

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD FEBRUARY 7, 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 Karper moved to approve the agenda, second by Councilman Petersen, 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, Karper, Lovering, Petersen, Piper and Barnhart NOES: None. ABSENT: None

**CONSENT  
AGENDA  
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims - \$160,025.50 - February 6, 2017  
Approval of Claims - \$677.50 - January 20, 2017
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 65,243.81-January 27, 2017 Payroll
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - January 17, 2017
- D. Approve Task Order Number Nine, 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave East Improvements Project, Robert Peccia & Associates and authorize City Manager to sign.
- E. Approve Task Order Number Eleven, Timber Creek Water Main Project, Robert Peccia & Associates and authorize City Manager to
- F. Approval of City Manager 2017 FY Contract and authorize Mayor Barnhart to sign.

**VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:** (Items not on agenda)

None.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Interlocal Agreement Update (FECC)

City Manager Nicosia presented the FECC Interlocal Agreement as amended at the 5<sup>th</sup> Monday meeting; she noted that she received an email from Whitefish after their City Council discussion of the proposed changes to the

**UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS**

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interlocal agreement. Nicosia said she would like to know if Council had anything to add to the agreement. Councilman Shepard asked if we have heard from Kalispell and what they may or may not be doing. Nicosia replied no, we have not heard. Council discussed the Whitefish proposal to add language recommending election in November 2018 or November 2020, preferentially 2018 with a regular election to avoid paying for a separate election, which could cost \$200,000. Councilman Petersen asked what the least expensive route is. Nicosia said the least expensive option would be to include the ballot issue on a regular countywide ballot. Mayor Barnhart asked would we be hamstringing the group by setting a date or would it make sense to just say 2018. Nicosia said potentially there would be a countywide election and it would be to everyone's benefit to put the ballot issue out as early as possible. Shepard asked if the Commissioners, Whitefish and Columbia Falls agree do we wait for Kalispell on any changes. Councilman Karper feels we need to get the document updated and move forward. Councilman Shepard said it is better to work with a committee or the board. Mayor asked if we want to make any changes other than what Whitefish has proposed.

Councilman Petersen made motion to approve the amended interlocal agreement with the proposed changes from Whitefish, second by Councilman Lovering and the motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Approval of Quitclaim Deed, Lot 12A of the Amended Plat of Lot 12, Riverwood Estates & Drift Water Way, River Terrace Estates Phase2, Donald B. Armstrong and Susan M. Armstrong and the City of Columbia Falls and authorize City Manager to execute and Approval of Quitclaim Deed, Lot 12 of Riverwood Estates, Donald B. Armstrong and Susan M. Armstrong and the City of Columbia Falls and authorize City Manager to execute.

**NEW BUSINESS**

City Manager Nicosia said on Lots 12A and 12 we did some realigning of the lots, in turn they are giving the City land and we are giving them land. These deeds will go with the Certificate of Survey and have been reviewed by the City Attorney. Nicosia recommends approval of the Quitclaim Deeds.

Councilman Karper motioned for the approval of the Quitclaim Deeds and authorize the City Manager to sign, second by Councilman Fisher with Council voting as follows. AYES: Karper, Lovering, Petersen, Piper, Shepard, Fisher and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

Call for Bids - Riverwood Estates SID Project

City Manager Nicosia said this is the council approval to call for bids on the construction of the Riverwood Estates SID project.

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Councilman Lovering motioned to call for bids on the Riverwood Estates SID, second by Councilman Shepard and the motion passed.

Mayor Barnhart asked where we are with the DNRC easement and Nicosia reported that we are on the Land Board agenda for April 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

Councilman Fisher said there was a recent Tree Board meeting and for Arbor Day they decided to plant 3 trees in Columbus Park. The Urban Forestry Grant trees will be planted at Horine Park. Councilman Karper added the two new board members were very qualified and were a welcome addition to the board.

Councilman Lovering commended the street crew for plowing, with very few places to put snow they did a great job.

Councilman Shepard said the ground is saturated from the fall rains and we may have a lot of surface water in the spring. Shepard agrees that the street crews have done a good job with snow plowing. Shepard said he will be attending the 911 meeting tomorrow.

Councilman Karper concurs with Lovering and Shepard that the street crews have done a good job on plowing and they are out early on heavy snow days.

Mayor Barnhart said the street crew has been doing a good job and believes they have a good leader and crew. Mayor Barnhart also noted that each council member has an evaluation form to complete and return to him at the next council meeting. Mayor Barnhart noted that the council needs to establish a protocol to follow for the manager evaluation process. Mayor Barnhart said he attended the Parks Committee meeting and his recommendation was to invest some improvements into Columbus Park. He noted that they talked about getting a path down the right-of-way to River's Edge Park; along with installing a sidewalk from Columbus Park to Glacier Gateway School. Mayor Barnhart said he would like to add improvements to Pinewood Park to make it more useable, such as picnic areas. He also noted that the backstop at Fenholt Park is in need of repair.

Councilman Shepard said there have been a number of people asking about follow up concerning Senator Tester's office contacting Weyerhaeuser about the vacancy at Cedar Palace. Nicosia said School District 6 has inquired about business offices at the location. Tester's office asked if we wanted it for the City but we really do not have a need for it.

Councilman Lovering asked if possible can we get an intersection plowed on Nucleus Ave in order to cross safely. Nicosia said it is a state highway and our staff is busy with city streets but will have Public Works Director look into it as well as contact MDT.

**REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:**

None.

**REPORTS FROM  
MAYOR AND  
COUNCIL**

**REPORT FROM  
CITY ATTORNEY**

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**CITY MANAGER:**

HB 359 introduced this week would essentially gut TIF and TEDD funding, relying only on city mills for the incremental value. If this were implemented this year, we would have about \$12,000 in total dollars instead of the anticipated \$96,000 in the TIF. The TEDD could not generate enough revenue to bond for infrastructure improvements. We have requested help from both Senator Brown and Representative Perry.

We have received a final draft of the wayfinding signs for your review. Public Works Director Jenkins will get cost estimates from the sign company and we will meet with DOT James Freyholtz on the encroachment permit.

We made it through the first selection process for the TPL Pilot Program. We have a conference call on February 8<sup>th</sup> to continue the process. If selected, TPL representatives will be here for a site visit on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Courtney Nolan has notified us she will not be serving another term on the Planning/Zoning Board, which leaves us with a city vacancy on the board.

Councilman Fisher asked how many wayfinding signs the budget will allow. Nicosia said we have anticipated 10 signs but will know more when we can get the price estimates.

Chief Peters reported he is pleased with the response to the changes within the Police Department. He is in the process of implementing new policies and procedures and noted that progress is good and he is proud of the changes that have been made. Chief Peters noted that he is mainly concerned with Policing but is watching the citation revenue.

**INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

- A. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review
- B. Reports:
  - a. Police -December

**ADJOURN:** Upon motion duly made by Councilman Lovering and seconded by Councilman Petersen the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. and the Council worked on wayfinding sign language and placement.

**CITY MANAGER  
REPORT**

**CORRESPON-  
DENCE**

**ADJOURN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

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

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: February 21, 2017