

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD JUNE 1, 2015**

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, Plevel, Fisher and Lovering
ABSENT: Shepard

ROLL CALL

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

Pledge of Allegiance

PLEDGE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

**AGENDA
APPROVAL**

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Schellinger, 527 13th Street West – Said he had a smoke issue in his home and wanted to thank the Police and Fire Departments for their rapid response.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

**CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims \$ 75,241.70 – June 1, 2015
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 60,306.35 – May 22, 2015
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2015
- D. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Flathead County EMS and authorize City Manager to sign.

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Sparrow's Nest NW MT

Doug Cordier, lifelong resident of Columbia Falls, said there are hundreds of homeless students in Montana. The kids become homeless due to family issues that include financial difficulty, alcoholism or drugs. In the Flathead we have 2 beds available in Kalispell. We have a home in Kalispell that has been gifted to us by a local citizen; they are getting started on renovations of the 7,000 square foot house. Mr. Cordier introduced the other Sparrow's Nest members in attendance.

**PRESENTATIONS
Sparrow's Nest
NW MT**

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Rod Stell, Board Member, said the Sparrow's Nest NW MT came about when 5 of them got together to try to solve some of the issues with the homeless kids. Mr. Stell said they deal mostly with High School kids age 17 and under. The Sparrow's Nest is licensed with the state and is a 501(3) C organization. The goal is to get as many of these kids graduated from High School. Mr. Stell said they would like to start a shelter here in Columbia Falls. There are approximately 79 homeless kids in Columbia Falls. The big issue with the kids is they are out of their homes because they are safer than being at home. They are wary of adults but trust in the teachers, counselors.

Marcia Bumke, Board Chairman, said they have to do everything by the book; they will have space for 8 kids in the new home, with a rotation system in place for the kids. Ms. Bumke reported that they learned Columbia Falls is eligible for AmeriCorps Vista volunteers. Summer is the hardest time for these kids as some schools are closed and they have nowhere to go.

Kathy Dragonfly is the school nurse in Columbia Falls – said she got involved when then Superintendent Dr. Michael Nicosia attended an education conference on homeless students. Upon returning from the conference, the school administration identified 1 homeless child in the school. Upon adopting the McKinney-Vento program, the school identified over 40 students qualifying as homeless. It was a real eye opener for the school and they began putting together a program to provide basic items, clothing, bedding, backpack food program, etc. but they are not able to provide housing.

B. Employee Incentive Recognition – 5 year pin to Fire Chief Rick Hagen **Rick Hagen 5 yr.**

City Manager Nicosia said Fire Chief Hagen could not make the meeting but she would make sure he received his 5 year pin.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NOTICES:

A. Notice of Hearing:

The Columbia Falls City-County Planning Board will hold a public hearing for the following items at their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 9th at 6:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers of City Hall, 130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, Montana. The Columbia Falls City Council will hold subsequent hearing on June 15, 2015 starting at 7:00 p.m. in the same location.

**PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE**

Request for a Zone Change in the Columbia Falls Zoning Jurisdiction:

BID Group Properties (US) Inc. is requesting to amend the zoning district map on a portion of property in the Columbia Falls Industrial Park. The Columbia Falls Industrial Park is made up of two zoning classifications currently, CI-1(Light Industrial) and CI-2 (Heavy

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Industrial). The applicant requests the amendment to expand the CI-2 (Heavy Industrial) zoning by 26 acres replacing a portion of the Light Industrial Zoning. The expansion would occur north of the existing Heavy Industrial zoning designation. The property is located at 555 4th Avenue EN and is specifically described in Exhibit A. Persons may testify at the hearing or submit written comments prior to the meeting. Written comment may be sent to Columbia Falls City Hall, Attention: Susan Nicosia, City Manager, 130 6th Street West, Room A, Columbia Falls, MT 59912. For more information call Eric Mulcahy, Columbia Falls City Planner at 755-6481.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Petition for alley abandonment – Block 65 and Block 72

City Manager Nicosia said the City has received a request from Barb Staaland and Hungry Horse News to abandon the alley in Blocks 65 and 72 to which the City will need to call for a hearing on July 6, 2015 to formally consider and other property owners will be contacted in writing as well. Nicosia noted that the Fire Chief and Public Works Director concur with the recommendation. Council concurred with the recommendation to move forward with the alley abandonment and set the hearing for July 6th.

NEW BUSINESS

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Plevel said she attended the new Community Market and noted there were several people in both locations.

Councilman Lovering concurred and said it was great to see the business activity on Thursday nights.

Mayor Barnhart asked when work would commence on the Welcome Park. City Manager Nicosia said they are killing the weeds now, and the sign will be moved and trees will be planted in June. Public works Director Jenkins is in the process of completing the permit to move the sign and then he will coordinate the move with the landowner, the City's contractor and Plum Creek's crane operator.

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL**

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:

None.

**REPORT FROM
CITY ATTORNEY**

CITY MANAGER:

City Manager Nicosia said she and City Planner Eric Mulcahy met with the Sparrow's Nest NW MT to review zoning and in most residential zones you can have a house of this type.

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

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The Pool boiler is working well and no water is leaking at this time.

The water and sewer projects are moving slowly but coming along. The project on 10th Street West may see a delay as there will be a property line adjustment between the two owners. There was a glitch on the Frontage road project as there was a manhole inverted; the inverter needs to be removed before the area can be repaved.

Public Works Director Jenkins is obtaining quotes to pave 7th Street East in conjunction with the water project on 2nd Ave East. 7th ST East is on the priority list.

The Flathead Basin Commission sent an email to Councilman Shepard and Nicosia asking for help with funding the AIS station outside of Browning. Nicosia noted that she had not added that into the preliminary budget and recommended against adding to the budget at this time. Council concurred.

Nicosia discussed the pedestrian crossing issues on Hwy 2 during the Farmers Market and the Community Market. This week was much better with the pedestrians crossing at the lights on 4th Ave and Nucleus or the intersection at 1st Ave and Hwy 2 and not jay walking. Mayor Barnhart said he heard a citation was issued for not allowing a pedestrian to cross on the roadway is that the same for a bicycle? Chief Perry said a bicycle is treated the same as a car.

Nicosia said she scheduled a meeting with MTDOT to discuss the sink hole, highway project, highway ROW, and urban highway funding. Ed Toavs indicated that they had received several comments regarding the light poles in the sidewalk and the project design will include moving the light poles out of the sidewalk.

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilman Karper and seconded by Councilman Petersen, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. **ADJOURN**

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: June 15, 2015