

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD JANUARY 17, 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: Petersen, Shepard, Fisher, Lovering and Piper

ABSENT: Karper

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

**CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims - \$ 128,536.26 - January 2, 2017
Approval of Claims - \$ 47,825.10 - January 17, 2017
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 59,930.26 - December 30, 2016 Payroll
Approval of Payroll Claims - \$18,331.88 Work comp/unemployment 4th Quarter
Approval of Payroll Claims - \$95,863.85 - January 13, 2017 Payroll
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - December 19, 2016
- D. Approve Contract NH1-2(198)135 C/N with Montana Department of Transportation for Highway 2 Water and Sewer Sanitary Facilities and authorize City Manager to sign.
- E. Adopt updated Detective Job Description

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Kavanagh, 12th Ave W. Mr. Kavanagh said there is a group of 25 people that have been meeting on grants and trails on the Cedar Creek land. There is an upcoming meeting with Glacier to Gateway. They will be formulating a committee to become a 501C3. Mr. Kavanagh said they have been told to dream big by the Forest Service. Their goal is to see the trail bring economic development to Columbia Falls.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

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APPOINTMENTS:

A. Approve appointment of William Hileman – Substitute Judge
City Manager Nicosia said there is a memo from Judge Gordon that has been filed with City Clerk Staland and the MT Supreme Court. William Hileman will serve as substitute judge when Judge Gordon is unavailable. Recently, substitute judge Eric Hummel was appointed by the Flathead County Commissioners to fill a Justice of the Peace position making him no longer available to substitute in Columbia Falls. Mayor Barnhart asked how many hours a substitute Judge works. Nicosia said approximately 20 to 40 hours per year based on Eric Hummel’s last two years. Nicosia noted that Mr. Hileman is volunteering as a substitute judge and is not requesting payment for his services at this time.

Councilman Shepard made motion to approve the appointment of William Hileman as Substitute Judge, second by Councilman Piper and the motion carried.

**APPOINTMENTS-
Substitute Judge
Hileman**

B. Approve Appointment – Tree Board – 3 year term – Cameron Wohlschlegel. City Manager Nicosia said Louis Bowne has retired from the Tree Board, which leaves us with two openings; Cameron Wohlschlegel and Eric Lovering would like to fill the two vacancies on the Tree Board.

Councilman Piper motioned to appoint Wohlschlegel to a 3 year term and Lovering to a 2 year term on the Tree Board, second by Councilman Petersen and the motion carried.

**Tree Board
appointments-
Wohlschlegel and
Lovering**

C. Approve Appointment/Oath of Office – Patrolman Tyler English and Chad Sweigart

Nicosia reported that Tyler English and Chad Sweigart have both successfully completed their probationary year with City and are now eligible for appointment as Patrolman. Upon motion by Shepard and second by Piper to approve the appointments, motion carried.

City Clerk Staland administered the Oath of Office to Patrolman English and Sweigart.

**Oath of Office to
Patrolman English
and Sweigart**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Proclamation – Arbor Day Celebration – May 5, 2017

Mayor Barnhart read the Proclamation designating May 5, 2017 as Arbor Day for Columbia Falls.

**NEW BUSINESS-
Arbor Day
Proclamation**

B. Approve City Application – The Trust for Public Land Intermountain West Pilot Program

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The City has been invited to apply to participate in the Trust for Public Land's (TPL) free community Land and Water Intermountain West pilot program. The TPL will select 6 applicants from the 25 invited communities. Six applicants will be chosen to collaborate with their expert team. Council discussed the program.

**Application for
Public Land
Intermountain West
Pilot Program**

Councilman Fisher made motion to approve the application to participate in the Trust for Public Land West Pilot Program, second by Councilman Shepard and the motion carried.

C. Approve City Application - Bike Walk Building Active Communities Initiative

**Bike Walk Building
Active Communities
Initiative**

City Manager Nicosia said due to the availability of grant funding, the Flathead County Health Department has offered to work with the City to submit an application for the Building Active Communities Action Institute. Our commitment is to establish a 5 member team to go to the training in Butte. This is a 3 day training and networking opportunity for Montana cities or counties interested in making their communities safer and more accessible for walking and bicycling.

Councilman Lovering motioned to approve the City Application for the Bike Walk Building Active Communities Initiative, second by Councilman Fisher and the motion carried.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

A. SECOND AND FINAL READING - Ordinance #766 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Changing the Zoning Classification From CR-3 One-Family Residential to CSAG-5 Suburban Agricultural for Certain Property in the Columbia Falls Zoning District, Described as Tract 4 of COS 20092 in Section 16, Township 30 North, Range 20 West, P.M.M., Flathead County, Montana

**ORDINANCE 766-
Zone change request**

City Manager Nicosia said this is the second and final reading of the Brunz zone change request. There has been no change in the request nor has there been any written correspondence concerning the zone change.

Councilman Shepard motioned to approve the second reading of Ordinance #766, second by Councilman Piper with Council voting as follows. AYES: Petersen, Piper, Shepard, Fisher, Lovering and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: Karper.

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Piper commended the city street crew for doing a great job on snow plowing and wished the High School Speech and Debate team good luck at Divisionals this weekend.

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL**

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Councilman Petersen suggested having a parks committee meeting soon. Committee members agreed to meet Wednesday, February 1st at 6:00.

Councilman Shepard also expressed kudos to the street department for thorough snow plowing. Shepard said there is a huge rally for public lands at the Capital building on January 30th.

Councilman Lovering said at the last meeting she spoke of the possibility of a future resolution against hate and bigotry, if that becomes necessary we can perhaps take that route but for now Lovering is optimistic our community will support our citizens. The City of Columbia Falls Mission Statement speaks to the City's commitment to respecting diversity and providing safety and security to our citizens.

Councilman Fisher said he would like to talk about the biking group; a lot of the planned trails are a real positive step and he would like to keep on it. It's great that Sam came to speak about it this evening and believes it will be great for the community.

Mayor Barnhart read aloud the Columbia Falls Mission Statement. Mayor also discussed the highway 2 sidewalk complaints; our city crews do a good job and would ask the City Manager to approach the highway department to stay on top of the sidewalks and clear the business entrances.

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:

None.

**REPORT FROM
CITY ATTORNEY**

CITY MANAGER:

Snow removal on the sidewalks is a continued issue. Nicosia noted that it will help to have the light poles moved out of the middle of the sidewalks during the highway improvements to be made this summer. Nicosia recommends communicating with the business owners about a special fee and perhaps contracting the sidewalk snow plowing.

Nicosia reported that Brad Bennett, Applied Water has completed the City's Water Rights and all comments/issues have been removed. The City will not have to go to Water Court.

The 911 Center Interlocal Agreement Subcommittee met again and will meet one more time to complete updating the language before the January 30th meeting. The 5th Monday meeting will provide the forum to review the proposed interlocal agreement changes with all four entities.

TIF districts are under attack with multiple bills proposed to date that either take away mills or shift the dollars to another use. There are many bills and we will continue working on them.

DNRC reduced the City's Urban Forestry Grant request to \$2,000 from the original \$2,500 request. The number of trees to be planted in Horine Park will be reduced according to the decrease in funds.

The wayfinding signs are ready for review. Councilman Petersen said he

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

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would like to give them some direction on the arrows and lettering. Nicosia said after the design is approved the goal is to put them on existing poles. The goal is to have the signs up before graduation.

Riverwood Water and Sewer project will be calling for bids in February as planned. The needed easement extension from DNRC will not be on the Land Board agenda until April 17th. We've been advised that it will be another two weeks before we receive the final signed authorization. This will delay the projected construction start date. DNRC required confirmation that the City Manager is authorized to sign easements on behalf of the City before they would proceed. The City Attorney provided a written statement that signing easements is within the City Manager's responsibilities. Once the easement is finalized, it will come to the council consent agenda. We are preparing the paperwork for the land adjustment with Armstrong's property and the easement with the Elliott's property.

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review
REPORTS:

- a. Finance -December
- b. Fire - 2016 activity
- c. Court - Oct - Dec 2016

**CORRESPONDENCE
/REPORTS**

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

ADJOURN

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: February 7, 2017