City Council Meeting
August 26, 2025

Present: Mayor John Williams, Councilmembers Greg Koczur, Wayne Dudley and Jack Rosander

Absent: Councilmember Rose Hanser

Also Present: Police Chief Cory Hert, Public Works Director Pat Zent, Fire Chief Tony Reda and City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards

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

Consent Agenda:

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion. Discussion: None. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 08/12/25 Regular Meeting
- Claims #31951-31987 $404,064.66
- Payroll Summary 08/15/25 $117,189.17

Department Reports:

Reports were presented by Police Chief Hert, Fire Chief Reda, Public Works Director Zent and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards.

Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Williams shared the Montana Legislative report on the distribution of the Coal Several Tax Trust Fund with City Council. Money is being set aside from this fund for the water infrastructure mitigation account recently created by the Montana Legislature.

Mayor Williams will be attending the Energy & Telecommunications Legislative Committee in Helena on September 9th and testifying regarding BNSF's permitting process.

A reporter from the Seattle Times will be here this week conducting interviews

Mayor Williams reminded City Council to register for the Montana League of Cities & Towns Conference in October in Billings.

Public Comment & Participation:

Jim Atchison, Executive Director of Southeastern Montana Development Corporation, thanked Mayor Williams for assisting with the Energy Open Conference and to the City Council for being a co-sponsor of the banquet. Jim will be giving his annual membership presentation at the council's next regular meeting.

Doug Whitney, Municipal Infrastructure Consulting, addressed the City Council regarding the task orders on the council's agenda. He recommends the City Council move forward with the task orders.

Public Hearings:
Mayor Williams opened the public hearing for the 2025 Growth Policy Update at 7:18 pm.
Jim Atchison, Southeastern Montana Development Corporation, would like to add some comments in the growth policy and supports the adoption of the policy.
Michelle Richards, 422 Woodrose, submitted written comments to the City Council on the growth policy.
Mayor Williams closed the hearing at 7:23 pm.

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing on the 2025-2026 Preliminary Budget at 7:23 pm.
No comments were received either orally or in writing.
Mayor Williams closed the hearing at 7:24 pm.

New Business:
Councilmember Koczur moved to approve Resolution 2025-R09, adopting the 2025-2026 FY Budget.
Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.
Discussion: None.
Public Comment: None.
Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve Resolution 2025-R10, setting the mill levies for 2025-2026 fiscal year. Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.
Discussion: None.
Public Comment: None.
Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Koczur moved to approve Resolution 2025-R11, setting the compensation and staffing level for officers and employees of the City of Colstrip.
Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.
Discussion: None.
Public Comment: None.
Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Rosander moved to approve Resolution 2025-R12, establishing the Street Light Assessment mill levy at 6.29 mills for fiscal year 2026. Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.
Discussion: None.
Public Comment: None.
Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Koczur moved to approve Resolution 2025-R13, approving the funding contribution for the Schoolhouse History and Art Center.
Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.
Discussion: None.
Public Comment: Kayla de la Ossa, Executive Director of Schoolhouse History and Art Center, thanked the city council for their support.
Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve Resolution 2025-R14, intent to assess Solid Waste Collection Assessments. Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.
Discussion: None.
Public Comment: None.
Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Rosander moved to approve Resolution 2025-R15, levying assessments for delinquent water and sewer charges. Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.
Discussion: None.
Public Comment: None.
Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve Resolution 2025-R16, levying assessments for unpaid mowing charges. Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.
Discussion: None.
Public Comment:
Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Rosander moved to approve Special Events Permit for the Brewfest on September 27, 2025, at the Rye Park Pavilion. Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.
Discussion: None.
Public Comment: None.
Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Rosander moved to approve Change Order No. 3 w/TW Ridley on the Business Innovation Center in the amount of $100,682.24 to comply with Davis Bacon Wage Rate and Montana Prevailing Wage Rate requirements. Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.
Discussion: Councilmember Rosander asked for clarification on the dollar amount. Mayor Williams explained the first change order on this project was a decrease of $25,000 due to wage rate adjustments and this change order is an increase of $100,682.24 for a net increase of approximately $75,000. Councilmember Koczur asked why the project wasn't bid with the correct wage rates and why the architect didn't make sure it was done right. Councilmember Dudley asked if the employees of the contractor and sub-contractors will get back pay. Mayor Williams clarified the employees have been paid correctly, but the bid did not reflect the accurate rates. Funding for this change order will come from the project contingency fund and not from city tax dollars.
Public Comment: None.
Councilmembers Dudley and Rosander voted in favor. Councilmember Koczur voted nay. Motion carried 2-1.

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve Task Order No. 45 with KLJ Engineering for the Chisholm and Primrose Steet Improvements in the amount of $105,700. Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.
Discussion: None.
Public Comment: None.
Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Rosander moved to approve Task Order No. 46 with KLJ Engineering for 2026 Pavement Improvements in the amount of $110,960.
Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.
Discussion: None.
Public Comment: None.
Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer