

City Council Meeting
April 22, 2025

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

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

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. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 4/8/25 Regular Meeting
- Claims #31560-31591 \$ 67,824.72
- Payroll Summary 04/11/25 \$112,208.96
- Journal Voucher No. 2025-02

Department Reports:

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

Mayor's Communications:

There is a change order to reduce the contract with TW Ridley due to the difference in Davis-Bacon versus Montana Prevailing Wage labor rates.

A deer management plan meeting is scheduled at City Hall on April 30th.

The annual ash remediation meeting hosted by Montana Department of Environmental Quality will be Thursday, April 24 at 6:00 pm at City Hall.

A grant application to update Colstrip's Economic Diversification Strategy has been submitted to the Montana Coal Board in the amount of \$30,000.

On May 2, the technical study on Nuclear Small Modular Reactor will be released and presented at the Colstrip High School. The next morning there will be a question-and-answer session at City Hall beginning at 10:00 am.

There is a vacancy on the city's Police Commission. The city will be advertising for anyone interested in serving on the commission.

Public Comment & Participation: None.

Unfinished Business:

Councilmember Hanser made a motion to remove Task Order No. 45 with KIJ Engineering for Cemetery Paving from the table. Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Rosander moved to approve Task Order No. 45 with KIJ Engineering for paving the cemetery in the amount of \$72,000. Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: Ryan Welch, engineer with KIJ Engineering, addressed the City Council regarding the task order. Ryan provided a breakdown of the \$72,000 and each task involved, which includes project management, survey design, construction staking, preliminary and final design, bidding and construction management. The paving is estimated to take four weeks. Councilmember Rosander asked for a rough estimate of the cost to gravel the cemetery instead of pavement. Ryan met with the Cemetery Board last week and asked what they are trying to solve or what is the issue. The current gravel road is in good condition but the board is trying to beautify the cemetery so this is an aesthetic project. Mayor Williams commented on the difficulty of maneuvering a person in a wheelchair in the gravel to access the burial plots. Councilmember Dudley commented that even if the entire road is paved, there is no asphalt to or in between the burial plots. There will still be grass, snow, etc to deal with. Paving will be a nicety and make it pretty but will not release the city from liability if someone is injured. Councilmember Hanser commented a pavilion is planned that could be utilized by those in wheelchairs and having the parking area and access to the pavilion paved is important. Councilmember Rosander corrected his comment from the previous meeting about other cemeteries in Eastern Montana not being paved. Part of the cemetery in Forsyth is paved. Councilmember Dudley feels the questions from the last meeting have not been answered, particularly the cost of a gravel option. And tonight, options of concrete and mag chloride were brought up. He would like to postpone action until all of the questions have been answered. Ryan Welch reported the difference in cost was provided to Mayor Williams: \$59 for 8" of gravel and 4" of asphalt versus \$19 for 12" of gravel which equates to an approximate difference of \$150,000-\$200,00.

Public Comment: Joan Hantz, 7441 Castle Rock Lake Drive and member of the Cemetery Board, stated they prefer asphalt but there have been conversations about concrete or mag chloride as options.

Councilmembers Koczur and Dudley voted against the motion. Councilmembers Rosander and Hanser voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Williams broke the tie and voted in favor. Motion carried.

New Business: None.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer