

City Council Meeting November 22, 2011

Present: Councilpersons Dan Becker, Gale Palmer, Tom Jankowski, Evan Stewart & Mayor John Williams

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

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 Becker seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Palmer asked about the claim to Peterson Quality Office; is this for the copy machine the city judge purchased in error. Councilperson Palmer had requested the purchasing resolution be on the agenda for tonight's meeting. Mayor Williams responded he did see in the minutes that Councilperson Palmer had made that request. Mayor Williams distributed copies of the Purchasing Resolution and Purchasing Policy. He asked if the City Council would like to schedule a meeting to discuss the purchasing policies. Councilpersons Jankowski, Stewart and Becker voted in favor. Councilperson Palmer voted nay. Motion carried.

- a. Minutes of 11/22/11 Regular Meeting
- b. Claims Roster 11/18/11
- c. October Financial Report

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:

Union negotiations began last week for the recently formed City Employees Bargaining Unit.

Public Comment and Participation:

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing regarding the proposed Senior Resident Snowbird Rate at 7:19 p.m. No comments or objections received. Mayor Williams closed the hearing at 7:20 p.m.

Jim Atchison, representing SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation, thanked the city for renewing its membership with SEMDC. Jim reported on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) meeting held a few weeks ago at City Hall. More information will be provided to the City Council regarding the input received from this meeting.

Unfinished Business:

Councilperson Palmer moved to approve Resolution 2011-R25 establishing a Senior Resident Snowbird Rate. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Palmer feels this is a move in the right direction and it is fair since the water is not turned on to the properties that this rate would apply to. Councilperson Stewart commented it is a good plan and that it is good that it's limited to those over 60 years of age. However he feels it is too early to implement this due to the status of our utility accounts and the comment from the auditors regarding failure to meet the bond covenants. He thinks the City Council should postpone this action tonight and wait until next spring or early summer after reviewing the rates and status of our accounts. Councilperson Jankowski commented that the audit review only took into account one month of the new water rates. He feels they owe it to the people who requested this several months ago to make a decision. He noted the city has gained significantly in the sewer fund and almost eliminated the deficit. Councilperson Becker has a concern with putting an age requirement on it. Attorney Ryder advised that they are allowed to give a discount to a certain class of people if it is applied equally. For example, student and senior citizen discounts are very common. Councilpersons Becker, Palmer and Jankowski voted in favor. Councilperson Stewart voted nay. Motion carried.

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve the Settlement Agreement with Colstrip Properties on the Grievance they filed regarding charges on some of their utility accounts. Councilperson Stewart seconded. Discussion: Councilperson Jankowski thinks the agreement will work out for both parties and the City will be able to recover the charges if Colstrip Properties does not hold up their end of the agreement. No objections to the motion were made. Motion carried with all in favor.

New Business:

City Clerk/Treasurer Richards opened sealed bids received for the purchase of a new Fire Truck as advertised. Only one bid was received from Heiman, Inc. in the amount of \$385,170.00. The bid will be reviewed by Fire Chief Ryan Reid and a recommendation given to the City Council at their next meeting.

Councilperson Palmer moved to authorize publishing an Invitation to Bid for an Early Warning System. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Administrative Matters:

Councilperson Palmer reported he will be gone the last two weeks of December. Councilperson Becker reported he will not be present at the next meeting.

The City Christmas Party will be held on December 16th at City Hall from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm.

The City Council will meet on Thursday, December 22nd at 1:00 pm instead of December 27th.

Adjournment:

Councilperson Becker moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Palmer seconded the motion. Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:54 pm.