

City Council Meeting October 22, 2019

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

Also Present: Fire Chief Rob Pontius, Planning/Building/Zoning Official Kami Egan, City Attorney Gary Ryder, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, 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 received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 10/08/19 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 10/18/19

Departmental Reports:

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

Mayor's Communications:

Miles City Sanitation is no longer recycling cardboard due to a lack of market. The cardboard being deposited into the recycling container is not being recycled, it is being taken to the landfill by Miles City Sanitation and they charge the City of Colstrip \$257.00 per trip. Mayor Williams asked the City Council if they want to continue with this service even though the cardboard is not being recycled or remove the recycling container until recycling resumes. City Council members felt it should be left alone for now.

DIS Technologies toured City Hall, Public Works Shop, the Police Department, Water Treatment Plant and Sewer Treatment Plant last week for the placement of security cameras.

Mayor Williams would like to move forward with a study to upgrade the controls system at the Water Treatment Plant. He will ask Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson to prepare a task order for council's consideration. Instead of requesting a Coal Board Grant for the cost of the study, a grant application will be submitted for the purchase and installation of the new system after the study is complete.

The City of Hardin is requesting monetary donations for the Hardin High School Band to travel to Washington, D.C. to play at the National Independence Day Parade July 4, 2020. Mayor Williams asked City Council if they would like to donate. Council members showed no interest in donating.

Two weeks ago the City of Colstrip recognized employees at a luncheon who have worked for the City of Colstrip for 20 years and the 15-year anniversary of the formation of the Police Department. Mayor Williams shared the comments he made about these employees at the luncheon.

The City of Colstrip will be having its annual Christmas Party on December 6th. Due to the positive feedback from last year, the plan is to have the party in Forsyth at The Joseph again.

Public Comment:

Tyler Egan, Executive Director at the Schoolhouse History and Art Center, gave a quarterly update of activities at SHAC. SHAC has prepared a couple of grant requests to First Interstate Bank and Talen Energy. There is some gutter repairs and exterior maintenance that need done.

Doug Whitney, engineer with Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson, gave an update on the Water Storage Tank, High Service Pump and Phases 1 and 3 of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation.

New Business:

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve Resolution No. 2019-R22, adopting an updated Growth Policy as amended. Councilperson Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Verlanic thanked City Clerk/Treasurer Richards for reviewing the document and noting some errors. These errors have been corrected in the document.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to establish a Purchasing Committee for the purchase of a used aerial platform fire truck made up of Fire Chief Rob Pontius, Mayor John Williams and Councilperson Mike Esser, require the committee to stay within budgetary confinements and require either one of the committee members or officer of the Fire Department to inspect the truck prior to purchase.

Councilperson Campbell seconded the motion.

Public Comment: Wayne Dudley asked what the cost of hiring someone to inspect a truck would be versus sending someone to do it. Fire Chief Pontius estimated it would cost \$2,500 to \$3,500. He asked if there is a guaranty by using a professional. Fire Chief Pontius explained the city has done this before with a negative result and there was no guaranty by the professional.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Verlanic moved to approve Amendment No. 2 to Engineering Task Order No. 21 with Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson in the amount of \$26,445.90. Councilperson Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilperson Koczur asked why the contractor isn't paying for these extra expenses since the additional engineering is due to the contractor falling behind. Doug Whitney explained the contractor's delay is not the only reason for the request for additional engineering fees. Change Order No. 1 resulted in \$1,410.71 in additional engineering fees but saved the City \$7,256 in the contract price. Change Order No. 2 was a project addition requested by the City of Colstrip for a flag pole on top of the tank and resulted in \$1,220.94 in additional engineering fees. During the four years since the quality insurance inspection was estimated in 2015, these costs have increased from \$44,000 to \$48,192. By contract, the contractor has until November 1 to finish the project or liquidated damages can be assessed after this date against the contractor as stated in the contract. Councilperson Campbell commented he is not against paying for the additional engineering expenses as long as liquidated damages are sought.

Public Comment: None received.

Councilpersons Verlanic, Campbell and Esser voted in favor. Councilperson Koczur voted nay.

Motion carried.

Administrative Matters:

City Council went into Executive Session at 8:08 pm to discuss litigation matters (Reinlasoder vs. City of Colstrip). City Council returned from executive session at 8:25 pm. No action was taken during or after executive session.

Adjournment:

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer

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