

City Council Meeting
November 12, 2024

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

Absent: Councilmember Wayne Dudley

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

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards completed Roll Call.

Consent Agenda:

Councilmember Hanser moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion. No comments from the public received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 10/22/24 Regular Meeting
- Claims #31049-31116 \$131,018.53
- Payroll Summary 10/24/24 \$122,268.63

Department Reports:

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

Mayor's Communications:

The Department of Energy will be hosting a public scoping meeting in Colstrip tomorrow at City Hall for the North Plains Connector electric transmission line project.

The Local Government Study Commissioners will take the Oath of Office at the next City Council meeting. Dan Batie, Joe Novasio and Todd Olmstead were elected as study commissioners. Their first meeting is scheduled for the next day (November 27). Training is scheduled next month by the MSU Local Government Center.

The city received a letter from Montana DEQ regarding the North Plains Connector electric transmission line requesting input from local governments impacted by the project. Mayor Williams will submit a letter of support from the City of Colstrip.

The 2025 Colstrip Legislative Reception in Helena will be on February 3, 2025, hosted by the City of Colstrip.

Public Comment & Participation:

Jim Atchison, Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC), reported SEMDC submitted grant applications to the EDA and Montana Coal Board for the additional funding for the Business Innovation Center. Avista has purchased 10% of the North Plains Connector transmission line. The Big Sky Economic Development would like to hold a joint board meeting with SEMDC's board. They recognize the positive economic impact Colstrip has on Yellowstone County.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Councilmember Rosander moved to approve the reappointment of Duane Cole to the city's Police Commission for a three-year term.

Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Hanser moved to award the bid to Alpha Exteriors for re-siding the Schoolhouse History and Art Center (SHAC) in the amount of \$96,364.51.

Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: Kayla de la Ossa of SHAC addressed the City Council regarding the two bids received.

Big Sky Exteriors submitted a lower bid of \$93,745.01 did not bid the correct reveal of the siding to maintain the historical aesthetic of the building. Grant funding is being sought and the project is planned to be funded by grant monies and \$10,000 from SHAC's rainy day fund. Attorney Sullivan reviewed Montana Code bidding requirements. Even though this is not the lowest bid, she feels comfortable awarding the bid to Alpha Exteriors based on the type of siding requested by SHAC.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer