

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD APRIL 18, 2016**

**Regular Meeting - Transact Routine Business**

Mayor Barnhart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with roll call as follows:

PRESENT: Mayor Barnhart

COUNCIL: Karper, Petersen, Shepard, Fisher, Lovering and Piper

ABSENT: None

**ROLL CALL/  
PLEDGE**

Also present were City Manager Nicosia, City Clerk Staland, City Attorney Breck and Police Chief Perry.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Mayor Barnhart requested a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Karper moved to approve the agenda, second by Councilman Fisher, and the motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA  
APPROVAL**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Councilman Lovering moved to approve the consent agenda noting that all claims appeared to be in order, second by Councilman Karper. Motion carried with Council voting as follows: YES: Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Petersen, Piper, Shepard and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA  
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims - \$187,111.07 - April 18, 2016  
Approval of Claims - \$41,710.11 - April 4, 2016
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$85,224.70 - April 8, 2016  
Approval of Payroll Claims - \$14,894.41 - March 31 2016 Quarterlies  
Approval of Payroll Claims - \$58,010.84 - March 25, 2016
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - March 21, 2016
- D. Approval of Change Order # 1 - \$35,885 - Sandry Construction Company, Inc., 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. West project and authorize City Manager to sign.
- E. Approval of Northwest Montana Drug Task Force, Local Drug Task Force MOU For FY 2016-17 and authorize City Manager to sign.
- F. Amending Arbor Day Proclamation to May 5, 2016

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:**

A. Mayor Barnhart presented Steve Hughes (10 years) and Alison Thompson (15 years) their years of service pins and thanked them for their dedication to the City.

**EMPLOYEE  
RECOGNITION**

**VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS** (Items not on the agenda)

None.

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**PUBLIC HEARINGS/NOTICES:**

**A. Hearing – Adoption of International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC) 2012 Edition**

**PUBLIC HEARING-  
Adoption of 2012  
International  
Wildland-Urban  
Interface Code**

Mayor Barnhart read the notice of hearing: The Columbia Falls City Council will hold a public hearing for the purpose of amending Chapter 15.08 adding the adoption of the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC) 2012 edition, at their regular meeting, Monday, April 18, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The hearing will be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 130 6<sup>th</sup> ST. West, Columbia Falls, MT.

The Montana Department of Labor & Industry Building Codes Bureau gave notice that they adopted the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC) 2012 edition. As a certified city, the City of Columbia Falls must amend Chapter 15.08, Building Codes, to also adopt the IWUIC. Future editions of the IWUIC adopted by the Department of Labor & Industry will be adopted by the City under Administrative Order, as established by Ordinance 684 in 2007.

City Manager Nicosia reviewed the City’s Wildland-Urban Interface area and the code as adopted by the State and recommended adoption as amended by the State with any future amendments to be adopted by Administrative Order.

Mayor Barnhart opened and closed the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. with no comments. Nicosia noted that no written comments had been received.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS-6<sup>th</sup> Street  
W. and Nucleus Ave**

**A. 6<sup>th</sup> Street West/Nucleus intersection update**

City Manager Nicosia said the City staff has been working with MDOT as well as on our own on signage for Nucleus Avenue. Staff has ordered the little caution man that will go in the center of the road that can be removed in the winter months for snow plowing purposes or for other purposes.

Mayor Barnhart asked if anyone talked to the new business about lighting on their building. Nicosia said she has not spoken with the owners about the lighting. Mayor Barnhart said he would like to see the city order two push button signs and install them at the intersection. Councilman Lovering asked if there was research on how well they work. Nicosia reported that the information provided when the Safe Routes to Schools push buttons were put in provided stats on the increased vehicle compliance and it was around 70%. Councilman Shepard replied they work well when citizens use them. Mayor suggested authorizing City Manager to order and put them at the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Nucleus Avenue. With further discussion it was

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decided to authorize the purchase of two new flashing pedestrian crossing signs and position them at 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Nucleus Avenue.

Councilman Shepard motioned to purchase two push button pedestrian signs, second by Councilman Petersen and the motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Call for Bids- Youth Recreations Project/ CFBA

Nicosia reported that Public Works Director Jenkins has been working with DNRC and the Columbia Falls Baseball Association on the Youth Recreation Grant project. Nicosia reminded council that the City sponsored this grant as authorized by the Montana Legislature.

**NEW BUSINESS-  
Call bids for the  
Youth Recreations  
Paving project at the  
baseball field**

DNRC required engineering of the drainage and a formal engineered plan, including test holes, before they would approve the paving. The City cannot complete the execution of the grant contract, approved at the last council meeting, until DNRC approves the project. The City is covering the engineering costs and the test holes. The City and RPA are prepared to move ahead upon DNRC approval. As the project exceeds \$80,000, the statutory bid limit, the City must advertise for bids.

Councilman Piper asked if the original grant was for \$88,000. Nicosia replied that is correct.

Councilman Fisher made motion to authorize City Manager to call for bids on the Youth Recreation Project, second by Councilman Lovering.

Mayor Barnhart said the folks to the east of the ball field get dusted out, can we get some dust abatement. Nicosia said it will have to be done with remaining monies available. Council voting as follows. AYES: Karper, Lovering, Petersen, Piper, Shepard, Fisher and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:**

A. FIRST READING - Ordinance 763 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Amending Chapter 15.08 Building Codes of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code for Adoption of International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC).

**ORDINANCE #763-  
First reading IWUIC**

Councilman Shepard motioned to approve the first reading of Ordinance #763, second by Councilman Piper and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution 1721 - Authorizing Participation in the Short Term Investment Pool (STIP) Montana Board of Investments

**RESOLUTION  
#1721-STIP**

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Nicosia said the City already participates in STIP but the State has adopted new requirements, including the approval of this Resolution. Nicosia noted that the STIP rates have improved, now up to 0.52%; the City Treasurer will resume using STIP for the City's investment pool. Nicosia reviewed the provisions in the state prepared resolution, noting that the City will only use one STIP account and will close the Cedar Creek Trust account as the funds are restricted on the City's balance sheet and a separate STIP account is not necessary.

Councilman Fisher motioned to approve Resolution #1721, second by Councilman Shepard with council voting as follows. AYES: Lovering, Petersen, Piper, Shepard, Fisher, Karper and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

**REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Councilman Piper asked if there was going to be a porta pottie at the Shay engine. Nicosia said yes but the City didn't usually order the porta-potties for the parks until June but with the nicer spring weather, the City will get them out earlier. Piper said three bids were received for the private parking lot at Circle Plaza.

Councilman Petersen said when he was through Ronan he noticed their arch. He spoke with someone from Ronan and the arch project was completed by the High School and volunteers. They spent about \$25,000 on the project; they used an engineering firm out of Missoula. Mayor Barnhart asked if the Ronan arch was on the state highway or a city road. Petersen said no he did not think it was a state highway. Petersen would like to see the city move forward on the arch.

Councilman Shepard said there are some citizens concerned about some tree limbs in the city right of way. Nicosia said city crews will be checking on the clear vision triangle soon. Shepard requested that the City crew take care to adjust the sprinklers so we are not watering the locomotive.

Councilman Lovering said she has had community members asking about the fishing pond at River's Edge Park and the Kreck Trail. Nicosia said negotiations on the property adjacent to the Kreck Trail became nonexistent but there has been no change to the Kreck Trail Easement. Nicosia noted that the City should find out about the Red Bridge park grant by June. The fishing pond is still in the planning stages with Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Shepard said he will bring it up at the next advisory meeting.

Councilman Fisher said he has been using the city parks and they are being well used and are in great condition.

Mayor Barnhart said the backstop at Fenholt Park is in danger of collapsing on children and would suggest city crews repair it immediately. Mayor asked when sprinkling charges start. Nicosia said April 19 we would go into

**REPORTS FROM  
MAYOR AND  
COUNCIL**

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summer rates for May meter reads.

Councilman Karper said the Tree Board committee was in the final stages of planning the Arbor Day celebration on Thursday May 5, 2016, noting the date change from May 6 to May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**CITY ATTORNEY**

None.

**REPORT FROM  
CITY ATTORNEY**

**CITY MANAGER:**

Nicosia said the 911 Board reviewed the 2017 FY preliminary budget. The proposed City contribution would remain close to the 2016 FY contribution unless amended by the Board at the May meeting. The board will have a special meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the information that was presented at the Wednesday meeting. The Board has been looking at the efficiency of the center.

**CITY MANAGER  
REPORT**

The external auditor's will be on site the week of April 18, 2016 to complete the 2015 FY audit.

As an update to the April 11<sup>th</sup> Public Works meeting, the City will request engineering proposals for Water and Sewer Preliminary Engineering Reports, or PERS. TSEP does not have any remaining planning grant funds available but RRGL may have funds available in early July. Nicosia briefly discussed the water and sewer systems noting that the Water Rights report should be completed soon and the City has not yet received a new discharge permit from the State for the WWTP. Mayor Barnhart added that the committee discussed the need for both water and sewer to have the capacity for new growth.

The City will look at a Task Order with RPA to update the water/sewer engineering on the Riverwood Estates Subdivision. Riverwood Estates subdivision will need to be hooked into city services, it was originally annexed into the City in 2003 with the plan to have services in place by 2008; when the economy tanked in 2008, and the city put the discussion on hold. Now that the road is in need of major repairs, the City must start the process of looking at the water and sewer systems and SID funding. Nicosia noted that the committee had also touched on updating City code to require sewer connections hookup upon new ownership.

Both MPEA and Teamsters have requested the City start contract negotiations. Both contracts expire June 30, 2016. We have received the 2017 FY insurance premium rates from MMIA. The health insurance premiums increased 7.3%, with no change in dental and a 16% increase in vision.

We have three Cedar Creek lots remaining, Cedar Creek North has 2 available lots and 1 lot remains in Cedar Creek South. We have renewed the listing for another year, without any price adjustments, with RE/MAX Mountain View.

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O'Brien Byrd will be coming to a future council meeting to show the new logo and slogan for the Columbia Falls area to be used by the community to market the area. Mr. Byrd plans on putting this brand on retail items. Nicosia said due to security reasons the City would not adopt this marketing logo as the official City logo. O'Brien is also working on a fundraiser known as "Loggers and Lagers" to raise monies for landscaping the entrance near Nucleus Avenue, Glacier Bank will match the costs for landscaping. The City has continued to work with MDOT on control or ownership of the entrance area. If MDOT has not transferred ownership of the right of way to the City, the City will submit an encroachment permit for the landscaping planned by the Columbia Falls Community Foundation and Glacier Bank. Petersen asked if we wanted to upgrade the city logo how would we go about it. Nicosia noted that would be a council decision. Petersen asked if O'Brien's group gave the city their logo could the city sell them. Nicosia said there are security reasons the city logo cannot be a retail item. City Attorney Breck said the public has the right to rely on the city logo on employee attire for identification purposes and could be liable for unauthorized use.

**A. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

A. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

B. REPORTS:

1. Finance - March 2016
2. Police Department - Feb. Activity  
March Activity
3. Court - Jan - March Quarterly

**CORRESPON-  
DENCE**

Upon motion duly made by Councilman Shepard and seconded by Councilman Fisher, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: May 2, 2016