

City Council Meeting
December 10, 2019

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

Absent: Councilperson Jolene Verlanic

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 Koczur 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 11/26/19 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 12/6/19

Departmental Reports:

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

Mayor's Communications:

Puget Sound Energy has deposited the remaining \$5 million into the escrow account for the impact funds due to the closure of units 1 and 2. We are waiting for Colstrip Impact Foundation to finalize the eligibility criteria and application process.

Westmoreland announced a coal supply agreement has been reached with Colstrip Steam Electric Station power plant owners. It is a 6-year contract.

NorthWestern Energy announced they will be submitting a proposal to the Montana Public Service Commission to purchase Puget Sound Energy's 25% share of unit 4. There is a public hearing in Billings on January 2, 2020 regarding NorthWestern Energy's Integrated Resource Plan.

Units 1 and 2 of the power plant are planned for closure in January 2020.

CPR and First Aid Certification training was provided to employees last week.

The Montana Coal Board meets in Billings this Thursday. There are eleven new applications for the board to consider totaling \$1,882,160.

Mayor Williams is declaring December 24th, Christmas Eve, a holiday this year for city employees. City Hall will be closed.

Public Comment: None received.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Councilperson Esser moved to approve a two-year contract renewal with Hanna Schantz for prosecution services. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: Hanna Schantz addressed the City Council regarding her contract. Hanna noted a correction needs made to Section 1 of the contract regarding the supervision of Hanna by Gary Ryder. Hanna has requested a small increase in compensation. This is the first increase since Hanna began providing prosecution services in 2013.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Campbell moved to approve a one-year contract renewal with Gary Ryder for city attorney services. Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: Gary reported he plans on winding down his legal services but will continue to work with Hanna Schantz.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Administrative Matters:

Councilperson Koczur said the PACE Plant has some potential parts that could be utilized by the City. He asked if the engineers could look into this.

Adjournment:

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer