

City Council Meeting January 10, 2012

Present: Mayor Rose Hanser and Councilpersons Tom Jankowski, Evan Stewart, Lawretta Miller and John Williams

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

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

- a. Minutes of 12/13/11 Regular Meeting
- b. Minutes of 12/22/11 Regular Meeting
- c. Claims Roster 1/06/12

Departmental Reports:

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

Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Hanser reminded everyone that the City Council people are their representatives and to please contact them with any questions or concerns they may have.

Public Comment and Participation:

Rick Harbin, Executive Director of Colstrip Park and Recreation District, commented on the Extension of the Interlocal Agreement between PPL, CPRD and the City of Colstrip. Mr. Harbin stated having this agreement is advantageous to all three parties and has worked well. Mr. Harbin thanked Public Works Director Bleth and the City for donating use of the city's front-end loader for improving the trail around Castle Rock Lake. Mr. Harbin commented on the improvements made at the property next to City Hall known as Cherry Street Plaza. Both CPRD and the City of Colstrip contributed \$20,000 - \$30,000 each for these improvements and CPRD continues to maintain the area. When City Hall was built, the meeting room was intended to be used as a gathering/meeting place for the community and that was why the improvements were made. It would be inappropriate to take away the public access and handicap accessible parking to the fountain area and south side of City Hall. Mr. Harbin requested unless the City Council is serious about selling the property, not to waste tax dollars by procuring an appraisal. Mr. Harbin reported residents of the Sweetgrass area requested CPRD develop a park in the Sweetgrass Neighborhood. With the assistance of the neighborhood, a plan has been proposed to develop Wildhorse Park. There currently are no curbs, gutters or sidewalks in this area. One of the concerns is that there needs to be a safe way for the children to get to and from the park. Mr. Harbin

presented a schematic plan of the proposed park and sidewalk improvements. CPRD is requesting the City Council consider utilizing their Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP) funds to construct sidewalks.

Unfinished Business:

Councilperson Stewart moved to approve Resolution No. 2012-R01, to conduct an appraisal of city property south of City Hall. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Stewart still thinks the appraisal of city property should come after more discussion of whether or not to sell the property, especially after the comments received from the public at last month's council meeting. There was overwhelming public objection to the sale of this property and appraising the property is just a waste of time and money. Councilperson Stewart would also like the City to develop a policy not only regarding the sale of city property but also leasing of city property. Councilperson Jankowski commented that he doesn't feel there would be any harm in obtaining an appraisal and during Public Comment at last month's council meeting another person expressed interest in purchasing the property. Councilperson Williams agrees with Councilperson Stewart based on public comment in objection to selling the property, CPRD's objection to selling the property and the fact that the City has expended \$30,000 to make this an enjoyable and usable area for the public. Mayor Hanser reported that Darrell and Glenda Brabec submitted a written statement against obtaining an appraisal of the property. Councilperson Miller stated she didn't have a clear picture of all the entities involved and funds expended to improve the area south of City Hall until hearing from Rick Harbin. She is not in favor of this resolution. Councilpersons Williams, Stewart, Miller and Jankowski voted nay. Motion failed.

New Business:

Councilperson Jankowski moved to authorize extension of the Ground Water Monitoring Wells Interlocal Agreement between PPL Montana, the Colstrip Park & Recreation District and the City of Colstrip for five years. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Jankowski commented the agreement seems to have been working well and saves a lot of money on the watering of the golf course. No objections were made. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Williams nominated Councilperson Jankowski as Chairman of the City Council. Councilperson Miller seconded the nomination. Mayor Hanser called for other nominations. No other nominations were made. Councilpersons Stewart, Williams and Miller voted in favor. Councilperson Jankowski abstained. Motion carried.

Administrative Matters:

Councilperson Williams reported the Montana Coal Board will be meeting in Colstrip Friday, January 20th. The members will be arriving the day before for a tour.

Councilperson Williams doesn't feel it would be appropriate for him to continue in the City Employee Union Contract negotiations since the presence of two council members and the Mayor would constitute a quorum of the City Council.

Adjournment:

Councilperson Stewart moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. Mayor Hanser adjourned the meeting at 8:01 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer