

City Council Meeting
May 14, 2024

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

Also Present: Police Chief Cory Hert, Fire Chief Tony Reda, 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 Koczur seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilmember Hanser asked about the claim to NorthWestern Energy in regards to the street lights. No comments from the public received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 4/23/24 Regular Meeting
- Claims #30492-30563 \$161,356.46
- Payroll Summary 4/26/24 \$105,332.56
- Journal Voucher No. 2024-04

Department Reports:

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

Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Williams will be out-of-state from May 21 – June 2, 2024. Council President Hanser will also be gone and unable to chair the City Council meeting on May 28, 2024. Councilmember Dudley was selected to chair the May 28th City Council meeting.

The following employees were recognized for their Years of Service with the City of Colstrip:
5 Years of Service: Christian Kappel, Penny McPherson and James Saylor
10 Years of Service: Amy Koski and Cameron Rogers

Public Comment & Participation:

Duane Ankney, former Senator for District 20, thanked the City Council for sponsoring his attendance at the Energy Communities Alliance in Kennewick, WA. The conference focused on informing local and state government officials on nuclear energy opportunities. Representatives from several states were in attendance along with some economic development groups. No one from Montana's state government attended the conference. Mr. Ankney reported there were several excellent presentations. The US Department of Energy pledged assistance in obtaining permits. It was noted that recent new EPA mercury standards target Colstrip's power plant. Transitioning to nuclear energy is a long-range opportunity in the future. Approximately 47% of

employees who work at a coal-fired steam electric power plant have the experience to work at a nuclear energy plant. Nuclear energy plants also require more security type employment positions so there would be more jobs available.

Jim Atchison, Southeastern Montana Development Corporation, also attended the Energy Communities Alliance with Duane Ankney and reported a very productive trip. The Business Innovation Center is on hold at this time.

Doug Whitney, Municipal Infrastructure Consulting, presented the final version of the city's updated Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Whitney explained and reviewed the contents of the plan with the council.

Joe Novasio stated his appreciation for Jim and Duane's attendance at the conference in Washington. He is disappointed in the City Council for not getting more involved. He feels the council needs to get people involved and educated. The town is going nowhere and the council is doing a poor job of getting people involved, utilizing community members and communicating to the public.

New Business:

Councilmember Hanser moved to approve the renewal of the Tower Lease with Wisp West-Gallatin Wireless. Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Dudley asked about length of term of the lease, effective date and if payment was been made. Mayor Williams explained the lease is for five years and is retroactive to November 1, 2023.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve Task Order No. 1 with Great West Engineering for Sludge Management Equipment Pilot Testing in an amount not to exceed \$32,000.

Councilmember Hanser seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Koczur asked why we are paying \$32,000 to test someone else's equipment and then we have to pay them to buy the equipment. Doug Whitney explained the study is to determine which process is more suitable to handle the type of sludge we have. The engineers will prepare a report after the conclusion of the pilot testing. Great West Engineering is an engineering firm and does not sell any equipment. The study and development of a facility plan will take approximately two years to complete and then the project will go out to bid after DEQ approval. Councilmember Dudley asked if we have checked with other cities to see what they do with their sludge instead of reinventing the wheel.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer