The regular meeting of the Colby Common Council was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Mayor James Schmidt. On roll call: Solberg, O’Brien, T Schmidt, Kolden, Hesgard, Oestreich, Hederer and Kaiser. Also present were Clerk Gurtner, DPW Harland Higley Jr, Vicky Calmes, Engineer Mike Voss and citizens.

**Agenda** was posted by the clerk. The agenda will stand as the order of the meeting.

**Minutes** of the February 4th council meeting were pre-read and reviewed.

Motion was made by Hederer, seconded by Hesgard to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried with a voice vote.

**Financial Statement and Bills** were discussed. Motion was made by Solberg, seconded by T Schmidt to approve the bills. The amounts approved are as follows: General Fund $622,679.10; Water Department $26,217.06; Sewer Department $53,100.93; Net payroll $21,553.04. Motion carried with a voice vote.

**Engineer Voss:** Voss reported that we are still working with ABB to get the nitrate analyzer working properly at the water plant. They have until March 23, 2020 to provide proof to the city that it is working properly. The city has received approval from the DNR for a new nitrate analyzer from Chemscan if we need to replace the ABB unit.

**Comments from the Public:** Mike Kreciak want to report that the neighbor’s dog was running at large last again last month. He stated that the events of the dog at large was destroyed with snow plowing. The police department responded to his complaint and stated that they will contact the property owner regarding these dogs.

**Colby-Abbotsford Police Commission** met on February 10th.

The commission approved minutes and expenditures.

Chief's Report: Lieutenant Bowman said the K-9 was deployed six times in January, resulting in three arrests. Bowman said they were solid meth arrests. Officers made a number of other drug-related arrests, some using confidential informants doing drug buys. Kramer asked if the increased number of arrests were minimizing future illegal drug activity. Bowman said there was good networking done with drug investigators in Clark and Marathon counties and other jurisdictions including the West Central Task Force, with information shared on suspected suppliers and dealers in other areas. Kramer asked if the CAPD could handle the increase in the number of apartments on the north side. Bowman said the officers are well-trained and set up to handle patrolling the area and the expansion in housing. Discussion was held about officer shift rotations on weekdays and weekends. There were 1,078 activities reported for the month of January, compared to 848 activities in January 2019.

**Central Fire & EMS District** met on February 20th.

Nancy O’Brien reviewed the activities of the Central Fire & EMS District with the board.

**City Planning Committee** met on March 3rd.

Public Hearing CDBG Public Participation

Review of CDBG program performance

* 1. Project is nearly complete: remaining work includes punch list items, which will occur in the Spring, and final payment.
  2. There have been two contractors on the project.
     1. August Winter and Sons, Inc. was paid $182,050 for their work on Well #14. This portion of the project was completed in June 2019.
     2. Pember Companies has been paid $382,093.12 and has $14,912.23 remaining on their contract for Wells #9 and #12.
  3. CDBG funds have been received in the amount of $284,080.58 with $115,919.42 remaining on the grant.

No citizens had concerns regarding the CDBG hearing.

Parking Lot Addition at Colby Community Library

Library Director Calmes has approached the city to construct an addition to the existing parking lot. The family of Pearl Vorland would like to assist with the funding of this expansion with no cost to the City of Colby. Calmes has solicited cost estimates and engineering bids for the project. She has been working with DPW Higley on the design of the parking lot. The committee voted to recommend approval of the construction of a parking lot expansion on the Colby Community Library property. Motion was made by Oestreich, seconded by O’Brien to allow the construction of a parking lot expansion on the Colby Community Library property. Motion carried with a voice vote. The committee also voted to allow the drainage from the parking lot addition to drain to the existing drainage pond rather than connecting to the city storm sewer. Motion was made by Kolden, seconded by Hesgard approved this recommendation from the committee. Motion carried with a voice vote. The council needs to decide on an engineering firm for the design, bidding and construction admin/observation. Bids for engineering received were from Cedar Corp for $16,700 and MSA for $16,500. Clerk Gurtner had asked if the bids were separated by services and if the city would only pay for the portion of services needed if the project is not completed. Both firms assured the city that was the case. Also, the topographic information would be provided to MSA from Cedar Corp from the original library project if MSA received the bid. The committee approved the contract with MSA. Motion was made by Kolden, seconded by Oestreich to approve the MSA Engineering contract at a cost not to exceed $16,500 for the design, bidding and construction admin/observation of the parking lot addition. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Garage Construction on Property Divided by Alleyway

Lony Oestreich has approached the city about the possibility of building a garage on a lot near his residence. There is an alleyway dividing his current residence and this vacant lot. The city has an ordinance that restricts the construction of a garage on a residential lot that does not have a principal building. Clerk Gurtner contact attorney Gamoke for a clarification if the two lots separated by an alley would be considered adjoining. His opinion is that there is no adjoining property unless the alley would be vacated. The option to vacate the alley was discussed by the committee. Oestreich will contact the city if he would like to city to consider vacating the alley and Clerk Gurtner will look into the process.

**Colby Community Library Annual Report:** Library Director Vicky Calmes gave the 2019 annual report on the library. The Colby Community Library have 44,530 visits in 2019, 78,805 items circulated and 315 youth participating in the summer reading program. The library offers free internet on nine computers. Checkouts have increase over 250% since 2004 at the Colby Community Library.

**Mayor James W Schmidt:** Mayor Schmidt reported on his meeting of the Clark County Economic Development Corporation.

**DPW Higley:** The following building permits were issued: Nicolet National Bank, 810 N Division Street, sign; Harland Higley, 215 S 4th Street, bathroom remodel.

DPW Higley reported on the precipitation and flows for February 2020 at the STP. He also reported on the pumpage of water for February 2020.

The city crew has been switching out some of the old light fixtures to LED lighting.

**Picnic License for St. Mary’s Knights of Columbus Fish Fry/Boil:** Motion was made by Kaiser, seconded by Oestreich to approve a picnic license for St. Mary’s Knights of Columbus Fish Fry/Boil for March 6th, March 20th and April 3rd at the Colby Lion’s Shelter. Motion carried with a voice vote.

**Committee meetings for March:**  Colby-Abbotsford Police Commission will meet on March 9, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. at the Police Department. Central Fire & EMS District will meet on March 19, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. at Station 1. Personnel/Labor Relations Committee will meet on April 1, 2020 at 5:30 PM. Public Works Committee will meet on April 7, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

**Adjourn:**  Motion was made by Hederer, seconded by Oestreich to adjourn at 7:18 PM. Motion carried with a voice vote.  
  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

James W Schmidt, Mayor

Attest \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
 Connie Gurtner, Clerk