

City Council Meeting January 14, 2020

Present: Mayor John Williams and Councilmembers Pat Campbell, Mike Esser, Wayne Dudley and Greg Koczur

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

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards called the Roll Call. Mayor Williams administered the Oath of Office to Wayne Dudley, Mike Esser and Pat Campbell.

Consent Agenda:

Councilmember Esser moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 12/23/19 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 1/9/20
- Journal Voucher No. 2020-03

Departmental Reports:

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

Mayor's Communications:

City Officials met with representatives from Orion Energy and NextEra Energy last week regarding the transmission line that will connect the wind farm that will be built north of Forsyth to the electric substation here in Colstrip. The transmission line is proposed to run through a portion of town and permits will need to be obtained in accordance with the city's zoning regulations.

Mayor Williams just received a technical memorandum from the engineers regarding water sources for the City of Colstrip in the future. The engineers are also working on the control systems report for the water and wastewater treatment plants. Mayor Williams would like to apply for a Coal Board Grant for this project.

Mayor Williams attended a meeting in Billings last week about a training center initiative put in place by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe due to the closure of units 1 and 2.

There is an opening available on the Rosebud Conservation District as a representative for Colstrip.

At the next meeting, council committee assignments will be discussed.

Mayor Williams distributed information received from Senator Ankney regarding revenue impacts from the closure of units 1 and 2.

Public Comment:

Jim Atchison, Executive Director of SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation, distributed the 2019 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Seven projects were identified with five already being worked on. SEMDC encourages the City of Colstrip to move forward looking at the source of water in the future for the community.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Councilmember Koczur nominated Councilmember Pat Campbell for Council Chairman.

Councilmember Esser seconded.

Councilmember Campbell nominated Councilmember Greg Koczur. Councilmember Dudley seconded.

No other nominations were made.

Councilmember Campbell was elected Council Chairman by a vote of 3-0.

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-R01, declaring authorized signers for the city's bank accounts at First Interstate Bank-Colstrip branch. Councilmember Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Councilmember Koczur abstained from voting. Motion carried by a vote of 3-0.

Administrative Matters:

City Council went into Executive Session at 7:44 pm to discuss the Reinlasoder litigation. City Council returned from Executive Session at 8:01 pm. No action was taken during or after the executive session.

Adjournment:

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:02 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer