

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD APRIL 3, 2017**

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 Police Chief Peters.

Pledge of Allegiance

PLEDGE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

**AGENDA
APPROVAL**

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

**CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVAL**

A. Approval of Claims - \$48,886.82 - April 3, 2017

B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 62,338.20 - March 24, 2017 Payroll
Approval of Payroll Claims - \$16,638.99 - March 31, 2017 Quarterly
Reports

C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - March 20, 2017

D. Approve Request for Records Disposal - Court Documents and
authorize Local
Government signature

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT: (Items not on the Agenda)

A. Cub Scout Troop # 4101 - Free Library

Troop #4101 would like to set up a Little Free Library in one of the City parks. It will be mounted on a post, filled with books and maintained by the Cub Scouts. The idea is you put a book in and take a book out. City Manager Nicosia said they initially inquired about River's Edge Park and she suggested a more centralized park, such as Pinewood Park. The Parks Committee will discuss the location of the Little Free Library at the next meeting.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC
COMMENT
Cub Scout Troop-
Free Library**

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Lieutenant KD from the Salvation Army presented the trophy to the City of Columbia Falls for raising the most money in the Kettle Bell ringing competition during the holiday season. Columbia Falls is the reigning champion for the 4th year in a row. Mayor Barnhart added that this is a competition between Whitefish, Kalispell, Bigfork, and Lakeside.

Ray Queen President of the Glacier Babe Ruth Baseball said that due to the loss of the Sapa/Johnsrud stadium due to a fire in June 2016, it has been a stressful time for him to get the stadium replaced. He has been encouraged by the awesome community support; noting they currently have \$106,000 in the savings account. He reported that bids to replace the stadium are around the \$300,000 mark. The Glacier Babe Ruth Baseball Association is applying for a Montana Tourism Infrastructure Grant to assist with the replacement cost and they are asking for a letter of support from the City of Columbia Falls. Mayor Barnhart and City Council agreed to support the grant request. City Manager Nicosia will prepare the letter of support for the Mayor's signature.

**Glacier Babe Ruth
Baseball-Letter of
Support**

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NOTICES:

A. NOTICE OF HEARING - APRIL 17, 2017: Mayor Barnhart read the notice of hearing: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all persons that a request has been filed with the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, requesting the abandonment, discontinuance and vacating or trading of certain public way or property in the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, more particularly described as follows:

**PUBLIC
HEARINGS - Notice
of Hearing**

Tracts 7E, TK and TK1, S08, T30 N, R 20 W in NE ¼ SW ¼, P.M.M, Flathead County. The abandonment will be subject to the rights of the City or any other public utility to access, operate and maintain any public utilities currently located within the right of way.

The City Council of Columbia Falls is scheduled to act on said request at the regular meeting of the City Council at 7:00 p.m., on April 17, 2017 in the Council Chambers, 130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, Montana, at which time and place all persons desiring to be heard on said matter may appear and offer comments on the proposed abandonment. Written comments may be addressed to the City Clerk, 130 6th Street West, Room A, Columbia Falls, Montana 59912 prior to the hearing.

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City Manager Nicosia reviewed the request to abandon or trade city owned property and right of way within the Weyerhaeuser property boundaries.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Award Bid - 8th St E/1st Ave E - Knife River, \$92,000

City Manager Nicosia reported the apparent low bidder was Knife River at \$92,000 which was just below the engineer's estimate. This will rebuild 8th St East between Nucleus Ave and 1st Ave East and widen a portion of 1st Ave East to accommodate commercial development and parking demands. The engineer and City staff recommends approval to award the low bid of \$92,000. to Knife River.

**NEW BUSINESS
Award Bid on 8th St.
E and 1st Ave E. to
Knife River**

Councilman Fisher motioned to award the 8th St. E and 1st Ave E. bid to Knife River, second by Councilman Lovering with Council voting as follows. AYES: Piper, Shepard, Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Petersen and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

B. Award Bid - Timber Creek Water Main - LHC, Inc., \$171,575

Nicosia reported that this project removes the water main improperly installed in the State's storm drain, damaging the drain, and causing erosion under the roadway. It is necessary to have this project complete before the State starts work on Highway 2. We intend on getting the cost of repairs back from the responsible party. The engineer and City Staff recommend awarding the low bid to LHC for \$171,575.

**Award Bid on
Timber Creek Water
Main to LHC, Inc.**

Councilman Shepard made motion to award the Timber Creek Water Main bid to LHC, Inc., second by Councilman Petersen with Council voting as follows. AYES: Shepard, Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Petersen, Piper and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

A. Resolution # 1746 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Adopting an Updated Investment Account Authorization

**RESOLUTION
#1746 - Updating
Investment Acct
Authorization**

City Manager Nicosia reported that due to staffing changes, the investment company required an updated resolution.

Councilman Fisher motioned to approve Resolution #1746, second by

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Councilman Shepard with Council voting as follows. AYES: Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Petersen, Piper, Shepard and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Shepard gave a summary of the CFAC report that Rick Hanners had given him along with his own notes. Shepard noted that the report was over 7,000+ pages. Mayor Barnhart recommended that specific questions on the 1st round of sampling results could be addressed by Mike Cerian at the next council meeting as he will be presenting to council at that meeting.

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL**

Councilman Fisher reminded everyone that the Tree Board and Parks Committee both meet on Tuesday, April 4th.

Councilman Petersen was at the business after hours gathering last week and learned that Columbia Falls High School has two seniors accepted into Stanford. Petersen thought the video update could include this information.

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:

City Attorney reported that long time City Attorney office paralegal Sally Miller will be retiring at the end of the month and that Marcy Hall has been hired to replace her.

**REPORT FROM
CITY ATTORNEY**

CITY MANAGER:

Nicosia reviewed the summer council meeting schedule to ensure compliance with hearing deadlines. The 4th of July falls on a Tuesday and the July 3rd meeting could be cancelled if we knew we would not have a quorum. Nicosia noted it was best to plan for the meeting cancellation instead of giving notice of hearings and then not having a quorum. We would also like to explore closing City Hall on July 3rd due to lack of business activity due to long holiday weekend. City staff would have to use vacation or comp leave to be compensated for the day. Additionally, Monday, September 4th is Labor Day and City Hall will be closed; the meeting will be on Tuesday September 5th. Council reviewed the schedule and concurred that the meeting on Monday, July 3rd would be cancelled and the meeting for Tuesday, September 5th would be scheduled for regular council business.

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

The finance staff is exploring working four 10 hour shifts per week. Business hours will be from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., which will allow customers and contractors extra time to conduct their business. This was done two summers ago and it was very effective.

The Community Foundation Board would like to spearhead the 9th Street and Nucleus Ave Right of Way landscaping project. The City will pull an encroachment permit and maintenance permit with MT DOT for the work. This project is either Economic Development or Parks Committee related. She

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would like volunteers from the council to be on the project planning committee. The Board would like to plan a fund raiser to raise monies for the project. As the permit holder and responsible party, the City Council will have to approve the plan. Councilman Dave Petersen and Councilman Jenny Lovering volunteered to work with the Foundation. Petersen reported that Bruce Lutz has been working on design concepts.

Nicosia said she took Council's request to change the green box hours of operation and the Board said no. We are the only City that does not have its own garbage hauling and we do not require a garbage service.

Nicosia said she is putting out a public service announcement on live stock in the city; there are some roosters in the residential zoned area which are not allowed. A letter has been sent to those out of compliance.

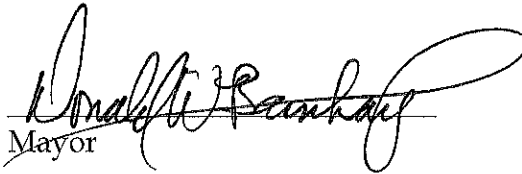
The 2016 City Water Report was published in the newspaper, on the city website, posted on the City Hall lobby and available at the front desk.

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

CORRESPONDENCE

ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilman Shepard and seconded by Councilman Lovering the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

ADJOURN


Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: April 17, 2016