

City Council Meeting  
June 14, 2011

Present: Mayor John Williams, Councilpersons Gale Palmer, Tom Jankowski and Dan Becker

Absent: Councilperson Evan Stewart

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

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, City Clerk/Treasurer Richards called the Roll Call.

**Consent Agenda:**

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

- a. Minutes of 5/24/11 Regular Meeting
- b. Big Sky Fireworks Claim #15585
- c. Claims Roster 6/10/11
- d. May Treasurer's Report

**Departmental Reports:**

Reports were given by Chief Reinlasoder, Building/Planning Official Morgan, Fire Chief Reid, Attorney Ryder, and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards.

**Public Comment and Participation:**

Mary Kay Bullard is Director of the Bicentennial Library in Colstrip, which is a branch of the county's library. Rosebud County is unique in that they have a director for each library location instead of one director for the whole county. Ms. Bullard stated that Rosebud County will be facing some serious financial problems due to flooding and sewage problems. The library's Advisory Board discussed asking for funding from the residents of Colstrip to become more independent from the county and relieve some of the burden from the county. Ms. Bullard presented line items from the library's budget that the city may want to pay for or participate in. The library addition the city helped pay for is falling apart. There is flooding in the library and leakage from the roof. Councilperson Palmer asked about PPL grant funds. Ms. Bullard said previous grant money from PPL went to the non-profit organization "Friends of the Library" which helps support the library. Councilperson Palmer encouraged the library to apply for these grant funds. Rosebud County has not notified the library that they will be reducing their budget but Mary Kay is concerned after learning about the Montana library laws stating the county is only obligated to have one library in the county.

Rick Harbin, Director of the Colstrip Park and Recreation District, requested on behalf of the CPRD Board of Directors to acquire the used bus the city purchased for the senior citizens to use. Mr. Harbin stated they would like to keep it in the community for the activities for youth such as the after-school program and shuttling kids to and from activities in town. CPRD currently doesn't have a vehicle with a wheelchair lift. CPRD has participated in the purchase of the two buses for the senior citizens and has worked with the city on other items such as the fountain, mosquito sprayer, and fireworks displays. Mr. Harbin also stated CPRD is appreciative of the city for helping when they have requested assistance or use of city equipment.

Councilperson Becker asked if the county is still interested in purchasing the bus. Mayor Williams stated initially they indicated they were but he has not discussed it with the commissioners recently. The City told the Coal Board when applying for the grant to purchase the new bus that any proceeds from the sale of the old bus would be returned to the Coal Board so the City would need to write a letter to the Coal Board for approval to transfer ownership.

Al Arensmeyer, 1053 Laramie Circle, has been a resident of Colstrip for 30 years. After retirement he and his wife decided to continue living in Colstrip during the summer but go to a warmer climate in the winter months. Mr. Arensmeyer was paying a \$17 per month snowbird rate during the winter months for water and sewer but the rate has tripled due to recent rate changes. They have put their house up for sale because it is too expensive and feel the city is trying to get rid of them with these new rates. Mr. Arensmeyer requested the City Council reconsider the water and sewer rates charged to them when their service is turned off during the winter months.

**Mayor's Communications:**

Councilperson Jankowski moved to confirm the appointment of Mike Ames to the Police Commission. Councilperson Palmer seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Jankowski moved to confirm the appointment of Jeff Martinez to the Tree Board. Councilperson Becker seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Becker moved to confirm the appointment of Dennis Kenney to the Rosebud Conservation District Board as the city's representative. Councilperson Palmer seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Palmer asked about the term of the appointment. Mayor Williams is not aware of any term limit for this appointment. Motion carried with all in favor. Mayor Williams explained there is another appointment available to this board by the City of Colstrip if anyone is interested.

Scott Aberle has submitted a Letter of Interest to purchase city property next to the existing car wash/lube business to build a new business. Mayor Williams asked City Council's permission to work with Mr. Aberle on his request regarding the size of the property and other details regarding the purchase. The value of the property would need to be determined. Mayor Williams stated he would bring back a proposal to the City Council for approval if Mr. Aberle

would like to pursue the purchase. Councilperson Palmer asked about negotiations with the current owner of the closed car wash/lube business. Mr. Aberle explained he has visited with the owner but his asking price is not feasible so Mr. Aberle is pursuing other avenues to find a location for a new business. Councilperson Jankowski asked if RV dumping would be part of Mr. Aberle's business. Mr. Aberle stated his intent is to provide the same services as the closed business.

Mayor Williams reported a Coal Board grant application has been submitted for the Early Warning System. Since the last council meeting, he has talked to the County Commissioners and they have indicated they would contribute \$10,000 to the system.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve the Special Events Permit Request from the Rod & Gun It Car Club for a Car Show in the parking lot of City Hall on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. Councilperson Becker seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Jankowski feels it will be a nice addition to the other activities during Colstrip Days and at the last meeting the City Council approved closing Cherry Street for activities. Councilperson Palmer asked who would be in charge of the barricades. Mayor Williams will have the city's Public Works Department provide the barricades for the club to use. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Becker moved to approve the Special Events Permits for Fireworks submitted by Nicki Hageman, Eleanor Swenson, John Bleth and Candi Beard. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Becker stated these requests are during Colstrip Days, a lot of people have celebrations and it is a tradition in Colstrip. Councilperson Palmer noted the requests are for one day or two days and asked what the time frame is for setting off the fireworks. Mayor Williams explained the permits are specific to the date or dates requested and in accordance with the ordinance between 11:00 am – 11:00 pm only. Councilperson Palmer would like to see everyone in town be allowed to enjoy fireworks during Colstrip Days and shouldn't have to go through the permit process. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Palmer moved to approve Resolution No. 2011-R08, approving budget transfers. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Becker moved to approve an Engineering Task Order with Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson for \$20,000 for preliminary engineering of a new city shop for the Public Works Department. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Becker stated the current city shop is falling down and you can see daylight through cracks in the walls. Councilperson Palmer asked if this would obligate the city to build the shop in this upcoming fiscal year or can it wait. Mayor Williams stated the plan is have it in the budget but this task order is for engineering services only, not approval for construction. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Administrative Matters:**

Mayor Williams reported the remaining non-represented employees are considering representation by Montana Public Employees Association. Attorney Ryder stated the positions of City Clerk/Treasurer, Public Works Director, and City Judge would probably be excluded from the union.

Councilperson Palmer requested the Snowbird Rate be put on the agenda for the next council meeting.

**Adjournment:**

Councilperson Jankowski moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Becker seconded the motion. Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer