

City Council Meeting  
April 9, 2024

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

Also Present: Police Chief Cory Hert, Zoning/Planning/Code Official Kami Egan, Fire Chief Tony Reda, City Attorney Michelle Sullivan, 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 Dudley moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion. Discussion: None. No comments from the public received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 3/26/24 Regular Meeting
- Claims #30393-30452                      \$48,208.98
- Payroll Summary 3/29/24                \$105,535.17

**Department Reports:**

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

**Mayor's Communications:**

Mayor Williams testified yesterday in opposition to a carbon tax rule-making petition that is being considered by the Montana Public Service Commission. Representative Parry also testified in opposition.

Councilmember Koczur and Mayor Williams listened in on a property tax discussion hosted by the Montana Tax Foundation.

On April 16<sup>th</sup> the Montana Department of Environmental Quality will have a quarterly remediation meeting at Colstrip City Hall.

Southeastern Montana Development Corporation will be having their quarterly board meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> at Colstrip City Hall.

There is a hearing this Thursday regarding administrative rule changes for the Montana Coal Board's application process. Mayor Williams has reviewed the proposed changes and feels the changes are favorable.

The Cemetery Board will meet tomorrow at the Colstrip Cemetery with a landscape engineer and then will go to Mulligans for lunch and discussion.

**Public Hearing:**

Mayor Williams opened the hearing on HB 355 State-Local Infrastructure Partnership Program at 7:18 pm. No comments were received either orally or in writing. Mayor Williams closed the hearing at 7:18 pm.

**Public Comment & Participation:**

Steve Grabill and Mickey Bidwell of KLJ Engineering gave a presentation on the Pavement Management Plan they recently completed on the city's streets. Two-thirds of the streets are in fairly good condition and just need preventative maintenance. The other third needs structural overlay or reconstruction. KLJ's plan brings the streets in Colstrip into good condition by 2030. KLJ recommends budgeting \$250,000 per year to set aside for street work. KLJ estimates the city would need to spend approximately \$1 million per year for the next six years to bring all the streets into good condition.

**Unfinished Business:**

Councilmember Dudley moved to select the replacement of the ten-inch water line by the wastewater plant for the HB 35 State-Local Infrastructure Partnership Program.

Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

**New Business:**

Councilmember Hanser moved to approve the police department's request to purchase five in-car video systems and installation in the amount of \$39,215.

Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Hanser appreciates Chief Hert's foresight to save the City of Colstrip \$16,000 by replacing the cameras now instead of waiting until the next fiscal year.

Councilmember Rosander asked if the current cameras are operational. The current cameras do work but are nine years old and have a life cycle of five years.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams asked to remove Task Order No. 1/Sludge Management Equipment Pilot Testing with Great West Engineering from the agenda. Council members had no objection.

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve Task Order No. 2 with Great West Engineering for a Best Management Practices Plan for the golf course.

Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Dudley asked if this plan is to come into compliance and if it has anything to do with the violation letter from MT Department of Environmental Quality. Mayor Williams and Public Works Director Zent confirmed this plan addresses the violation and will bring the city into compliance.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Hanser moved to approve Task Order No. 3 for On-call Engineering Services with Great West Engineering. Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve asphalt repairs by Top Gun Asphalt in the amount of \$58,500. Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.

Discussion: These street repairs are for portions of streets that need repaired due to the water leaks that occurred during the past year. Councilmember Dudley noted there is no breakdown on the bid and recommended in the future a breakdown be required

Public Comment: Joe Novasio suggested if a study on the water and sewer mains has not been done recently that it be considered before spending millions of dollars on street repairs so that new streets would not have to be dug into for water/sewer problems.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm.

---

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer