

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD JUNE 20, 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, and Piper  
ABSENT: Lovering, Fisher

**ROLL CALL**

Also present were City Manager Nicosia, City Clerk Staland, City Attorney Breck, Police Chief Perry, Fire Chief Hagen and Public Works Director Jenkins.

Pledge of Allegiance

**PLEDGE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

**AGENDA  
APPROVAL**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Councilman Petersen 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: Petersen, Karper, Shepard, Piper and Barnhart NOES: None. ABSENT: Lovering and Fisher.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA  
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims - \$ 197,346.99 – June 20, 2016
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 63,629.96 – June 17, 2016
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – June 6, 2016
- D. Approval to cancel checks outstanding for over 1 year
- E. Approval to write off uncollectible Water/Sewer Accounts

**VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Bethany Goodman, 1609 Fran Lou Park Lane is involved with the Columbia Falls Community Garden. Ms. Goodman said on behalf of the Community Garden she would like to thank the City for the use of River's Edge Park for the Youth Fun Run. Ms. Goodman organized the Fun Run and said it was a great success with the help of others that contributed to the event.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC  
COMMENTS**

**A. Cliff Boyd, Calbag – CFAC Demolition Update**

Mr. Boyd said the waste management was approved but have yet been given formal notice. Mr. Boyd discussed the demolition of buildings at the plant. Boyd said they will start wrecking activity in November. The crew size is slightly smaller at 43 and should increase to about 70 when we get back to full

**CFAC UPDATE**

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swing.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/NOTICES:**

A. Notice of Hearing: The Columbia Falls City-County Planning Board will hold a public hearing for the following item at their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, Montana. The Columbia Falls City Council will hold a subsequent hearing on July 18, 2016 starting at 7:00 p.m. in the same location.

**PUBLIC  
HEARING/NOTICE**

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

William T. Giddeon is requesting to amend the zoning district map on a portion of property in the Columbia Falls Zoning Jurisdiction. The applicant owns 18.21 acres of land but approximately one acre is not located in the Columbia Falls zoning Jurisdiction and is not zoned by the City or County. The zone change request only affects the 17+/- acres that are zoned. The property is currently zoned SAG-10 but is adjacent to other R-1 properties and therefore, the applicant is request R-1 zoning for his acreage. The property is described as that portion of Lot 1 of Subdivision 193 in Section 20, T30N, R20W, P.M.M., located north of the south boundary of the NE1/4 NE1/4 line. The property is addressed as 3985 Columbia Falls Stage in Columbia Falls. 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 6<sup>th</sup> Street West, Room A, Columbia Falls, MT 59912. For more information call Eric Mulcahy, Columbia Falls City Planner at 755-6481.

**Zone Change  
Request-Giddeon**

B. Public Hearing - June 20, 2016: The Columbia Falls City Council will hold a public hearing for the purpose of approving parking restrictions on specific city streets, at their regular meeting, Monday, June 20, 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.

**PARKING  
RESTRICTIONS**

City staff reviewed parking restrictions for the following specified streets pursuant to City Codes governing narrow streets, snow removal and hazardous or congested places. The streets that were reviewed and the proposed parking restrictions for each are as follows:

1. Franlou Park Lane - allow street parking only on the north side of Franlou Park Lane
2. Diane Road - allow street parking only on the south side of Diane Road
3. Wildcat Drive - no on street parking during winter months

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4. 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> St West (between 4<sup>th</sup> Ave and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave West) – no on street parking

City Manager Nicosia said City staff reviewed parking on the Fran Lou Park Lane, Diane Road, Wildcat Drive, 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Street West. They posted 175 notices on doors, posted notice at City hall and the website and in the newspaper. The City received 7 letters concerning the parking change via email, included in the council packets.

Public Works Director Jenkins reviewed the driving patterns and parking issues on the overhead projector. Jenkins said the concerns are snow removal with the current parking in the streets which does not allow City snowplows to get through for plowing purposes along with emergency service vehicles. Jenkins said the recommendation on Wildcat would be no parking on the side streets during the winter months. Mayor Barnhart asked if we are making it time sensitive. Jenkins said it depends on what council suggests. Fire Chief Hagen said the emergency vehicles need 20 feet to access. Councilman Petersen asked if we would need both sides of the street clear. Petersen asked could there be a situation with a snow alert that citizens can check the city website for removing vehicles for plowing. Nicosia said the recommendation is no parking in the winter months. It would be more problematic to have cars parking there when a snow plow needs to get through. Mayor what would happen if you went to one side of the street parking from the first of December to the end of February. Jenkins said on Wildcat it is smaller and it would help to have both sides clear for passage. Shepard said he knew of a city that would allow one side of the street parking and they move vehicles to the other side of the street.

Jenkins reviewed Diane road with 16 feet with both cars parking on both sides of the street. The snow plow drivers won't make it through. We do recommend parking on the south east side of Diane throughout the year. Hagen said the south side parking is best as the fire hydrants are on the north side. Fire Chief said he needs 20 feet to get through.

Jenkins reviewed Fran Lou Park Lane, noting if they park on both sides it leaves 12 feet. We are recommending Parking on the north side only all year. The mail boxes are on the south side. There are temporary signs put up in the winter and we still end up going around cars, we need the right of ways cleared.

Jenkins reported that 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> streets are both 22-20 feet wide and the recommendation is no parking on either side of the street.

Mayor Barnhart opened the Public Hearing at 7:34 p.m.

Duane Neilsen, 1338 4<sup>th</sup> Ave W, said for the first 5 years I did the snow

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plowing because the city wouldn't do it. Mr. Neilsen said he is against no parking on 14<sup>th</sup> street as there is no parking in the area. Mr. Neilsen believes the city is not doing its best with snow removal on 14<sup>th</sup> street W.

James Arnold, 22 Diane Road, said he is in favor of the no parking on one side of Diane Road. Mr. Arnold said he has issues with the Post Office not delivering his mail due to people parking in front of the mail boxes. Arnold said there are 2 parking spaces allowed per unit but residents park on the street instead. Arnold would like to see the city could put up no parking signs in front of the mail boxes located on the south side of the road.

Pat Cattelino, 1335 5<sup>th</sup> Ave W. Opposes the parking ban. 14<sup>th</sup> Street is a block long with 4 houses. Mr. Cattelino said there are 4 houses the ban would affect and 75% are opposed. Our main address is not 14<sup>th</sup> street; all our houses can be accessed on 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> Ave W. however, our garages are on 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Cattelino said occasionally they do have temporary guests that park on the street. There were two times during softball season that cars parked on 14<sup>th</sup> Street. Cattelino said he would like to see other options for parking; there is a big field that is not being used that could be used for parking.

Mayor Barnhart closed the Public Hearing at 7:46 p.m.

Councilman Shepard asked Police Chief Perry if we have issued no parking tickets. Perry said we did have an issue on Fran Lou with residents parking in front of the mail boxes.

Councilman Karper asked if the people on 14<sup>th</sup> are good with the parking then perhaps we just enforce it on 16<sup>th</sup> street. Karper said he knew of people on 16<sup>th</sup> street that were thrilled about the parking ban. Chief Perry said resident parking only may keep the street clearer on 16<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Barnhart said 14<sup>th</sup> seems to be fine as it is and 16<sup>th</sup> could be resident parking only.

Chief Perry said Fran Lou parking on the North side would work as the mail box is on the south side. On Diane Road the mail boxes are on the south side and the hydrants are on the north side. Nicosia will contact the Post Office to ensure no problems with mail delivery; the boxes require the delivery person to get out of their vehicle now. Councilman Karper asked if there was signage for no parking by the mail boxes.

On Wildcat Drive the proposal would be no parking on one side of the street during winter months.

Councilman Shepard motioned to approve parking restrictions as discussed, second by Councilman Piper and the motion passed.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Declare Items Obsolete and No Longer Suitable for City Purposes

City Manager Nicosia said the city still has the 2004 Crown Victoria which is no longer operational as well as the 1994 ½ ton pickup used in the Parks department. Nicosia said she could post both vehicles as obsolete in the newspaper.

Councilman Piper motioned to allow City Manager Nicosia to post obsolete vehicles in the newspaper, second by Councilman Shepard and the motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTION:**

RESOLUTION # 1725 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Designating Heritage Days 2016 as an Official Activity of the City of Columbia Falls and Designating Persons Responsible for Planning the Events of Heritage Days 2016.

Councilman Karper motioned to approve Resolution #1725, second by Councilman Petersen with Council voting as follows. AYES: Piper, Shepard, Karper, Petersen and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: Lovering and Fisher.

**RESOLUTION  
#1725-Heritage  
Days**

**REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:**

Councilman Petersen suggested looking into the City video to update it with the new additions to town. Petersen said that in Shelby they have the pedestrian caution signs as well.

Councilman Shepard inquired about the bell going back on the Shay engine. Shepard also asked when the bench is going to be installed at the memorial wall.

Mayor Barnhart would like to see the trees on the east side trimmed up. The Cedar Creek Lodge looks great and they had a super turnout for the community visit. Mayor said the concert at O'Brien's Liquor Store was also well attended. The Bike Shop construction is underway.

**REPORTS FROM  
MAYOR AND  
COUNCIL**

**REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:**

None.

**REPORT FROM  
CITY ATTORNEY**

**CITY MANAGER:**

The City recently applied for a floodplain development permit pursuant to City and State requirements. The permit was to allow clean fill on lots 6-10 Block 48, Columbia Falls Original. The City's plan is to provide overflow parking for large events at River's Edge Park.

The City has solicited bids for the Youth Recreation Grant paving project at

**CITY MANAGER  
REPORT**

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the Columbia Falls Baseball fields.

Although we will not have a Council meeting on July 5<sup>th</sup>, the City will be processing June 30<sup>th</sup> and July Claims/checks.

On Thursday and Friday night the city marked 8<sup>th</sup> street with no parking signs. O'Brien has complied with not having a loud speaker pointed toward 2<sup>nd</sup>, reduced the sound and has made other adjustments as well. O'Brien supplied traffic crossing volunteers for the Cedar Creek Lodge event on Thursday night.

The city will participate in the proposed 5K Glow Run, September 16<sup>th</sup>, starting at Glacier Bank and finishing up at the Coop, traveling by or through River's Edge Park, Depot Park, Fenholt Park and Glacier Gateway Elementary School.

Legislative lunch held earlier this week was well attended, including our Representative Zac Perry.

**A. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE** - List available for Review

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**ADJOURN**: Upon motion duly made by Councilman Piper and seconded by Councilman Petersen the meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: July 18, 2016