

City Council Meeting
March 26, 2024

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

Also Present: Police Chief Cory Hert, Planning/Zoning/Code Official Kami Egan, City Attorney Michelle Sullivan, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards and Public Works Director Pat Zent

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 Hanser seconded the motion. Discussion: None. No comments from the public received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 3/12/24 Regular Meeting
- Claims #30364-30392 \$65,112.76
- Payroll Summary 3/15/24 \$98,204.29

Department Reports:

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

Mayor's Communications:

First Aid/CPR Training was conducted last week for sixteen city employees. Those that attended the training are certified for 3 years.

Mayor Williams met last week with the Department of Nuclear Energy regarding their Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN) Program along with Representative Gary Parry and NorthWestern Energy employees. Possible pilot program in Colstrip

A grant request has been submitted for a Montana Community Reinvestment planning grant to update the city's growth policy. This is in addition to the CDBG Planning grant request.

KLJ Engineering will be presenting the results of the PASER Study they recently completed on the city's street infrastructure at the April 9th City Council meeting.

Work continues on updating the city's Capital Improvement Plan.

Mayor Williams updated the Montana Coal Board on the status of the city's projects at their last meeting.

Elected Officials Training will be held during the annual Municipal Institute in May. A Municipal Summit will be held in Miles City in May hosted by the Local Government Center, League of Cities and Towns and Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority.

Mayor Williams requested the approval of his appointment of Leslie Hull to the Cemetery Board. Councilmember Dudley moved to confirm Mayor Williams' appointment of Leslie Hull to the Cemetery Board. Councilmember Hanser seconded the motion.

No discussion.

No public comment received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

The Colstrip Days Committee of the Quality of Life Corporation is busy planning the annual event in June.

Public Comment & Participation:

Jim Atchison, Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC), reported Range Telephone will start planning for installation of broadband/fiber optic service in Colstrip next month. Installation is planned to begin this summer but service will not actually start until spring of 2025. Construction is being paid for by grant funding that SEMDC obtained in last year's legislative session. Unfortunately there is not enough grant funding to provide service to the entire town at this time but SEMDC is working on obtaining grant funding for the rest of the town.

Unfinished Business:

Councilmember Hanser moved to remove the Business Innovation Center Bid from the table.

Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Rosander moved to reject the bid submitted by TW Ridley for the Business Innovation Center.

Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Hanser asked if there was any explanation given for the high bid. No explanation was given and the architect was very surprised. Contractors are very busy right now and hopefully if the project is rebid in the fall the bids will be lower.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer