

City Council Meeting
February 14, 2023

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

Absent: Councilmembers Greg Koczur and Mike Esser

Also Present: Police Chief Cory Hert, Zoning/Planning/Code Official Kami Egan, Fire Chief Tony Reda and City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards

City Attorney Michelle Sullivan was available via speakerphone

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

Consent Agenda:

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Hanser seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilmember Dudley commented on the very high electric bill for the water treatment facility. No comments from the public received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 1/24/23 Regular Meeting
- Claims #29100-29160 \$154,508.03
- Payroll Summary 2/3/23 \$93,833.42

Department Reports:

Reports were presented by Police Chief Hert, Zoning/Planning/Code Official Egan, City Attorney Sullivan, Fire Chief Reda and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards.

Mayor's Communications:

The City of Colstrip has solicited twice for bids to replace a portion of the Sewer Main on Olive Drive. No bids were received either time. There is a potential company interested in bidding now so we will rebid it a third time.

Mayor Williams reported on the meeting with the Rosebud County Commissioners last week regarding the Colstrip Cemetery and the Law Enforcement Facility. Councilmember Hanser, members of the public and city employees participated in the meeting. Both properties are owned by Rosebud County. The commissioners would like to increase the lease payment paid by the City of Colstrip to the county for the law enforcement center, primarily due to the water and sewer monthly bill. The cemetery is poorly maintained and managed and there was discussion on transferring the cemetery to the City of Colstrip. Councilmember Hanser asked to be kept informed of the progress on the cemetery and any future meetings with the county commissioners.

Public Comment & Participation:

Jim Atchison, Executive Director of South Eastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC), reported on activities related to the Montana Legislative Session. SEMDC will hopefully be signing feasibility study contracts this week with companies regarding value-added energy commercial opportunities. SEMDC staff continues to meet with the architects on the design of the Business Innovation Center. Hopefully the Invitation to Bid for construction of the facility will be released in April. SEMDC and the Colstrip City Council will need to meet to finalize an operating agreement for the facility.

Rick McCulloch, 4323 Ballantine, asked about the cemetery and plots that have already been purchased. Mayor Williams stated plots will remain with those people that have purchased them. Mr. McCulloch also asked about the abandoned white car on the corner of Prospector and Chinook that he previously complained about several months ago. Another city resident has complained several times to the police department about this car also. He requested the city remove the abandoned car for the safety of city residents.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Councilmember Hanser moved to approve Task Order No. 2 with Municipal Infrastructure Consulting regarding the North Loop Water Line in the amount of \$8,600. Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None received.

Motion carried with all in favor.

City Council went into Executive Session at 7:30 pm

City Council returned from Executive Session at 7:37 pm.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer