

City Council Meeting
March 24, 2026

Present: Mayor John Williams, Councilmembers Wayne Dudley, Jack Rosander and Corrie Hadaller

Absent: Councilmember Zane Longacre

Also Present: Police Chief Cory Hert, City Attorney Michelle Millhollin, Lead Water and Wastewater Operator Christian Kappel and City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7: 00 pm. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Williams offered the invocation. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards completed Roll Call.

Consent Agenda:

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion. Discussion: None. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 3/10/26 Regular Meeting
- Claims #32585-32617 \$ 39,835.42
- Payroll Summary 3/13/26 \$116,396.38

Department Reports:

Reports were presented by Police Chief Hert, City Attorney Millhollin, Lead Water and Wastewater Kappel and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards.

Mayor's Communications:

House Bill 368 Amendments is on the agenda of the Energy and Technology Interim Committee on March 26th. Mayor Williams provided copies of the latest unofficial draft copy of the proposed amendments to the City Council.

Mayor Williams attended the meeting sponsored by Honor the Earth held at City Hall last week regarding the impacts of nuclear energy and data centers.

Union Contracts expire on June 30, 2026 so negotiations will be starting soon.

Mayor Williams attended the March 19th meeting in Billings in regards to NorthWestern Energy's future plan for electrical energy in Montana and data centers. NorthWestern Energy's plans for property they purchased north of town is for a gas-fired power plant and nuclear power. They also plan on upgrading the existing electrical transmission lines.

Mayor Williams has been working with NorthWestern Energy the past year regarding the installation of a nesting platform for osprey at Castle Rock Lake. NorthWestern Energy has

been working with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and others to make sure osprey have safe places to nest. Colstrip Parks & Recreation District is planning to install a wildlife observation point at the lake.

The bid invitation has been released for the 2026 Pavement Improvements Project. Bid opening will be March 27th.

Public Comment & Participation: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Attorney Millhollin explained the current city code states that sidewalk repair costs are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. If the adjacent property owner doesn't repair the sidewalk, the city will have the sidewalk repaired and assess the cost against the property owner. However, this is not what the city is actually doing. The city has not been assessing the cost against the adjacent property owner.

Councilmember Dudley moved to proceed with the proposed changes to the sidewalk ordinance.

Councilmember Hadaller seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Rosander moved to approve Task Order No. 46 with KLJ Engineering for the Economic Diversification Strategy Update in the amount of \$30,000.

Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: Becky Rosenleaf of KLJ Engineering explained the process to update Colstrip's Economic Diversification Strategy. Economic Development Administration requires a current economic diversification strategy and economic development strategy in order to receive federal dollars. The goal is to finish the document by September 2026. Councilmember Dudley asked where KLJ obtains the data. Becky explained they use EDA appropriate databases. They don't use anything they can't verify on the national level as valid.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer