

City Council Meeting
February 28, 2023

Present: Mayor John Williams, Councilmembers Rose Hanser, Mike Esser and Wayne Dudley

Absent: Councilmember Greg Koczur

Also Present: Assistant Police Chief Kris 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 Esser moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Hanser seconded the motion. No discussion. No comments from the public received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 2/14/23 Regular Meeting
- Claims #29161-29188 \$58,430.27
- Payroll Summary 2/17/23 \$98,329.02

Department Reports:

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

Mayor's Communications:

A meeting with the Rosebud County Commissioners is scheduled next week on March 7th regarding the Colstrip Cemetery and Law Enforcement Center.

Legislative activities have kept the Mayor busy, including bills pertaining to water/sewer and coal severance tax.

We received notification that our ARPA Minimum Allocation Grant submissions for the Water Clarifier Building Improvements and North End Water Loop projects have been approved.

Mayor Williams will be attending the Executive Forum in Helena the rest of the week.

Mayor Williams read a proclamation proclaiming a sisterhood between Colstrip and Foley, Minnesota. The Foley Brothers played a role in founding both of these cities. Foley Brothers entered into a mining contract with North Western Improvement, a subsidiary of the Northern Pacific Railway, for the mining of coal at Colstrip to fuel Northern Pacific locomotives.

Public Comment & Participation:

Patty Dunn explained a time capsule was being put together for SHAC when she discovered Suzanne Corrigan was originally from Foley, Minnesota, and the history of the Foley Brothers in relation to Colstrip.

Jim Atchison, Executive Director of South Eastern Montana Development Corporation, reported on activities related to the Montana Legislative Session. HB188 would extend the 5.8% funding level of the coal board another 8 years. Without the extension the funding rate would return to 2.9%. House Bill 284 provides for proactive planning for electrical suppliers. HB321 would create a sub-trust in the coal severance tax fund for additional funding to coal-impacted communities. The bill had been tabled but was removed from the table today. HB 355 would use some of the state’s surplus money and send back to the counties for maintaining/repairing water, sewer, bridges, roads, etc. HB 737, a bill revising laws related to coal fired generating unit remediation, was tabled in committee. Representative Gary Parry will be hosting a legislative update for the public at City Hall this Saturday, March 4th at City Hall.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve Resolution No. 2023/01, declaring authorized city officials as signers on city bank accounts.

Councilmember Esser seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer