

City Council Meeting
July 25, 2023

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

Also Present: Planning/Zoning/Code Official Kami Egan, Fire Chief Tony Reda, 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 approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Hanser seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilmembers Hanser and Dudley had questions on some of the claims. No comments from the public received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 7/11/23 Regular Meeting
- Claims #29630-29662 \$117,148.91
- Payroll Summary 7/21/23 \$118,608.20

Department Reports:

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

Mayor's Communications:

A Municipal Summit was held last week at City Hall hosted by MMIA, Montana League of Cities and Towns and MSU Local Government Services.

Harassment, Diversification and Discrimination Training was conducted last week by MMIA for city employees.

A Water Feasibility Study meeting was held last week with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and power plant owners. The meeting included discussion on updating the city's water rights and future ownership of Castle Rock Lake. Mayor Williams participated in an ash remediation zoom meeting today, which included a discussion on water feasibility. Dan Negethon has put together a report on the condition of the water pipe line.

Public Hearing:

Mayor Williams opened the hearing at 7:22 pm for the Pole Barn and Size Limitation Variance Request for 21 Wildhorse Road. No comments were received either orally or in writing. Mayor Williams closed the hearing at 7:22 pm.

Public Comment & Participation:

Jim Atchison, Southeastern Montana Development Corporation, invited the City Council and members of the public to the Energy Open Conference and Golf Tournament to be held August 10 & 11, 2023. The permitting process has been started for the Business Innovation Center. SEMDC will be assisting the City of Colstrip with a Coal Board grant for a small excavator.

Pat Campbell, 4417 Remington Drive, commented on the public interest in the Public Works Department vehicle that was stolen recently.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Planning/Zoning/Code Official Egan introduced the variance request submitted by Richard and Barbara Vasicek. The property owners did not provide any additional comments.

Councilmember Hanser moved to approve the Pole Barn and Size Limitation Variance Request for 21 Wildhorse Road. Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Dudley asked about public notification of this request. Planning/Zoning/Code Official Egan posted a notice at the property and a legal notice was put in the newspaper for 3 weeks.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Rosander moved to renew the prosecution services contract with Hanna Schantz for two years at \$2,675 per month.

Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Rosander commented on the positive feedback and compliments he has received regarding Hanna. He requested the city code violations be dealt with in addition to the criminal cases Hanna prosecutes.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve audit services contract with Olness & Associates for fiscal years 2023, 2024 & 2025. Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Hanser moved to approve the appointments of Tasha Miller, Rick McCulloch, Janet Whiteaker, Dan Negethon and Joan Hantz to the Colstrip Cemetery Board.

Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Hanser asked for clarification that the Cemetery Board's meetings will be open to the public and they are an advisory group with no decision-making authority. Mayor Williams confirmed.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve the appointment of Kathy McLane to the Police Commission. Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Koczur approve Engineering Task Order No. 39 with KLJ Engineering on the North End Water Loop project in the amount of \$133,000.

Councilmember Hanser seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Dudley asked about the timeline for this project. McKenzie Butcher, KLJ Engineering, explained design engineering is expected to be done by October and it will then be submitted to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Hopefully DEQ's review will be completed in December so that the bidding process can be done in January.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer