

City Council Meeting  
August 8, 2023

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

Also Present: Police Chief Cory Hert, Planning/Zoning/Code Official Kami Egan, Fire Chief Tony Reda, Attorney Michelle Sullivan 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 Hanser moved approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion. No discussion by council members. No comments from the public received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 7/25/23 Regular Meeting
- Claims #29663-29715                      \$270,844.46
- Payroll Summary 8/4/23                \$105,200.62
- Journal Voucher Nos. 2023-03, 2023-04, 2023-05

**Department Reports:**

Reports were presented by Police Chief Hert, Planning/Zoning/Code Official Egan, Fire Chief Reda, City Attorney Sullivan and Clerk/Treasurer Richards.

**Mayor's Communications:**

There are multiple issues with Colstrip Comm Serv managed properties in regards to management of their tenants, water and sewer accounts and proper grounds maintenance. Colstrip Comm Serv manages properties owned by the power plant owners. The Deputy Clerks and the Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer spend a lot of time explaining policies, rules and regulations.

Two grant applications were submitted by the City of Colstrip to the Montana Coal Board for consideration at their September meeting.

Dan Negethon prepared a report on the Water Pipeline from the Yellowstone River to Colstrip. The report has been submitted to Montana Department of Environmental Quality for inclusion in the water feasibility study discussion.

Mayor Williams has submitted a proposal to the City Council for reinstating the Animal Control Officer on a part-time basis and changing the City Code to require leashes. Dogs running at large and unlicensed dogs have become an issue even though we have an ordinance addressing this. CPRD's

picnic area at Castle Rock Lake is outside city limits but there may be options available for extending the city's jurisdiction. Councilmember Hanser commented she doesn't see how this will lessen the amount of time the court spends on animal violations. Councilmember Rosander is not sure a part-time animal control officer is going to make a difference. He pointed out the statistics provided by Police Chief Hert equate to only 2 animal related calls per week. He asked what happens when an issue arises when the officer is not on duty. Police Chief Hert stated the police officers will still respond when the animal control officer is not on duty. Councilmember Rosander also commented on the prosecution of city code violations.

**Public Hearing:**

Mayor Williams opened the hearing at 7:42 pm on the garage size variance request and pole barn variance for 2511 Laredo Court. No comments were received either orally or in writing. Mayor Williams closed the hearing at 7:43 pm.

**Public Comment & Participation:**

Jody Williams reported she has been knocked down by dogs on the walking path around the lake more than once. She is in support of requiring dogs be leashed.

Jim Atchison, Southeastern Montana Development Corporation, reminded everyone of the Energy Open Conference this week on August 10 & 11, 2023 and thanked the City of Colstrip for its co-sponsorship of the banquet. U.S. Representative Matt Rosendale will be at the conference. Chris Dorrington, head of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, will be the keynote speaker. The bid package for the Business Innovation Center will be going out as soon as the permits are approved.

**New Business:**

Planning/Zoning/Code Official Egan introduced the variance request submitted by Chris and Darren Grant and Dixie Burch. Councilmember Dudley moved to approve a variance for a pole barn and a variance to the garage size limitation for a 2,560 square foot garage at 2511 Laredo Court.

Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Rosander moved to approve the Grounds Maintenance Contract with Haulin Grass LLC for City Hall, the Schoolhouse History Center and numerous street boulevards in the amount of \$871 per week plus sprinkler repair labor and parts. Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Rosander asked who decides when the season starts and ends and who is responsible for administering the contract. Mayor Williams explained the Public Works Director is in charge of administering the contract and work schedule. Councilmember Dudley asked if the contract includes cleaning up leaves and pine needles, how the cost compares to the previous contractor and if this business has references. Mayor Williams responded the contract does include the leaves/pine needles, the cost is about \$20 more per week and the business owners are the same people who worked for the previous contractor and are present at the meeting.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Hanser moved to approve the appointment of Kathy McLane to the Rosebud Conservation District as a representative of the City of Colstrip. Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer

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