

City Council Meeting
January 24, 2023

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

Also Present: Police Chief Cory Hert, City Attorney Michelle Sullivan, Public Works Director Pat Zent, Fire Chief Tony Reda 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 Dudley seconded the motion. Discussion: None. No comments from the public received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 1/10/23 Regular Meeting
- Claims #29064-29099 \$113,130.11
- Payroll Summary 1/20/23 \$99,670.21

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:

Word was received from the Rosebud County Commissioners that the second impact fee payment was received from NextEra Windfarm. Colstrip's share of this payment is \$173,250.

Over 300 people attended the Colstrip Legislative Reception in Helena last week. The transfer of Avista's ownership share in units 3 and 4 of the Colstrip power plant to NorthWestern Energy was announced and will occur in 2026. Representatives of all the power plants owners were present at the reception.

The Coal Board funding bill hearing in the Appropriations Committee is tomorrow afternoon. This bill is being sponsored by Representative Gary Parry.

Mayor Williams shared the Completeness Report on the Water Feasibility Study from Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

The City of Forsyth loaned us their vac truck and operator in order to fix the water leak on Castle Rock Lake Drive. Mayor Williams expressed his appreciation to the City of Forsyth.

Public Comment & Participation:

Jim Atchison, Executive Director of South Eastern Montana Development Corporation, updated the City Council on some of the legislative bills being considered by the Montana Legislature. Jim reported a fantastic legislative reception last week in Helena and almost every legislator was present. Former Senator Ankney was given a lifetime achievement award. SEMDC celebrated its 25-year anniversary last week. Design phase of the Business Innovation Center. Four responses were received

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Councilmember Koczur nominated Councilmember Dudley as Council Chairperson for 2023. Councilmember Dudley nominated Councilmember Hanser. No more nominations were received and nominations were closed. Councilmembers Esser and Hanser voted for Councilmember Dudley. Councilmembers Koczur and Dudley voted for Councilmember Hanser. Mayor Williams broke the tie and voted for Councilmember Hanser for Council Chairperson.

Council reviewed the current committee assignments. No changes were made.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:31 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer