

City Council Meeting March 24, 2020

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

Also Present: City Attorney Gary Ryder, Police Chief Cory Hert, 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 Koczur seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 3/10/20 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 3/20/20

Department Reports:

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

Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Williams reported on behalf of Fire Chief Rob Pontius. The fire department responded to one fire since the last City Council meeting and the new fire truck was used to respond to the fire.

Mayor Williams shared how the City is handling the corona virus situation as it relates to City employees. He also shared information received today from the Governor's Office. Councilmember Campbell commented on the differences between the Mayor's directive and federal guidance he received. Mayor Williams responded the City will follow federal rules if there is a discrepancy. Mayor Williams has declared a local emergency in accordance with 10-3-402 of Montana Code Annotated.

Regarding overhaul, a decision on whether it will proceed will be made on April 10th. At this point overhaul is scheduled to begin April 24th, unless it is delayed. The workers coming in for overhaul will be screened for COVID-19 by medical professionals. If overhaul does not take place, the power plants could be shut-down because they will not be in compliance.

Mayor Williams and Police Chief Cory Hert attended the Rosebud County Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting last week in Forsyth.

Public Comment:

Jim Atchison, Executive Director of Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC), distributed information regarding disaster assistance to small businesses in the form of low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration. For businesses that currently have an SBA loan,

Jim advises to request a loan modification. A draft of a professional services agreement between the City of Colstrip and SEMDC will be presented at the next council meeting.

Unfinished Business:

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve the Water Tower Lease with Wispwest for a term of 5 years at \$1,200 per year. Councilmember Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Dudley asked if this company took over service from Cable Montana and if they will be installing new equipment on the new water storage tank. Mayor Williams confirmed the previous tower lease was once with Cable Montana but it is his understanding the current equipment would continue to be used and moved to the new water storage tank from the current zone 3 tank.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

New Business:

Councilmember Koczur moved to approve the appointment of John O'Toole to the Zoning Commission. Councilmember Campbell seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Esser moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 20-02, repealing Ordinance 99-05. Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-R08, designating official posting places for the City of Colstrip notices. Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: Attorney Ryder suggested making the effective date July 1 after the effective date of the repealed ordinance.

Councilmember Esser moved to amend the resolution for effective date of July 1. Councilmember Koczur seconded the amendment.

Public Comment: None received.

Amendment carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams asked for any additional discussion from City Council or comments from the public. None was received.

Motion carried as amended with all in favor.

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve an Interlocal Agreement with Colstrip Public Schools for shared services. Councilmember Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Esser moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-R09, authorizing the payment of claims when the City Council is unable to meet. Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve Engineering Task Order No. 29 with Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson for improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$149,684.00.

Councilmember Esser seconded.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Administrative Matters: None.

Adjournment:

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer