

City Council Meeting
October 11, 2011

Present: Mayor John Williams, Councilpersons Evan Stewart and Gale Palmer

Absent: Councilpersons Tom Jankowski and Dan Becker

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

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Clerk/Treasurer Richards called the Roll Call.

Consent Agenda:

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

- a. Minutes of 9/27/11 Regular Meeting
- b. Minutes of 8/31/11 Special Meeting
- c. Claims Roster 10/7/11

Departmental Reports:

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

Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Williams reported on the recent Coal Board meeting. The Coal Board awarded the City of Colstrip a \$190,000 grant for the purchase of a new fire truck. The Mayor complimented Councilperson Stewart and Fire Chief Reid on their presentation at the meeting and Tana Pippin for writing the application.

Mayor Williams attended the Montana League of Cities & Towns Conference last week in Billings. It is always an excellent conference and the Mayor encouraged the council members to attend this conference in the future.

Public Comment and Participation: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Clara Caufield, editor of *A Cheyenne Voice*, addressed the City Council regarding her request for the publication to be declared a "Paper of Record" by the City of Colstrip. She does not want to replace the *Independent Press* and explained her publication is for reporting good news and is not a traditional newspaper. She feels it is important for people to be aware of what is happening in local

government. Ms. Caufield presented a draft Affidavit of Publication to comply with state law regarding requirements for publications when municipalities publish notices. Mayor Williams suggested maybe the City of Colstrip could sponsor a page and provide information on that page pertinent to the city government. Councilperson Stewart feels it is a great publication and is excited about its message. He feels it is a great tool and would like to utilize it to communicate with the public. Councilperson Palmer thinks it would be nice to be able to publish everything in both papers but due to budget constraints at this time, that is not feasible. Mayor Williams will visit with Ms. Caufield about what types of notices and information would be appropriate for *A Cheyenne Voice* and report back to the council.

Richard Burnett has submitted a written request specifying a portion of city property next to City Hall to purchase to expand his motel. The Colstrip Park and Recreation District submitted a letter of opposition to selling the property. Mayor Williams explained if the City Council would like to pursue this request, an appraisal would first have to be completed and a public hearing held for public input. Councilperson Stewart moved to table the Request from Richard Burnett to purchase city property. Councilperson Palmer seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Stewart explained his reason to table is due to the absence of Mr. Burnett and also feels Mr. Burnett's request lacks formality and would like to see a more formal request and map submitted. Councilperson Stewart feels the city also need to address the lease agreement with the coffee kiosk. Councilperson Palmer commented on economic development and that he doesn't see very many vehicles parked in the area Mr. Burnett would like to purchase. Councilperson Stewart and Mayor Williams voted in favor. Councilperson Palmer voted nay. Motion carried.

Councilperson Palmer moved to approve the transfer of the Internet Transmission Site Lease Agreement with TCT West, Inc. to USA Communications. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams asked if he should vote on the Coal Board Grant Agreement for the Early Warning System since he is the Chairman of the Coal Board. Normally he abstains from voting on all Coal Board related matters but because two council members are absent at this meeting, per the City Charter the Mayor has to vote. Unless there is any opposition to the contract, there shouldn't be a problem for the Mayor to abstain. Councilperson Palmer moved to approve the Coal Board Grant Contract for the Early Warning System in the amount of \$25,000. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. No discussion. Councilpersons Stewart and Palmer voted in favor. Mayor Williams abstained due to conflict of interest. Motion carried 2-0.

Councilperson Stewart moved to authorize publishing an Invitation to Bid for purchasing the new fire engine. Councilperson Palmer seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Adjournment:

Councilperson Stewart moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Palmer seconded the motion. Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm