

City Council Meeting
March 10, 2020

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

Also Present: Planning/Building/Zoning Official Kami Egan, City Attorney Gary Ryder, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, Public Works Director Bryan Swan and Assistant Police Chief Kris Egan

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards called the Roll Call.

Consent Agenda:

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

- Minutes of 2/25/20 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 3/5/20

Departmental Reports:

Reports were given by Assistant Police Chief Egan, Planning/Building/Zoning Egan, Attorney Ryder and Public Works Director Swan.

Mayor's Communications:

Talen Energy has acknowledged receiving the Mayor's letter regarding the renewal of the Raw Water Transportation Agreement.

Mayor Williams sent some information to city employees about the coronavirus that he received from the State of Montana.

The City of Colstrip filed an application with the Montana Public Service Commission to intervene in Northwestern Energy's Application for Approval of Capacity Resource Acquisition in their purchase of Puget Sound Energy's share of unit 4 of the Colstrip power plant. Southeastern Montana Development Corporation and Rosebud County have also filed applications to intervene. All three entities' applications were approved by the Public Service Commission.

The City has received more information from Clearwater Energy/Orion regarding their conditional use and variance requests for an electric transmission line. Information is being shared with the Zoning Commission as it is being received from the applicant. A public hearing will be held before any action is taken regarding their application.

John O'Toole has agreed to serve on the city's Zoning Commission. There is currently a vacancy on this commission. Mr. O'Toole's appointment will be on the next City Council meeting for approval.

Regarding the closure of units 1 and 2 at the Colstrip power plant, 35 employees have been offered buy-outs and a few employees have resigned employment on their own. At the coal mine, there was a reduction of 12 employees in February and another 25 are anticipated in April.

The Montana Coal Board meets this Thursday in Billings. Colstrip Schools submitted two applications and the Colstrip Park & Recreation District submitted one application.

Public Comment:

Kami Egan, Planning/Building/Zoning Official, asked if there is something in writing regarding the fees and costs associated with the wind farm conditional use permit and variance request. Mayor Williams explained a resolution was passed at the previous City Council meeting about the fees and costs.

Jim Atchison, Southeastern Montana Development Center, reported the Regional Marketing Plan contract has been signed. The Fiber Optics/Broadband study will begin in April and will include community meetings and survey. The Energy/Industrial Park Study contract is scheduled to be signed this Friday. Jim thanked the City for trimming the trees on Castlerock Lake Drive and removing the tree blown on over last week in the boulevard on Homestead Boulevard.

Unfinished Business:

Councilperson Esser moved to approve the purchase of security cameras for city facilities from Range Telephone in the amount of \$17,765.38 and monthly service costs of \$175 per month for 36 months. Councilperson Campbell seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

New Business:

Councilperson Campbell moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-R07, allowing employees to convert excess vacation leave to 457 Deferred Compensation Plan.

Councilperson Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Esser moved to approve an Interlocal Agreement with Colstrip Park & Recreation District for the fountain next to City Hall.

Councilperson Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Administrative Matters:

City Council went into Executive Session at 7:27 pm regarding Reinlasoder Litigation. City Council returned from executive session at 7:43 pm. No action was taken during or after the executive session.

Councilperson Dudley commented on the documents submitted by Clearwater Energy/Orion for the conditional use permit & variance request. There are a lot of “maybes” and he feels they need to be more specific and definitive about the placement and height of the towers.

Adjournment:

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:49 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer

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