

City Council Meeting
February 25, 2020

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

Absent: Councilmember Greg Koczur

Also Present: City Attorney Gary Ryder, Police Chief Cory Hert, Fire Chief Rob Pontius, Planning/Zoning/Code Official Kami Egan, 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.

Consent Agenda:

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

- Minutes of 2/11/20 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 2/20/20

Department 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 reported the City has begun work on the Delivery Local Assistance (DLA) grant that was approved. This grant is in the amount of \$415,000 for Phase 3 of the Wastewater Treatment Rehabilitation project. The estimated cost of the project is \$625,000. Colstrip Public Schools also received a DLA grant in the amount of \$747,500.

Mayor Williams sent a letter to Talen Operating regarding the Raw Water Transportation Agreement that will expire July 1, 2020. Mayor Williams requested the agreement be renewed under the same terms and conditions of the current agreement.

Attorney General Tim Fox and Jon Knokey were at City Hall yesterday. Mr. Fox is running for Governor for the state of Montana this year.

One of the Public Service Commissioners will be in Colstrip tomorrow with Senator Duane Ankney.

The Board of Directors of Northwestern Energy plan on coming to Colstrip on April 21st. This is the first time since the power plants were built that a board of directors from one of the power plant owners has come to Colstrip. While here they will be touring the coal mine and the power plants and Mayor Williams will be inviting them to City Hall.

Public Comment:

Jim Atchison, Executive Director of SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC), reported seven DLA grant applications that SEMDC wrote were approved for entities in Southeastern Montana. SEMDC signed a contract with Great West Engineering for a GIS and Mapping Project for Colstrip.

Unfinished Business:

Councilmember Esser moved to approve the second reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 2020-01, adopting updated building and related codes. Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment:

Motion carried with all in favor.

New Business:

Councilmember Esser moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-R04, approving budget transfers for fiscal year 2020. Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-R05, approving a budget adjustment for fiscal year 2020. Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Esser moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-R06, regarding fees for the conditional use and variance application submitted by Clearwater Energy/Orion Energy for the wind farm project. Councilmember Dudley seconded.

Discussion: Councilmember Campbell asked if the approval of the conditional use permit is done by the Zoning Commission. Mayor Williams responded that is true but there will be fees and costs for city officials and the city's engineering firm to review the plans.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve a Consulting Services Agreement with Vantage Point Solutions in the amount of \$27,000 for Phases I & II of the Broadband Feasibility Study and to authorize Mayor Williams and Attorney Ryder to make minor modifications to the agreement as suggested by Attorney Ryder. Councilmember Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: Attorney Ryder explained even though this study was initiated by SEMDC and will be managed by SEMDC, the City of Colstrip received a Coal Board grant for the study so the professional services agreement should be made with the City instead of SEMDC. Councilmember Dudley asked if the City already has the money for this study. Mayor Williams explained the City received a grant award from the Coal Board for this study in the amount of \$27,000.

Public Comment: Jim Atchison, SEMDC, strongly encourages the City Council approve the contract. This company is recommended by Range Telephone Cooperative as they have worked with this company before with a positive experience.
Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Esser moved to file as intervenor in NorthWestern Energy's application for capacity resource acquisition in the purchase of unit 4 of the Colstrip power plant. Councilmember Dudley seconded.

Discussion: Attorney Ryder is looking for legal counsel in Helena to assist the City of Colstrip. Councilmember Campbell is concerned people will think the City of Colstrip is opposed to the sale. Attorney Ryder explained filing as an intervenor doesn't mean an entity is opposed. It is an opportunity for those affected to be involved in the process.

Public Comment: Jim Atchison, resident at 7405 Castle Rock Lake Drive, urged the City Council to move forward with the intervention.
Motion carried with all in favor.

Adjournment:

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer