

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD AUGUST 05, 2013**

**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

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL: Bates, Karper, Shepard, Plevel and Fisher

ABSENT: Petersen

Also present were City Manager Nicosia, City Clerk Torres, City Attorney Breck, Police Chief Perry and Fire Chief Hagen.

Pledge of Allegiance

PLEDGE

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Mayor Barnhart requested a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Bates moved to approve the agenda. Second by Councilman Fisher and the motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA  
APPROVAL

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Councilman Karper moved to approve the consent agenda, noting the claims were in order. Second by Councilman Plevel. Motion carried with Council voting as follows: AYES: Bates, Karper, Shepard, Plevel, Fisher and Barnhart NOES: None ABSENT: Petersen.

CONSENT  
AGENDA  
APPROVAL

A. Approval of Claims \$138,280.84 - August 5, 2013

B. Approval of Payroll Claims \$67,874.09 - July 19, 2013

Approval of Payroll Claims \$85,261.43 - August 2, 2013

C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - July 15, 2013

**VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Bill Schulte addressed the Council on the maintenance of the Veterans' Wall located at Marantette Park. When the wall was built the local VFW Chapter was responsible for the administration and maintenance of the wall. The local chapter closed down approximately four years ago; at which time the American Legion took over the maintenance and administration of the wall. Mr. Schulte believes there were some checks accepted by the American Legion without the names put on the wall. He would like to ask the City for help maintaining and administering the wall.

VISITOR  
COMMENTS

Mayor Barnhart stated that he did bring the maintenance issue to the attention of the Council and the City recognizes the need for upkeep. Nicosia reported that she spoke with Don Connors from the American Legion Post after the issue was brought up in June. Mr. Connors reported that the American Legion Post would be having a meeting to decide what type of plaques to be used on the wall; they have not had a quorum at recent meetings. Mr. Connors was not aware that the Wall had discoloration from watering and

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD AUGUST 05, 2013**

required cleaning. Councilman Shepard added that the American Legion Post has a new regional commander located in Thompson Falls. Shepard will contact him regarding the issues with the Wall. Mayor Barnhart suggested giving the American Legion a deadline to comply with the maintenance issues to see if they are going to maintain the Veterans wall. City Manager will report back at the August 19<sup>th</sup> Regular Council meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/NOTICES:**

**A. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - August 19, 2013:**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The Columbia Falls City Council will hold an additional public hearing on the Zoning Map Amendment at their regular meeting of August 19, 2013, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

**Zoning Change** A request by the City of Columbia Falls to amend the existing Columbia Falls Zoning Map and the existing CR-3 zoning designation to a new limited commercial designation in the neighborhood east of Columbia Falls and South of Highway 2. The proposal is aimed at providing some limited commercial use at a neighborhood scale that would not be detrimental to the existing residential uses. This hearing is a continuation of the hearing held by the Columbia Falls City Council on July 15<sup>th</sup> of 2013. The property is generally located in SW1/4 NW1/4 of Section 16 and 17, Township 30 North, Range 20 West, P.M.M., Flathead County.

**B. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - August 19, 2013:**

On August 19, 2013, during the 7:00 p.m. regular council meeting, the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, shall conduct a public hearing for the purpose of establishing Bulk Water Sales fees.

The City Council is proposing establishing Bulk Water Sales fees to be used when entering into a Bulk Water Sales Contract where metering is not practical or available.

**C. PUBLIC HEARING - AUGUST 5, 2013:**

The Mayor announced that the City Council is conducting hearings on the 2013-14 Fiscal Year Preliminary Budget, 2014 Fiscal Year Street Lighting and Street Maintenance Special Assessments, and the 2014 Fiscal Year Permissive Medical Levy this evening.

City Manager Nicosia presented the preliminary budget to the Council. Nicosia reported that the proposed 2013-14 FY levy is 191.875 mills or \$1,279,710; compared with the 2012-13 FY levy of 193.484 mills. The mill value increased 2.6% from the prior year. The Permissive Medical Levy decreased from 13.871 mills (\$90,138) to 12.082 mills (\$80,583). The Street

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD AUGUST 05, 2013**

Lighting Assessment remains at \$40,000 and the Street Maintenance Assessment remains \$301,000, no change from the prior year, as previously requested by Council. The total proposed budget is \$7,174,435 (with depreciation of \$800,000) compared to \$6,231,029 in 2012-13FY (depreciation of \$590,000). Nicosia reviewed the budgets, noting that changes in grants or capital spending are significant to the City's budget. The \$943,406 proposed increase in budget authority is a result of an increase in depreciation of \$210,000, \$400,000 for the SmartLam Ed grant, an increase in the CTEP Fund of \$66,740, a total increase of \$43,981 in the General Fund, a decrease in the CIP Funds of \$183,200 and a proposed non-depreciation increase in the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds of \$301,920 due to capital projects. Despite the increase in appropriations, Nicosia reported that tax revenues are \$22,407 less than the previous year, non-tax revenues in the levied funds remained about the same and increased \$259,329 in the non-levied funds. Nicosia highlighted budget changes and how the budget matched with the Council's goals from their goal setting session. Nicosia requested that the Mayor continue the Preliminary Budget hearing at the end of this evening's public comment until the City is ready to adopt the final budget. The Mayor noted that the City will conduct three separate public hearings: Permissive Medical Levy, Special Street Lighting and Maintenance Assessments and Preliminary Budget.

The Mayor opened the Special Assessments hearing at 9:00 p.m. There was no public comment and the Mayor closed the hearing.

The Mayor opened the Permissive Medical Levy hearing at 9:02 p.m. There was no public comment and the Mayor closed the hearing.

Mayor Barnhart opened the Preliminary Budget Hearing at 9:03 p.m. There was no public comment. Mayor Barnhart continued the public hearing on the 2013-14 FY budget until final adoption.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**A. First Reading** - Ordinance # 739 - Amending Section 13.08.350 Green Space Allowance of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code. Nicosia reported that this amendment allows for sprinkling from May to October meter reads instead of the current June to October meter reads.

Councilman Shepard made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance #739. Second by Councilman Bates with voting as follows: YES: Karper, Shepard, Plevel, Fisher, Bates and Barnhart NOES: None ABSENT: Petersen.

**ORDINANCE &  
RESOLUTIONS**

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD AUGUST 05, 2013**

**B. First Reading** – Ordinance #740 – Adding Section 18.337 CB-3 Limited Business to the Columbia Falls Municipal Code

City Manager Nicosia reviewed the text amendment noting that the language is as presented during the July 15<sup>th</sup> hearing.

Councilman Shepard made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance #740. Second by Councilman Plevel, motion carries with voting as follows:

YES: Shepard, Plevel, Fisher, Bates, Karper and Barnhart NOES: None

ABSENT: Petersen.

**REPORTS FROM CITY ATTORNEY: None**

**REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL:**

Councilman Shepard reported that the knapweed in the city is concerning, Mayor Barnhart also noted that Cedar Creek South is also overgrown by knapweed. City Manager Nicosia will check into getting it sprayed.

Councilman Fisher advised the Council that they have started the bog bridge project at River's Edge Park and it seems to be going very well.

Mayor Barnhart noted that the survey pins on 6<sup>th</sup> and truck route are in place and requested that the City look into fixing the placement of the Stop sign while working at that intersection as people routinely run that stop sign.

Councilman Shepard addressed the letter from the Mayor of Kalispell concerning the 911 Board. Councilman Shepard went through the entire letter to address items of interest as an Administrative Board member. Mayor Barnhart will respond to Ms. Fisher's letter.

**REPORTS FROM  
MAYOR AND  
COUNCIL**

**REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM CITY MANAGER:**

The CTEP 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave E. Phase II Scheduled has been set with the Bid opening on the bike path will be August 15, 2013. The City administration and staff hope to be able to present the council with an award recommendation on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Informed the Council of the invite to the Community Garden open house at River's Edge Park on August 7<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30.

Park maps and information will be prepared for River's Edge Park as an Eagle Scout project.

**MANAGER'S  
REPORT**

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

A. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

**MISC  
CORRESPON-  
DENCE**

CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD AUGUST 05, 2013

ADJOURN:

Upon motion duly made by Councilman Shepard and seconded by  
Councilman Plevel the meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

ADJOURN

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: August 19, 2013.

