

City Council Meeting August 14, 2018

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

Also Present: Fire Chief Rob Pontius, Planning/Zoning/Code Official Kami Egan, 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 Koczur seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 7/24/18 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 8/9/18
- Journal Voucher No. 2018-05

Departmental Reports:

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

Councilperson Esser moved to allocate \$30,000 to make street repairs in the Sweetgrass Acreage Tracts as recommended by Public Works Director Swan. Councilperson Verlanic seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Koczur asked how long it takes to do a Street Improvement District. Attorney Ryder will look into the process and also look at a Street Maintenance District.

Public Comment: Pat Campbell, 4417 Remington Drive, asked how much an SID would cost. He supports Public Works Director Swan on his recommendation for the streets in the Sweetgrass Acreage Tracts. He appreciates anything the City can do in that area.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor's Communications:

There is a Public Input meeting tonight in Forsyth hosted by the Colstrip Community Impact Advisory Group. More meetings are scheduled tomorrow in Lame Deer and Colstrip City Hall and on August 20th at SHAC and Ponderosa Butte Golf Course. KLJ and MT Department of Commerce employees will be facilitating the meetings.

Mayor Williams attended a meeting last week regarding emission violations at the power plant regarding mercury emissions. The power plant is working on finding the reason and are subject to a \$10,000 fine each day they are out of compliance. While the units are down they have to purchase electricity on the open market, which costs \$200-\$300 per megawatt versus the \$25 per megawatt it costs the power plant to produce electricity.

Mayor Williams visited with a representative from Avista Corporation about the status of the proposed sale to Hydro One. They expect to have a new board and CEO appointed within the next two weeks. They plan on pursuing the sale but it has been delayed until mid-December.

Public Comment:

Jim Atchison, Executive Director of SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC), reminded City Council of the Energy Open being held in Colstrip this Thursday and Friday. The USDA Grant has been approved for the Implementation of the Economic Diversification Strategy. SEMDC plans on hiring Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson if approved by USDA. We are hoping to hear soon from the Department of Commerce on the CDBG Planning Grant for the Growth Policy Update for the City of Colstrip. Jim encouraged the City to move forward with KLJ as soon as funding is secured. SEMDC will be applying for grants for a Branding & Marketing Plan, Development of an Industrial Energy Park, and establishment of a Revolving Loan Fund. Jim reported coal production in the state of Montana has increased 3 million tons during the first six months of the year.

Pat Campbell, 4417 Remington Drive, is concerned if there will be land available for new development such as an industrial park. He also asked about the water rates and how they were developed. He doesn't believe it is fair.

Unfinished Business:

Regarding the Zone 3 Water Storage Tank we are still waiting to hear back from Tom Riley of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

New Business:

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve Resolution 2018-R08, declaring surplus property.

Councilperson Esser seconded.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Koczur moved to approve the lease for Montana Moose on a year by year basis.

Councilperson Verlanic seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve contracting with Russell Murphy for Building Inspection Services for one year. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: Zoning/Planning/Code Enforcement Officer Egan commented that the Building Inspector is approving building permits that are in violation of the city's zoning code.

Councilperson Koczur moved to table until the next meeting. Councilperson Verlanic seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve the bid from Wharton Asphalt LLC for the 2018 Chip-Seal/Pavement Maintenance Project. Councilperson Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Verlanic is appreciative they will honor their bid on the chip-sealing even though the work may not be done until next spring. Attorney Ryder suggested something more specific than the letter received from Wharton stating they will hold the current price for the 2019 work season.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve Amendment #1 to Engineering Task Order No. 17 in regards to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade in the amount of \$30,000. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve Amendment #1 to Engineering Task Order No. 21 in regards to the Zone 3 Water Storage Tank in the amount of \$12,000. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Verlanic asked if there has been any response from Talen. Mayor Williams reported Talen would like more specific information that would require more engineering. Since we are hoping the Winchester site will be used, we are waiting to respond to Talen.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve the 2018-2019 Preliminary Budget.

Councilperson Shaw seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Adjournment:

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:27 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer