

## City Council Meeting March 10, 2026

Present: Mayor John Williams, Councilmembers Wayne Dudley, Zane Longacre, Jack Rosander and Corrie Hadaller

Also Present: Fire Chief Tony Reda, Assistant Police Chief Kris Egan, Zoning/Planning/Code Officer Kami Egan, Public Works Director Pat Zent and City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7: 00 pm. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Councilmember Longacre offered the invocation. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards completed Roll Call.

### **Consent Agenda:**

Councilmember Longacre moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion. Discussion: None. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 2/24/26 Regular Meeting
- Claims #32535-32584 \$259,585.48
- Payroll Summary 2/27/26 \$129,562.92

### **Department Reports:**

Reports were presented by Assistant Police Chief Egan, Zoning/Planning/Code Enforcement Officer Egan, Fire Chief Reda, Public Works Director Zent, and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards.

Councilmember Rosander thanked Assistant Police Chief Egan for dealing with junk vehicles and vehicles parked illegally. He also wants to recognize Officer Hitt for dealing with a dog-at-large issue in his neighborhood.

### **Mayor's Communications:**

House Bill 368 Amendments meeting yesterday at City Hall with House of Representative Gary Parry along with the owner representatives from the power plant and City of Colstrip representatives.

Jennifer Olson from MT League of Cities and Towns facilitated the meeting.

The next meeting will be in Helena with the Energy and Telecommunications Committee.

The Bid Invitation has been released on the 2026 Pavement Improvements Project with a pre-bid meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup> and bid opening on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Two reimbursements from the EDA have been received for the construction of the Business Innovation Center with another reimbursement currently being processed.

NorthWestern Energy has invited local government representatives to a meeting in Billings on March 19<sup>th</sup> in regards to their energy plan, acquisition and transition plan for their increased ownership share of the Colstrip power plant, and data centers.

The *Independent Press* published the Mayor's Letter to the Editor along with the picture of the check presentation for the \$100,000 grant from the Colstrip Impact Foundation to the Cemetery Board.

Dan Negethon has resigned from the Cemetery Board. The Cemetery Board meets again tomorrow at 1:30 pm.

Mayor Williams attended the Executive Forum last week with other Mayors and City Managers in the state. He shared information about issues between sheriff's departments and police departments over cost sharing and jurisdiction responsibilities. The MSU Local Government Center prepared an Academic White Paper addressing points of concern and will be moderating discussions between municipalities and counties.

**Public Comment & Participation:**

Doug Martens announced he is running for Senate District 18. He plans on attending city council meetings and get caught up on the issues.

Jim Atchison, Executive Director of Southeastern Montana Development Corporation, reported the Governor's Energy Task Force will be meeting April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Business Innovation Center. Jim requested the city's support for the Economic Diversification Strategy Update task order that will be on the council's next meeting agenda.

**New Business:**

Councilmember Longacre moved to approve the purchase of chlorine analyzers from In Control, Inc. in the amount of \$56,838.00 for the water treatment plant.

Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: Public Works Director Zent explained the Montana Department of Environmental Quality is requiring additional monitoring at the water plant. Mayor Williams stated we will be applying for a grant from the Montana Coal Board at their June meeting to help fund the expenses associated with the new monitoring requirements.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Rosander moved to approve the proposal from Colstrip Electric for plumbing and electrical services in the amount of \$72,314 to install the chlorine analyzers at the water treatment plant. Councilmember Hadaller seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams distributed proposed revisions to the city's sidewalk ordinance for council's review. These revisions are based on the city's past practice of handling sidewalks and suggested language recently received from MMIA. This will be on the next council meeting agenda.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.