

City Council Meeting  
March 27, 2012

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

Also Present: City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, Acting Police Chief Cory Hert, City Attorney Gary Ryder, 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, Clerk/Treasurer Richards called the Roll Call.

**Consent Agenda:**

Councilperson Stewart moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Jankowski asked about Claim #16466 for the fire truck chassis. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards explained the chassis portion of the new fire truck has been completed and per the purchasing contract with the vendor the City agreed to pay for the chassis portion separately. The rest of the truck will be paid for upon completion and delivery. Motion carried with all in favor.

- a. Minutes of 3/13/12 Regular Meeting
- b. Claims Roster 3/21/12
- c. Tree Board Appointments

**Departmental Reports:**

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

Carina Lange, Clint McGarvin and Steve Ketterling of First Interstate Bank gave a presentation on the management of the city's investments.

**Mayor's Communications:**

Mayor Hanser requested that public comment on any agenda items will be allowed as each item is considered by the City Council and to wait until that time to provide comments. Public Comment on any issue or concern not on the agenda will be received after Mayor's Communications.

**Public Comment and Participation:** None.

**Unfinished Business:**

Councilperson Stewart moved to waive the second reading of Ordinance 2012-01, Reconstituting the Police Commission. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried

with all in favor. Councilperson Stewart moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2012-01. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor. Councilperson Williams moved to waive the reading of Ordinance 2012-02, Mayor's Veto Power, and approve the ordinance. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

**New Business:**

Councilperson Williams moved to approve the recommendation from Mayor Hanser to change the Budget/Finance Committee to a Committee of the Whole. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Williams supports changing the committee. The last couple of years after the Mayor and Budget/Finance Committee presented the budget to the full council, issues came up. Having the entire council involved in the process will hopefully avoid delays and last minute issues with the budget. Councilperson Williams also reminded the other council members that they can attend and participate in any committee meeting since they are posted for public involvement. Councilperson Stewart asked if the idea is that the committee would meet outside of the regular council meetings. Mayor Hanser confirmed the committee would meet separately from regular council meetings. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Jankowski moved to contract for lawn care and maintenance with LP Contracting. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Jankowski commented that based on the information from Public Works Director Bleth, it would be cheaper to contract out the service versus hiring additional employees. Councilperson Williams asked what the contract price would be. Public Works Director Bleth clarified he was just asking for direction from the City Council on whether to contract out for the service or do it ourselves. Councilperson Williams felt the action of the City Council should be authorizing the Public Works Director to obtain proposals for the service and come back to them for contract approval. Councilperson Stewart stated he is uncomfortable approving a contract prior to seeing the contract. City Attorney Ryder stated the contract should come back to the City Council for approval either as a consent item or unfinished business. Councilperson Jankowski made a friendly amendment to his motion to include that it be contingent upon receiving a written proposal and subject to council approval. Councilperson Miller seconded. Motion carried as amended with all in favor.

Tracy Haag with Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson addressed the City Council regarding engineering services to conduct a preliminary analysis of constructing a new law enforcement center and fire hall to be located northwest of City Hall. Councilperson Williams moved to approve Task Order #9 with Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson for engineering services in the amount of \$12,000. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Williams commented that this is something the City has talked about for a long time and this study would give needed information in order for the City to move forward with this idea. No other comments or objections were made. Motion carried with all in favor.

Tracy Haag with Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson addressed the City Council regarding the question of whether to tear down and build a new shop building at its present site or build a new structure on city property at 500 Willow where the city's warehouses are located. Scott Atwood of Atwood

Architecture explained the setback issues and additional costs of fire-rating protection if a new building is constructed at the shop's current location. Councilperson Williams moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Hanser and Public Works Director Bleth to relocate the City Shop to the Willow Avenue property. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Williams stated the concerns he had regarding environmental issues and the floodplain have been addressed and the City needs to move forward with constructing a new shop facility. No other comments or objections were made. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Hanser requested to waive the reading of Ordinance 2012-03 and asked for a motion. Councilperson Stewart moved to approve waiving the reading and approve Ordinance 2012-03, establishing Police Commission Procedures. Councilperson Williams seconded the motion. Discussion: Attorney Ryder will also be preparing a resolution for the next council meeting addressing the Police Commission's role in the hiring process of police officers. There will also be some minor changes to this ordinance when it is presented for second reading. Councilperson Williams commented this is a very good ordinance and covers the important points contained in the Police Commission Handbook. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Administrative Matters:**

Councilperson Williams handed out a communication from the Montana League of Cities and Towns regarding the impacts of oil and gas production in Eastern Montana. One of the issues is the distribution of revenues from oil and gas production. The league is looking at proposing legislation that would increase the portion of the revenues back to the cities and towns where the impact is most experienced.

Councilperson Williams proposed addressing the Mayor's compensation. He feels the position of Mayor needs to be treated fairly and consistent with the compensation level of employees and other similar jobs in Colstrip. Councilperson Williams feels the roles and responsibilities of Mayor for the City of Colstrip exceed that of a county commissioner who are paid almost \$50,000 per year plus benefits. Councilperson Stewart supports looking at this issue since it is the equivalent of a full-time job. Councilperson Jankowski would like to look at the compensation level of council members also. Councilperson Williams volunteered to put together some information for council's consideration.

Councilperson Stewart wants the City to pursue a policy addressing the sale of city property and also the lease of city property.

**Adjournment:**

Mayor Hanser adjourned the meeting at 8:21 pm.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer