

City Council Meeting December 12, 2023

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

Also Present: Assistant Fire Chief Ethan Gardner, Assistant Police Chief Kris Egan, City Attorney Michelle Sullivan, Public Works Director Pat Zent 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. No comments from the public received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 11/28/23 Regular Meeting
- Claims #30038-30093 \$88,414.65
- Payroll Summary 11/24/23 \$107,256.44

Department Reports:

Reports were presented by Assistant Police Chief Egan, Assistant Fire Chief Gardner, City Attorney Sullivan, Public Works Director Zent and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards.

Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Williams and the City Council presented a \$5,000 check to the Quality of Life Corporation for the 2024 Colstrip Days Celebration. Bill Neumiller, President of the Quality of Life Corporation, explained 15 years ago this group took over organizing the annual Colstrip Days celebration. Bill recognized community members who helped with the 100 Year Centennial Celebration this past June and thanked everyone for their time and dedication to this event.

Mayor Williams will be attending the quarterly Montana Coal Board meeting on Thursday, December 14th in Billings and the Southeastern Montana Development Corporation Board meeting on December 13th in Broadus.

A letter of support was written for a \$50,000 grant that Rosebud County is submitting to the US Department of Energy primarily in support of Southeastern Montana Development Corporation.

Mayor Williams asked for the City Council's concurrence of declaring Friday, December 22, 2023 a paid holiday for city employees. He also asked City Council's approval to move the December 26th regular meeting to December 27th at 10:00 am.

Councilmember Hanser moved to approve the Mayor's request to declare Friday, December 22, 2023 as a paid holiday this year. Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.
Discussion: Councilmember Rosander asked if this is something previously done. Mayor Williams confirmed that this has been done in previous years.
Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Rosander moved to reschedule the December 26, 2023 regular meeting to December 27, 2023 at 10:00 am. Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.
Discussion: None.
Public Comment: None.
Motion carried with all in favor.

Public Comment & Participation:

Jim Atchison, Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC), presented a certificate of appreciation to the city for renewing its membership with SEMDC. Jim distributed the updated 2023 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the City of Colstrip. The bid documents for the Business Innovation Center are currently being reviewed by the EDA and once approved the project will be formally bid out.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-R19, intent to establish cemetery fees for the Colstrip Cemetery as recommended by the Cemetery Board. Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.
Discussion: Councilmember Rosander asked if the Cemetery Board canvassed fees charged by other towns. Mayor Williams verified they did.
Public Comment: None.
Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Hanser moved to approve the purchase of a mini-excavator in the amount of \$79,500 from Bobcat of Miles City LLC. Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.
Discussion: Councilmember Dudley asked where the excavator will be stored. Public Works Director Zent explained it will be stored at the Public Works Shop most of the time.
Public Comment: None.
Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams expressed his appreciation to the City Council members for their commitment to Colstrip's residents with their involvement and improvement of services provided by the city. He also expressed his appreciation for all of the efforts made by city employees to provide quality service and thanked the many volunteers and board members that serve the city.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:41 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer