

City Council Meeting December 27, 2023

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

Also Present: Zoning/Planning/Code Official Kami Egan, Public Works Director Pat Zent and City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards completed Roll Call.

Consent Agenda:

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion. No comments from the public received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 12/12/23 Regular Meeting
- Claims #30095-30134 \$137,711.21
- Payroll Summary 12/8/23 \$101,647.43
- Journal Voucher Nos. 2023-06 & 2023-07

Departmental Reports:

Reports were presented by Zoning/Planning/Code Official Egan, Public Works Director Zent and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards.

Mayor's Communications:

The City of Colstrip was served with a lawsuit regarding a property on Cimarron Drive that was flooded last year.

Mayor Williams asked for the City Council's concurrence of providing a \$200 bonus to city employees along with City Attorney Michelle Sullivan, Prosecuting Attorney Hannah Schantz, Building Inspector Russell Murphy and Consultant Doug Whitney. Councilmember Rosander moved to approve the Mayor's request. Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Public Comment & Participation:

Jack Rosander, Colstrip Council Member, submitted a written statement regarding accusations made during public comment at the October 24, 2023 City Council meeting. Two council members were accused of violating political campaign practices during the recent City Council election. The Commission of Political Practices conducted an investigation and determined no campaign violations occurred. Wayne Dudley, Colstrip City Council Member, stated he was also cleared by the Commission of Political Practices and did not violate any campaign laws.

Jim Atchison, Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC), updated the City Council on the bid process for the Business Innovation Center. Jim thanked the City of Colstrip for writing a letter of support to the US Department of Energy for SEMDC. SEMDC wrote a Coal Board grant application for the City of Colstrip's PASER Study which was approved by the Coal Board at their last meeting.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Councilmember Hanser moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-R20, to surplus a Dodge RAM police vehicle. Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Rosander asked about the value of the vehicle. Councilmember Rosander asked about the donation request of the vehicle and the importance of the vehicle staying in Colstrip. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards explained the process to donate the vehicle to Rosebud County. Councilmember Hanser asked if the vehicle is donated, placing a requirement that the vehicle is stored in Colstrip.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Public Works Director Zent submitted a list of potential projects for the utilization of funds provided by HB355, the State and Local Infrastructure Partnership Act of 2023. The City of Colstrip will receive \$160,000 from this program. A 25% match of the total project cost is required as part of this project. City Council discussed the various projects submitted.

Councilmember Hanser moved to accept the project list submitted by Public Works Director Zent for the HB355 State and Local Infrastructure Partnership Act and move forward with the process. Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Hanser asked about prioritizing the list of projects. It was decided to wait until the public hearing that will be held later in the process.

Public Comment: Jim Atchison, SEMDC, is in full support and agreement with the list of projects and moving forward with the process to obtain the funding provided by HB355.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 10:52 am.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer