

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 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

Also present were City Manager Nicosia, City Clerk Staland, City Attorney Breck and Sergeant Murphy.

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 Karper, 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 Petersen. Motion carried with Council voting as follows: YES: Shepard, Fisher, Piper, Lovering, Petersen, Karper and Barnhart NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

**CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims - \$ 68,854.83 - September 19, 2016
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$84,569.01 - September 9, 2016
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - September 6, 2016
- D. Approval of State Highway Traffic Safety Section Grant, #109101, \$14,000, effective Oct. 1, 2016 - Sept. 30, 2017 and authorize City Manager to sign.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: 10 Year Pin - Susan Nicosia

Mayor Barnhart presented Nicosia with a 10 year pin and thanked her for her years of service and dedication to the City. Nicosia thanked the Council, noting that she loves working for them.

**EMPLOYEE
RECOGNITION-
Nicosia**

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PUBLIC HEARINGS/NOTICES:

None.

**PUBLIC
HEARINGS**

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

None.

**RESOLUTION/
ORDINANCE**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Request from City Judge - Clerical Assistance

Judge Gordon addressed Council with a request for emergency funding to allow for an additional clerical position in the court. Attached to these minutes is Judge Gordon's letter of request. Judge Gordon said she urges Council to consider her request. Mayor Barnhart inquired on the timing of Judge Gordon's request for funding and the fact that it was about 4 months late. Judge Gordon said she realizes it was late and that is why she is asking for emergency funding. City Attorney Breck said there are always items to research and he can equip Council with proper information to make an adequate decision. Attorney Breck said if Council has questions tonight he would be happy to address them or he can have further information for the next Council Meeting on October 3, 2016. Councilman Shepard said the City Manager's report indicates there are not enough resources. City Manager Nicosia said we have not reduced the budget; however there has been a reduction in key resources in the City's General Fund. Nicosia said the City has adjusted FTE when employees have left Nicosia said she takes all budget requests seriously, and considers the priorities and how they can be funded. Judge Gordon said the City Court is not to be looked at as a resource fund and the court is not considered revenue. Nicosia said she was not looking at the City Court as a revenue stream, only looking at balancing the budget requests with the available resources. Councilman Petersen asked Nicosia if she felt comfortable evaluating the work load in the City Court. Nicosia replied yes she does.

**NEW BUSINESS-
Clerical Assistance
in the Court**

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Lovering said she would like to continue thinking about the quiet zone. Nicosia said the City has worked with BNSF and we have a list as to what is needed from the City to become "quiet zone ready." Mayor Barnhart said the estimate to become quiet zone ready was approximately \$550,000 to prepare for it. Nicosia said when we did the TEDD we incorporated that as public infrastructure so we could incorporate it into economic development. Councilman Shepard received a mailer from the Northern Plains Resource Council, they are attempting rail safety. Shepard said he has had a couple

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL**

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conversations with citizens on the superfund site. Nicosia said she would make contact with Cliff Boyd to see if he would attend a Council meeting to present an update on CFAC.

Councilman Shepard said some his neighbors were asking about the noise in town and it was the band at Marantette Park. Sergeant Murphy said they took a couple phone calls and Nicosia received an email on the loud music.

Councilman Petersen wanted to follow up on the Fall Fest noting that it is for one night. Petersen said regarding the superfund site, the article states it was signed by Council and perhaps a thank you letter to Senator Tester would be appropriate. Councilman Lovering said she supports Petersen's idea. Councilman Piper said he would like to hear their ideas. Mayor Barnhart said he would support a thank you letter from Council.

Councilman Piper said he believes there could be fire danger on 4th Avenue West due to weeds, and suggests we encourage Weyerhaeuser to clean up around their property along the truck route.

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:

None.

**REPORT FROM
CITY ATTORNEY**

CITY MANAGER:

On September 13, 2016 the Montana Supreme Court affirmed the district court ruling that the Montana DNRC has to go back to the 1987 rule regarding "combined appropriations" for water rights. The general consensus is that this opinion is a "win" for cities and towns. The court synopsis is available for your review if you would like it sent to you. The full court decision will be available on the MT Supreme Court website.

The interim legislative committees are rolling out their proposed legislation. The Revenue and transportation committee had 6 bill drafts related to TIF's; some of which the committee did not pass but they are still of interest.

The EPA staff will coordinate with the community of Columbia Falls to schedule public meetings and other public events over the next several months to discuss the next steps and outline how the public can engage in the Superfund process moving forward.

Thursday, September 29, 2016 - 6:30-8:00. Public meeting at the Columbia Falls Junior High School; in the Cafetorium.

Wednesday, October 11, 11:45-1:00 p.m. EPA and CFAC will speak at the Columbia Falls Chamber of Commerce General Membership Luncheon; 235 Nucleus Ave.; Columbia Falls MT 59912 in the Tea Kettle Room.

Nicosia said she has scheduled a meeting in Columbia Falls with the Montana EDA representative, Kirk Keysor, for October 3rd or 4th. The City will work with the EDA, the Governor's office of Economic Development and MWED as determine what funding sources and what level of funding the City can take advantage of to maintain stable employment opportunities with the closure of

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

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Weyerhaeuser properties. We will work with Smartlam, Stampede, and any other interested parties. Senator Tester's office has already offered assistance as well.

Attached for Council review is the last 3 years of building permit activity detail Residential growth has remained strong over the last 3 years. Commercial value ranged from a high of \$6,083,908 in 2016 FY, with the new hotel to \$3,245,000 in 2014 and \$3,549,700 in 2015.

Council will be seeing an updated Personnel manual on the agenda in October. The last manual was last updated and approved by Council in 2007 and contains items no longer in compliance with state and federal requirements.

A. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

**CORRES-
PONDENCE**

B. Reports:

- a. Finance - Thru August 2016

ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilman Lovering and seconded by Councilman Petersen the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

ADJOURN

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: October 3, 2016