

City Council Meeting  
July 9, 2024

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

Absent: Councilmember Rose Hanser

Also Present: Assistant Police Chief Kris Egan, Fire Chief Tony Reda, City Attorney Michelle Sullivan, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards and Lead Streets/Shop Operator Ric Siemers

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: Councilmember Dudley had questions on Claim numbers 30699 and 30734. No comments from the public received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 6/25/24 Regular Meeting
- Claims #30696-30760                      \$154,308.18
- Payroll Summary 6/21/24                \$103,834.27
- Journal Voucher No. 2024-05
- Void Claim #30563/Check #39389

**Department Reports:**

Reports were presented by Assistant Police Chief Egan, Fire Chief Reda, City Attorney Sullivan, Lead Streets/Shop Operator Siemers and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards.

**Mayor's Communications:**

An extension request was submitted to EDA on the Business Innovation Center (BIC) grant. Jim Atchison explained construction must begin by the end of May 2025 and be completed by the end of May 2026. Due to left-over funds in the Assistance to Coal Communities program, a request for additional funds in the amount of \$1.65 million has also been submitted to EDA. The estimated cost of building the BIC is now \$5 million.

Mayor Williams received notice from Talen Montana of a slight decrease in the raw water cost effective July 1, 2024. Mayor Williams has some questions on some changes in the cost formula and will contact Talen about those changes.

The City of Colstrip plans on submitting at least two Coal Board Grant applications for the next Coal Board Meeting in September including the Cedar to Wastewater Plant Water Main Replacement for \$165,000 and street crack sealing for \$200,000.

**Public Comment & Participation:**

Jim Atchison, Executive Director of Southeastern Montana Development Corporation, invited City Council to the Annual Energy Open in Colstrip on August 8 & 9. Presenters from Northwestern Energy, Grid United and Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN) will be Thursday morning of the conference. A Nuclear Community Task Force of local people is being created for nuclear opportunities in the area. Jim is part of the National Coal Impacted Community Leadership Program and reported on his trip last month to Craig, CO. Fiber Optics installation begins in Colstrip by Range this summer.

**New Business:**

Councilmember Koczur moved to approve an increase in the compensation of the Office of Mayor to \$3,000 per month.

Councilmember Dudley seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Rosander has done some research on the compensation of Mayors within the state. There have been at least five years during the past twenty years that the compensation of Colstrip's Mayor has not been increased.

Public Comment: Jim Atchison spoke in favor of the increase in compensation for the Mayor and suggested a process be put in place for annual increases.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:39 pm.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer