

City Council Meeting  
April 10, 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, Fire Chief Ryan Reid, 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. Motion carried with all in favor.

- a. Minutes of 3/27/12 Regular Meeting
- b. Claims Roster 4/5/12

**Departmental Reports:**

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

**Mayor's Communications:**

Mayor Hanser reported that the sole prospective bidder on the Early Warning Siren System has requested an extension to the bid deadline due to technical questions. This will be addressed under New Business.

**Public Comment and Participation:** None.

**Unfinished Business:**

Councilperson Stewart moved to waive the reading and approve the second reading of Ordinance 2012-03, Police Commission Procedures. Councilperson Williams seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Stewart asked if the City has the same right as a police officer to appeal a Police Commission's decision to district court. Attorney Ryder reported state statute does not authorize this. No other comments or objections were made. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Williams asked Mayor Hanser what direction she would like to go with the selection of the consultant for updating the Employee Policy & Procedures Manual. Mayor Hanser prefers the proposal from Richard Larsen but is leaving the decision up to City Council. Councilperson Stewart prefers the proposal from Richard Larsen since it is cheaper than the other proposal for the same service. Councilperson Jankowski stated he concurs with the selection of Mr. Larsen due to the cost difference in the two proposals. Councilperson Stewart moved to select Richard Larsen as the consultant to update the city's Employee Policy & Procedures Manual. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Stewart stated that Mr. Larsen provided more information in his proposal and seems more willing. No other comments or objections were made. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Stewart moved to approve the contract with LP Contracting for lawn care and maintenance of city property. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

**New Business:**

No bids were received for the Early Warning Siren System. Councilperson Jankowski moved to table the bid opening for the Early Warning Siren System. Councilperson Stewart seconded. Discussion: Councilperson Jankowski explained the sole prospective bidder needs more time to prepare a bid and the city will rebid the project. No other comments or objections were made. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Stewart moved to approve an Encroachment Easement in the alley at 209 Olive Drive for a garage and eaves. Councilperson Williams seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Stewart commented that this is something that happened prior to rules being put into place. No other comments or objections were made. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve the purchase of a new Handheld Meter Reader in the amount of \$8,240.00. Councilperson Williams seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Hanser explained that the Rosebud County Attorney gave notice that he would no longer be able to serve as City Court Prosecuting Attorney. Councilperson Stewart asked if the City can solicit offers from other attorney that may be interested. Mayor Hanser reported that another attorney did submit a letter of interest. Attorney Ryder stated the attorney indicated he wouldn't be available until after July 1<sup>st</sup> and there may be a few other options. Attorney Ryder is willing to handle the prosecution until other arrangements are made. Councilperson Williams moved to approve contracting with Gary Ryder for City Court Prosecution Services until the end of the fiscal year at the same rate paid to Rosebud County. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Administrative Matters:**

Attorney Ryder recommended the following changes to a Location Agreement recently submitted: Paragraph 1, Limit to the property the City of Colstrip has control over; Paragraph 5, Change to laws of Montana instead of England and Wales; and add a clause stating the Mayor may terminate the agreement without cause. It was decided this agreement is something the Mayor can take care of without City Council action.

Councilperson Stewart asked about the city's representation at the upcoming Coal Board meeting. Mayor Hanser and Public Works Director Bleth will be representing the City of Colstrip at the meeting. Councilperson Williams encouraged any member of the City Council to attend the Coal Board meetings; the board encourages local effort and welcomes participation from the community applying for a grant.

**Adjournment:**

Mayor Hanser adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer