

City Council Meeting October 22, 2024

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

Also Present: Police Chief Cory Hert, City Attorney Michelle Sullivan, Fire Chief Tony Reda, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards and Public Works Lead Operator Christian Kappel

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 10/8/24 Regular Meeting
- Claims #31011-31048 \$ 93,808.53
- Payroll Summary 10/11/24 \$ 99,238.43

Department Reports:

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

Mayor's Communications:

Mayor Williams recognized city employees with 20 years or more of service with the City of Colstrip. Cory Hert, Lisa Demaniow, Noreen Landwehr, Kris Egan and Don Purdon recently completed 20 years of service in the Police Department. Michelle Richards has served 25 years as the city's Clerk/Treasurer.

Governor Gianforte will be in Colstrip Thursday, October 24 at 10:00 am to celebrate the construction of the North Plains Connector electric transmission line by Grid United.

Public Comment & Participation:

Doug Whitney of Municipal Consultants updated the City Council on public works projects he is assisting with.

Jim Atchison, Southeastern Montana Development Corporation, reported on his trip to West Virginia as part of the Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities (BRECC) Program. He also went to Idaho Falls, ID to attend the Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference. Jim was invited to attend and represent an impacted coal community on a panel called "Special Session-Role of Coal Stations in Future Energy Systems." Jim also recently met with a major data center developer who is interested in Colstrip. Jim updated the City Council on the Business Innovation Center project and funding sources. Due to the original bids coming in higher than anticipated, more funds from the Economic Development Administration will be requested. However a 20% match is required along with a letter of commitment of the match funding. A \$327,000 grant will be applied for through

the Montana Coal Board in December. Jim requested the City of Colstrip provide the commitment letter and sponsor the Coal Board grant application for the 20% match of \$327,000.

New Business:

Councilmember Rosander moved to approve the Lobbyist Agreement with Duane Ankney for the 2025 Montana Legislative Session.

Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: The agreement is limited to 20 days of services during the session.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve the appointment of Mary Kay Bullard to the city's Police Commission.

Councilmember Hanser seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Hanser moved to approve Change Order No. 1 to the Crack Sealing Contract with Harddrives Construction in the amount of \$50,000.

Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve Task Order No. 31 with KLJ Engineering for a Septic Dumping Alternatives Tech Memo in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: Consulting Engineer Doug Whitney explained the need for this memo. The area where the city allows septic haulers to dump will need to cease and other alternatives explored if the city wishes to continue accepting sewage from septic tank haulers. Councilmember Rosander commented the city is currently charging \$20.00 per load.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Koczur moved to approve the appointment of City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards as the ex-officio member of the Local Government Study Commission.

Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:22 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer