

City Council Meeting
July 9, 2019

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

Also Present: Public Works Director Bryan Swan, Planning/Zoning/Code Official Kami Egan, Fire Chief Rob Pontius, Attorney Ryder Gary Ryder, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, 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 Esser seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 6/25/19 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 7/3/19

Departmental Reports:

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

Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Williams has been invited to speak at the Coal Council Conference on July 16 in Billings.

MMIA will be conducting Workplace Safety Training on August 6 and 7 for city employees. All employees will be required to attend the training or watch a DVD and take a test if they are unable to attend the training.

Special Presentation:

Jim Atchison, SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation, presented the Colstrip Land Use and Business Development Plan. A grant was obtained from the USDA and the plan completed by Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson. Three main categories were created in the plan: Vacant Lots, Buildings and Commercial/Industrial Sites. The 2nd phase will begin soon which will focus on a site specific plan for the industrial sites.

Public Comment:

Jim Atchison, SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation, will give his annual membership presentation at the next City Council meeting. Jim distributed copies of the results of a Colstrip Community Survey conducted in 2018 by the Community Studies Lab at Brigham Young University. SEMDC will be submitting a \$25,000 grant application to the Montana Coal Board for the Community Marketing Project as discussed with the City Council in May. SEMDC is looking at needing to remodel or build a new building and to expand their services, which would require a larger building. SEMDC is

looking for an entity to sponsor a Coal Board grant to assist with this. Recently SEMDC was notified of 8 grants that were approved that SEMDC submitted. Five of those grants relate to Colstrip, totaling \$1.357 million. Jim also reminded the City Council about Colstrip's sister city, Butte.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Councilperson Esser moved to approve Change Order No. 1 for the High Service Pump Station Improvements in the amount of \$23,756.24 with Star Service Inc. bringing the total contract price to \$371,298.24. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve the Main Street Sub-grade Stabilization at an estimated cost of \$50,000. Councilperson Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Esser asked what kind of work would be done. Public Works Director Swan explained they removed an additional 8" of soil and the ground is stable now. Councilperson Esser also asked what the warranty is. Public Works Director Swan said normally the warranty period is one year.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Campbell moved to approve the purchase of Filter Media for the Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$27,770. Councilperson Verlanic seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Esser moved to approve Non-Union Compensation increases of 3.1% as recommended by Mayor Williams. Councilperson Campbell seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Verlanic noted that contract extensions at the power plant for wage increases over the next three years are 2.75%, 2.5% and 2.5% respectively. She is concerned of making unreasonable, additional and permanent expenses due to expected hardship to the county and city will be facing. Councilperson Campbell feels we shouldn't compare different industries.

Public Comment:

Wendy Acton, stated all the other cities are not even close to what we are here and they don't do everything we do. She doesn't feel 3.1% is asking too much and feels they earn it.

Jim Atchison believes Rosebud County gave compensation increases of 3.0%.

Motion carried with all in favor.

The following Budget Presentations were made for the 2019-2020 fiscal year:

City Court – Judge Penny McPherson presented her budget request for the City Court. Councilperson Verlanic asked about a Court Clerk’s position and if it will be included or excluded from the budget. No decision has been made at this time.

Schoolhouse History and Art Center – Tyler Egan presented this year’s funding request from SHAC. He explained the Culture & Aesthetic Grant has been decreased and insurance is expected to increase. SHAC is increasing their funding request from the City of Colstrip from \$77,000 to \$78,000 per year.

Police Department – Police Chief Hert presented the budget request for his department. Capital requests include two new patrol vehicles, an evidence storage cage and heating/lighting/electrical wiring for the new evidence storage building.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Pontius presented the fire department’s budget. Capital requests include an aerial fire truck and the purchase of the vacant lot next to the training center. The fire department would also like to install cameras on the back of all the fire trucks for safety reasons. Chief Pontius is looking at purchasing a used aerial platform fire truck to replace the 1970 engine. The truck will be a used fire truck since new ones cost over one million dollars but should get 30-40 years of service out of it.

Safety Program – The Safety Committee carried forward the same budget from the previous year.

Mayor Williams reviewed budgets for the City Council, Mayor, Court Prosecution Services, Legal Services, Community Events, Economic Development and Other Unallocated Costs. Mayor Williams did not make a recommendation for compensation increases for the elected officials. He will leave this decision up to the City Council. Councilperson Esser feels there should be no increase.

Administrative Matters:

Councilperson Campbell asked about the new windfarm. A public hearing will be held in Colstrip on July 24th and in Forsyth on July 29th regarding their tax abatement request to Rosebud County. Representatives from Orion will be meeting with Mayor Williams next week.

Councilperson Verlanic noted a flyer from the Northern Plains Resource Council contains photos of city and CPRD property with the city’s logo on it. They did not have permission to use the city’s logo. Attorney Ryder will look into it.

Adjournment:

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:57 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer