

City Council Meeting
May 25, 2021

Present: Mayor John Williams, Councilmembers Mike Esser, Wayne Dudley, Dan Becker and Greg Koczur

Also Present: Assistant Police Chief Kris Egan, 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.

Consent Agenda:

Councilmember Esser moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion. Discussion: None. No comments from the public were made. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 5/11/21 Regular Meeting
- Claims Roster 5/19/21

Departmental Reports:

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

Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Williams distributed the plaintiff's response to the City's Motion to File an Amicus Brief in support of mining Area F/Westmoreland 's coal mine.

The Montana Supreme Court has dismissed the lawsuit filed by former Police Chief Larry Reinlasoder against the City of Colstrip.

Mayor Williams reported the dates were incorrect on the Special Event Permit approved at the previous City Council meeting. The dates are June 25 & 26 instead of June 24 & 25.

A Town Hall Meeting with Senator Ankney, Senator Small and Representative Custer was held last week at City Hall. Unfortunately, due to term limits Senator Ankney will no longer be able to represent Southeastern Montana.

Public Comment:

Jim Atchison, Executive Director of Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC), stated SEMDC is in favor of the PASER Study and applying for a Community Development Block Grant Program Planning Grant to help fund it. SEMDC is requesting a letter of support to submit to the Big Sky Trust Fund for the Hydrogen Feasibility Study. There are ten companies looking at Colstrip for value-added energy opportunities. Visit Southeastern Montana quarterly board meeting will be held

in Colstrip at City Hall on June 16, 2021. Vantage Point has finished phase two of the broadband feasibility study. Range Telephone Cooperative is interested in the report from this study. The Regional Marketing Campaign Launch will be held the end of June. The Energy Park Engineering Plan has been presented to the property owners of the proposed location. Colstrip Days will be held June 25-27, 2021 along with an All-Class Reunion.

Doug Whitney, engineer with KLJ Engineering, gave an update on projects they are working on for the City of Colstrip. Councilmember Becker complimented the improvements made at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

New Business:

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve the Special Event Permit Application for the Miner House to have a street dance and outdoor bar on June 26, 2021. Councilmember Becker seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Esser moved to approve sewer collection system maintenance with PACE Construction in an amount not to exceed \$25,000. Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Esser moved to reconsider the Pavement Maintenance & Rating Study.

Councilmember Becker seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Koczur asked if there is a guaranty the City would be successful in obtaining the CDBG Planning Grant. Mayor Williams explained there is no guaranty but if the City applies for half of the cost rather than the maximum grant amount of \$50,000, it would be beneficial. Councilmember Becker read through the City of Laurel's PASER Study and stated having the PASER Study in the past would have saved the City of Colstrip money. Councilmember Koczur asked what exactly would be done during this study; what would the City get for \$59,000. Doug Whitney, engineer with KLJ Engineering, explained what is included in the study. Mayor Williams explained due to the CDBG grant requirements, the City of Colstrip will have to put out a public Request for Proposals to conduct the PASER Study. KLJ Engineering is not guaranteed to be conducting the study. The City will have to go through the selection process to determine who will conduct the study.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Esser made a motion to move forward with the Pavement Maintenance & Rating Study (PASER) contingent upon the award of a CDBG Planning Grant. Councilmember Becker seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve submitting a Planning Grant application to the Community Development Block Grant Program for the PASER Study in the amount of \$29,500 or 50% of the estimated cost of the study. Councilmember Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Adjournment:

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:02 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer

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