

City Council Meeting
October 24, 2023

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

Also Present: Assistant Chief of Police Kris Egan, Planning/Zoning/Code Officer Kami Egan, Fire Chief Tony Reda, Public Works Director Pat Zent, and Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer Krista Hazel

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

Consent Agenda:

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion. Councilmember Rosander asked to amend the Minutes of 10/10/23 under the *Mayor's Communications* to add that the award received at the Montana Cities and Towns Conference was for a five-year period for 3rd Class Cities. Councilmember Rosander moved to amend the Minutes of 10/10/23 to reflect this change. Councilmember Hanser seconded the motion. No comments from the public received. Motion to amend carried with all in favor. Motion to approve Consent Agenda as amended carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 10/10/23 Regular Meeting
- Claims #29898-29938 \$124,201.34
- Payroll Summary 10/13/23 \$98,464.89

Department Reports:

Reports were presented by Assistant Chief of Police Kris Egan, Fire Chief Reda, Public Works Director Zent and Planning/Zoning/Code Officer Kami Egan. Mayor Williams gave Michelle Sullivans report.

During Planning/Zoning/Code Officer Kami Egan's report, Councilmember Rosander wanted to point out that there was a complaint made by the Beautification Committee about a property on Currant Dr. He presented pictures to show the progress & commended the City on making headway getting this property taken care of.

During Public Works Director Pat Zent's report, Councilmember Dudley asked if the street sweeper would be able to tackle the leaves. PWD Pat Zent was unsure if the sweeper could handle that but would look into it. Councilmember Hanser asked if the City would be able to set up a community pickup for leaves. PWD Pat stated that we could try to get something set up to help.

Mayor's Communications:

The City of Colstrip was notified by the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration informing us that the Talen Energy employees have been recertified as an OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star participant, OSHA's highest level of recognition. The City of

Colstrip presented a Certificate of Recognition to Todd Wulf, Talen Energy's Manager of Safety and Training, acknowledging Talen's employees' exceptional performance & outstanding achievements in the field of Occupational Safety & Health.

Mayor Williams attended Montana League of Cities & Towns Conference last week where he was presented an award on behalf of the City of Colstrip employees for the lowest average claims in the Workers Compensation Insurance Program. Mayor Williams was also able to participate in a radio interview with Voices of Montana to talk about Colstrip along with a few other Mayors. The City of Colstrip was also recognized for our communication to our residents. One of the avenues that they pointed out during one of the breakout sessions was our quarterly newsletter. The Montana League of Cities & Towns had recently sent out a state wide survey asking about "trust from the community." Based on the information from this survey, Mayor Williams is very proud to announce that the City of Colstrip has a higher public trust towards our Volunteer Fire Department, First Responders, etc. than the legislators. Congratulations to the City of Colstrip for being featured City at the conference!

The Coal Board Grant contracts previously approved, have been signed.

We had a Cemetery Board meeting last week. The board is making headway. They discussed items that will soon be brought to the Council for approval.

A Special City Council meeting has been scheduled for November 1, 2023, at 7:00 pm to act on the legal documents concerning the Business Innovation Center. Councilmembers have received copies of these documents for review before this meeting. There will also be an Executive Session during this meeting to discuss legal issues concerning the B.D. Litigation.

Public Hearing:

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing at 7:22 pm for the Variance Request for 4545 Remington Drive. No comments were received either orally or in writing. Mayor Williams closed the hearing at 7:24 pm.

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing at 7:24 pm for the increase in the Dewatering Wells Monthly Rate. No comments were received either orally or in writing. Mayor Williams closed the hearing at 7:25 pm.

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing at 7:25 pm for the reduction in the speed limit around Rye Park from 25 mph to 15 mph. No comments were received either orally or in writing. Mayor Williams closed the hearing at 7:26 pm.

Public Comment & Participation:

Rick McCulloch, 4323 Ballantine Dr., stated that he called the police station on 09/27/23 to report a dog at large. He did not get an answer and questioned why they do not have an answering machine. He called back and was able to report the dog at large but then questioned why it took so long for a police officer to respond once the report was filed. Rick also wanted to let the City Council know that he has lost respect for some councilmembers. He stated that these councilmembers are knowingly

violating political practices rules & let them know that they would be contacted by the Commissioner of Political Practices.

Unfinished Business:

Councilmember Hanser moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-17, increasing the Dewatering Wells Rate from \$60.00 to \$90.00 per month.

Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

New Business:

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve the Pole Barn & Size Limitation Variance at 4545 Remington Drive to build a 50'x46' pole barn.

Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Hanser moved to approve Speed Limit Change around Rye Park from 25 mph to 15 mph.

Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve Change Order No.1/Water & Wastewater Control System Replacement for an increase of \$17,254.00.

Councilmember Koczur seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: Patrick Campbell, 4417 Remington Dr., pointed out the error made on the memo referencing the Change Order #1 for the City of Colstrip's SCADA System. Mayor Williams pointed out that the correct number is on the contract.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Hanser moved to approve Change Order No. 1/Water Treatment Plant Building Improvements for a reduction of \$2,693.41.

Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm.

Krista Hazel, Deputy City Clerk