

City Council Meeting January 28, 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, Planning/Zoning/Code Official Kami Egan and Public Works Director Bryan Swan

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Mayor Williams asked everyone to stand in a moment of silence for Lawretta Miller. Mrs. Miller served on the City Council from 2015-2018 and was a current member of both the Zoning Commission and Planning Board. Following the moment of silence, City Clerk/Treasurer Richards called the Roll Call.

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 1/14/20 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 1/23/20

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.

Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Williams received notice from Talen Energy that \$103,000 has been approved for Supplemental Environmental Project funds for the construction of a salt/sand storage building. These funds are in lieu of a penalty from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality for air monitoring violations.

The Raw Water Feasibility Study has been completed by Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson. The cost estimate for water wells to serve Colstrip is over \$17 million.

The conversion of our street lights to LED lights has been completed by NorthWestern Energy. NorthWestern Energy completed the conversion at no cost to the City of Colstrip except for 17 lights that are owned by the City.

Mayor Williams attended the Montana League of Cities & Towns Board Meeting in Helena last week. NorthWestern Energy gave a presentation on their energy plan and acquisition of Puget Sound's share of unit 4 of the power plant.

The City is working with Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson on an update to our Supervisory Control and Data System that is used to operate and control the water and wastewater treatment plants. The current

system is approximately 15 years old. The preliminary cost estimate is \$825,000. A Coal Board Grant application will be submitted to help fund this new system.

Mayor Williams has developed an amendment to the vacation accrual policy for city employees. Mayor Williams would like to allow employees that have accrued more than the maximum allowed by policy to convert it at 75% of the value to their 457 Deferred Compensation Plan. The City currently allows employees to do this with sick leave. Councilmember Campbell asked if the employee unions have been notified. Mayor Williams stated he would like the change adopted for non-union and to offer to add the benefit to union employees if they would like to have it. A resolution will be on the next meeting agenda.

The contract with Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson (KLJ) for engineering services will be expiring. Mayor Williams would like to renew the contract with KLJ. He explained the contract does not preclude the City of Colstrip from working with other engineering/architectural firms if we would want to. A written recommendation will be submitted to the City Council regarding this matter.

Public Comment:

Dan Negethon, 6640 Browning Drive, explained lightning struck a tree on the Mount Calvary Lutheran Church's property and blew out electrical controls and breakers serving the church and manse. Mr. Negethon came to City Hall asking about fire codes. Fire Chief Rob Pontius ordered the codes and will have them available for the community. Mr. Negethon thanked Chief Pontius for doing this.

Jim Atchison, Executive Director of SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation, reported SEMDC received and scored proposals for the Energy Industrial Park Study, a Regional Marketing Plan, and a Business Innovation Center Study. In February SEMDC will be hiring a contractor for a broadband/fiber optics services study. Jim also reported the Colstrip Impact Foundation Board will be meeting tomorrow night.

Eugene Wier, 4216 Sweetgrass Drive, addressed the City Council regarding the possible legalization of marijuana in Montana. If it becomes legal, Mr. Wier proposes the citizens of Colstrip utilize Isabel Bills Learning Center to grow and sell cannabis. He would also like to see a hemp processing plant and a bio-diesel plant powered by wind and solar panels.

Carl Jackson of Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson thanked the City Council for utilizing KLJ as their engineer and he hopes to continue the working relationship. The City of Colstrip has been working with KLJ since 2007.

Tyler Egan, Schoolhouse History and Art Center, gave a quarterly report for SHAC. Colstrip Electric updated the breaker box and an LED panel in the basement. The gutters were also cleaned and sealed recently. Grants have been received from First Interstate Bank, Talen Energy and the Cultural & Aesthetic Grant Program. SHAC has expanded its outreach program to include the school children at Pine Butte Elementary School.

New Business:

Councilmember Koczur moved to approve a Special Event Permit for the Colstrip Days Motorama on June 26, 2020. Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Campbell asked if the permit includes a band. Mr. Wier responded they may have a band play music during the car show but it would not last longer than the car show.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

The following committee assignments were decided:

- Budget/Finance – Committee of the Whole
- Policy/Resolutions/Ordinances – Committee of the Whole
- Public Safety – Wayne Dudley & Pat Campbell
- Public Works/Utilities – Mike Esser & Greg Koczur
- Zoning Commission – Greg Koczur

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve the following appointments to the Planning Board for one year: Jolene Verlanic, Wendy Acton, Janet Morgan, Zane Longacre, Cheryl Fulkerson, Gary Parry and Doug Martens. Councilmember Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Esser moved to approve the appointment of Gary Parry to the Rosebud County Planning Board as a representative of the City of Colstrip. Councilmember Dudley seconded.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve the appointment of Kelly Hert to Rosebud County's Solid Waste Board as a representative of the City of Colstrip. Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Esser moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-R02, participation in the State of Montana's Short-term Investment Pool. Councilmember Campbell seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Administrative Matters:

City Council went into Executive Session at 8:10 pm to discuss the Reinlasoder litigation. City Council returned from Executive Session at 8:15 pm. No action was taken during or after the session.

Adjournment:

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer