

City Council Meeting  
June 27, 2017

Present: Mayor John Williams, Councilpersons Greg Koczur, Jolene Verlanic and Mike Esser

Absent: Councilperson Tom Jankowski

Also Present: Fire Chief Rob Pontius, City Attorney Gary Ryder, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, Police Chief Cory Hert, Public Works Director Bryan Swan and Planning/Zoning Official Kami Egan

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 Verlanic moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 6/13/17 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 6/22/17
- Paygov.us Service Agreement

**Departmental Reports:**

Reports were given by Police Chief Hert, Fire Chief Pontius, Planning/Zoning Official Egan, City Attorney Ryder, Public Works Director Swan and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards.

**Mayor's Communications:**

Mayor Williams reported on the quarterly Montana Coal Board meeting last week in Billings. The board awarded over \$1.6 million in grants at the meeting out of the \$2.2 million available. Four of the local legislators were in attendance at the meeting also.

Mayor Williams requested the City Council approve a \$1.50 per hour raise for Police Officer Steven Williams. Due to the timing of his hiring, he missed the \$1.50 per hour raise required in the collective bargaining agreement but another police officer was hired just prior to July 1 and received the raise. Mayor Williams would like the raise to be effective July 1, the same time as the yearly pay raises are given.

Councilperson Koczur moved to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the Colstrip Police Unit to increase Police Officer Steven Williams compensation by \$1.50 per hour in addition to the yearly raise agreed to in the collective bargaining agreement. Councilperson Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Verlanic asked about whether the raise would be retroactive or upon approval. No motion was made to make the raise retroactive.

Public comment: Pat Campbell, 4417 Remington Drive, feels that making it retroactive might come back to haunt us and recommends not making it retroactive.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams has submitted his pay raise recommendation for non-union employees, City Council members, Fire Chief and the Assistant Fire Chief. Mayor Williams would like to discuss his recommendation further during Budget Committee meetings. Councilperson Koczur would like to include a raise for the Mayor during the discussion. A Budget Committee meeting will be held July 11 at 10:00 am.

**Public Comment:**

Lu Shomate, representing the Schoolhouse History and Art Center, thanked the City of Colstrip for partnering with SHAC over the years. Lu is retiring and introduced the new Executive Director Tyler Egan.

Jim Atchison, representing SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation, updated the City Council on the economic diversification strategy. A lead advisory community group has been established and community advisory groups will be set up to address each strategy within the study. Jim reported SEMDC is receiving numerous inquiries and website hits since the study was completed.

Doug Whitney, engineer with Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson, updated the City Council on current projects they are working on. The Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project is progressing well and anticipated to be complete in December 2017. The Willow Avenue Rehabilitation Project had a slow start but the water main replacement is now complete up to Olive Drive. Anticipated completion date is August 16. Other projects still in planning stages are the Vista Drive Drainage, Zone 3 Water Tank Replacement, High Service Pump Station, Water Pipe Gallery Phase 2, and the Water Treatment Plant Backwash Discharge Permit Renewal.

**Unfinished Business:**

Councilperson Koczur moved to move approve Resolution No. 2017-R07, creating Colstrip Street Lighting District No. 1. Councilperson Verlanic seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

**New Business:**

Bid Opening was held for the Fire Truck by Fire Chief Pontius. One bid was received from Heiman Fire Equipment in the amount of \$257,742.00. The estimate was \$265,000.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve Change Order #1 to the Wastewater Treatment Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$18,187.23 for a final project cost of \$1,910,287.23.

Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve the Coal Board Grant Contract Extension for one year for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation in the amount of \$132,500. Councilperson Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.  
Motion carried with all in favor.

Police Chief Hert and Mayor Williams explained the current Safety Award policy. The city's policy excludes part-time employees but the City Employee Collective Bargaining Unit includes part-time employees in the annual safety awards. The Safety Committee recommends all part-time employees be included in the awards program.

Councilperson Koczur moved to amend the Safety Award Policy to include part-time employees in the annual safety awards. Councilperson Verlanic seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams stated a Resolution will be prepared to amend the policy.

**Adjournment:**

Councilperson Verlanic moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Esser seconded the motion.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer