growth Management Plan as submitted. Councilperson Hert seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Harbin moved to proceed with advertising an Invitation to Bid for construction of City Hall. Councilperson Ellison seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin asked when the bids will be opened. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards reported the bids will be opened at the council's March 11th meeting. Motion carried with all in favor.

New Business:

Councilperson Hert moved to approve the city's response to the Schedule of Findings contained in the audit of the 2006-2007 Fiscal Year as submitted by Mayor Williams. Councilperson Ellison seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin asked about the time clocks and automated time cards. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards will be exploring options available. No decisions have been made whether to accept the auditor's suggestion or not, only to consider it. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Harbin moved to approve Task Order #3 with Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson for engineering services on the Backwash Discharge Obstruction. Councilperson Becker seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Becker moved to approve the Change of Right-of-Way Easement on Sweetgrass Acreage Tract #11. Councilperson Hert seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin asked what precipitated this change. Mayor Williams explained a storm drain was placed in the middle of the lot. The landowner moved the drainage to the edge of the lot so that it can be sold. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Ellison moved to write-off twenty-three utility accounts in the amount of \$4,574.04 as submitted by the Utility Billing Clerk as uncollectable. Councilperson Harbin seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Harbin asked if the accounts would be wrote-off all together. Mayor Williams explained if the city has the opportunity to collect on the bills we will but so far all collection efforts have been unsuccessful. Motion carried with all in favor.

Administrative Matters:

Councilperson Harbin will be unable to attend the February 26th Council meeting due to work requirements.

Councilperson Ellison will be gone and unavailable March 11th - March 19th.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer