

City Council Meeting June 26, 2018

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

Also Present: City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, City Attorney Gary Ryder, Public Works Director Bryan Swan and Police Chief Cory Hert

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards called the Roll Call.

Consent Agenda:

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

- Minutes of 6/12/18 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 6/21/18

Departmental Reports:

Reports were given by Police Chief Hert, Attorney Ryder, Public Works Director Swan and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards.

Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Williams will address Talen's response at the CCIAG meeting this Friday. Regarding the Water Transportation Agreement, they do not want to eliminate the agreement but are willing to consider changes as long as there is identifiable benefit to the users of the water system.

Mayor Williams was approached by Northern Plains Resource Council for the City to support putting pressure on the power plant owners regarding ash pond cleanup. Mayor Williams told them the City is going to stay neutral on this topic.

John will be attending a SEMDC meeting Thursday in Hysham.

Negotiations with the Colstrip Police Unit continue this week. It is his understanding both bargaining units will be voting on new contracts this week.

The Montana Coal Board met last week in Billings. All of the applications were tabled because the board doesn't have any available funds. The next meeting will be in Colstrip in September.

The Montana League of Cities and Towns Conference in Butte is the end of September. Mayor Williams invited and recommended council members attend the conference.

Demolition of the old Public Works Shop building on Wildrye Street is scheduled the third week of July. A small building may be constructed on the site for evidence storage for the police department.

Public Comment:

Carl Jackson of Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson reported the punch list on the Willow Avenue Project is almost complete. Having trouble getting contractor to come back and finish the Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation project. Substantial completion was supposed to be May 1. Tomorrow is the inspection to determine substantial completion status. Liquidated damages will most likely be assessed against the contractor.

Unfinished Business:

Attorney Ryder has spoken to Tom Reilly with FWP. He is willing to come to Colstrip, look at the maps and determine if Winchester Park was part of the program. Council agreed they would like Mr. Reilly to come to Colstrip as soon as he can.

Regarding the water tank, Talen stated they are willing to work with the City. A geotechnical survey needs done first, which is \$45,000, before a site survey is done. Mayor Williams suggested since Talen's letter states they are willing to work with anyone interested in developing on their land as long as there is an indemnification agreement and they know the proposed use, purchasing a parcel of land from them across from SEMDC. Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson will look at the possibility of the water tank being constructed at this location.

Bill Neumiller, President of the Colstrip Park and Recreation District, reported the opinion of the board is the City of Colstrip not put a water tank on park land. The federal land trust program states the property cannot be sold and a lease or easement is questionable. Councilperson Verlanic asked Mr. Neumiller if building a tank with more water pressure would benefit CPRD's parks and the community as a whole. Mr. Neumiller stated that is not something the park district is driven towards and don't need to water all of the parks. They are only concerned about where the tank is placed. Councilperson Verlanic asked if they were concerned about losing water pressure, which negatively affects the parks. She commented on the noxious weeds in the Winchester Park and the lack of maintenance and that it is not being mowed. She also asked Mr. Neumiller if Mr. Reilly with the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks determined the tank can be placed at Winchester Park, would it change the board's opinion and would they support it. Mr. Neumiller responded that would be the board's decision. Councilperson Verlanic pointed out that looking through the documents Mr. Harbin provided regarding the federal land trust program, the only park mentioned in the documents is Rye Park and no other park. Mr. Neumiller stated CPRD's board responsibility is the park land. Councilperson Verlanic explained it is the city's responsibility to provide safe, reliable drinking water to the community including CPRD.

Attorney Ryder asked when CPRD's Board met and a vote taken and if it was at a public meeting. Mr. Neumiller was unable to recall when the board voted and would have to check their meeting minutes.

Administrative Matter:

Councilperson Shaw reported a handout from Northern Plains Resource Council was being distributed to union members claiming that units 3 and 4 are scheduled to be shut down by 2027. Councilperson Shaw has a problem with this type of behavior. She attended a press conference in Helena regarding the study conducted by University of Montana's Business and Economic Research about the economic impact of shutting down units 3 and 4.

Adjournment:

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer

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