

## City Council Meeting January 14, 2025

Present: Mayor John Williams, Councilmembers Jack Rosander, Wayne Dudley, Greg Koczur and Rose Hanser.

Also Present: Public Works Director Pat Zent, Planning/Zoning/Code Official Kami Egan, Police Chief Cory Hert, Fire Chief Tony Reda, Deputy City Clerk Krista Hazel, City Attorney Michelle Sullivan.

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Deputy City Clerk Hazel completed Roll Call.

### **Consent Agenda:**

Councilmember Hanser moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilmember Dudley wanted to note that we are currently spending the same amount for heating at the water plant as we do in the months of July & August while not pumping the same amount of water. Councilmember Hanser verified with Mayor Williams that his personal claim items were included with tonight's claims. No comments from the public received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 12/23/24 Regular Meeting
- Claims #31256-31318 \$135,606.33
- Payroll Summary 01/03/25 \$94,263.79
- Journal Voucher 2025-01

### **Department Reports:**

Reports were presented by Police Chief Hert, Planning/Zoning/Code Official Egan, Fire Chief Reda, City Attorney Sullivan and Public Works Director Zent. PWD Zent informed the City Council that he had received information from Northwestern Energy concerning additional outdoor lighting in the west parking area at City Hall. City Council was given a couple options to choose from. After a small discussion, it was decided to continue using the box lights.

### **Mayor's Communications**

Mayor Williams will be out of the office most of next week at the Montana State Legislature's session.

The City of Colstrip has received a preliminary estimate from KLJ Engineering for crack sealing and paving in 2025.

Provided City Council with a copy of the support letter sent to Department of Interior for the Area F expansion at the Rosebud Mine.

Updated City Council on the Mule Deer Management Hunt.

The property at 2614 Zane Grey Circle has been cleaned up and ownership transferred to the new owners.

**Public Comment & Participation:**

Ryan Welsh with KLJ Engineering updated the City Council on the pavement management study. This included what the City of Colstrip has been able to complete in 2024 & what we will be seeing in 2025.

Doug Whitney with Municipal Infrastructure Consulting also gave a recap of what the City of Colstrip was able to complete in 2024 & a preview of what it will look like going into 2025.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Councilmember Koczur moved to approve the Colstrip Cemetery Plan as submitted by the Colstrip Cemetery Board.

Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Koczur questioned if the City had a budget for maintaining the cemetery. Mayor Williams reminded him that it is part of the Public Works budget that was previously approved by City Council. Councilmember Dudley asked when the City will be going out for bids. Mayor Williams explained that at this time we are looking at combining it with another project.

Public Comment: None

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve the Colstrip Cemetery Improvements as recommended by the Cemetery Board in the amount of \$720,000.

Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Koczur moved to approve the Amended Plat to Merge Lots 20, 21 & 22 of Block 6 Stillwater Subdivision.

Councilmember Hanser seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Dudley questioned if we were setting a precedent for merging lots by doing this. It was explained to City Council that lot merging isn't normally presented before council but is something that has been ongoing for years. The only reason that it is being presented at this time is that the verbiage on the plot map required City Council's approval.

Public Comment: None

Motion carried with all in favor.

Montana Moose Lease Renewal – Mayor Williams explained that he put this on the agenda but did not intend on it being acted on tonight. He shared a copy of the letter mailed to Lora Turk, Montana Moose Espresso Shoppe, reminding her that the lease was coming due & there will potentially be a rent increase. Since there is time before the lease is up, no action is needed at this time.

Discussion: Councilmembers Hanser & Rosander expressed their concern with the rent being significantly lower than the average rent for a similar operation.

Public Comment: None  
Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Hanser moved to approve the Colstrip Days 2025 Donation to the Quality of Life Corporation in the amount of \$5,000.

Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Public Comment: Quality of Life Board Member Bill Neumiller thanked City Council for the donation and let them know that the Quality of Life Colstrip Days Committee is already planning this year's celebration.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

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Krista Hazel, Deputy City Clerk

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