

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD JANUARY 4, 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 Staaland, City Attorney Breck, Fire Chief Hagen and Police Chief Perry.

Pledge of Allegiance

PLEDGE

CALL TO ORDER

- A. Roll Call
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. City Clerk – Administer Oath of Office:
Council: Fisher, Karper, Piper (4 year term)
City Attorney: Justin Breck (2 year term)
Deputy City Attorney: Stephanie Breck (2 year term)

**CALL TO ORDER-
OATHS OF
OFFICE**

City Clerk Staaland administered Oaths of Office to Councilman Fisher, Councilman Karper, Councilman Piper and City Attorney Breck. Mayor Barnhart welcomed John Piper to the Council. Councilman Piper took his seat at the Council desk.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

**AGENDA
APPROVAL**

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

**CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims - \$30,101.73 - January 4, 2016
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$59,879.23 - December 31, 2015
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – December 21, 2015

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APPOINTMENTS:

A. Volunteer Firefighter Appointment – Lawrence Grogan
Fire Chief Hagen recommended Lawrence Grogan be appointed as Volunteer Firefighter. City Manager Nicosia concurred with the recommendation.

**APPOINTMENTS-
Firefighter Grogan**

Councilman Fisher motioned to appoint Lawrence Grogan as Volunteer Firefighter second by Councilman Shepard. Motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Items not on agenda)

A. Cliff Boyd/Calbag – CFAC Cleanup Update

Cliff Boyd gave an update on the cleanup process at the CFAC site. The buildings and roofs were asbestos free, his company has been given clearance from the MDEQ and all permits are posted at the guard shack. Mr. Boyd said several of the buildings have been removed. The paste plant is scheduled for demolition the middle of February and is considered highly flammable which will need to be mechanically taken down. They have subcontracted on site security 24-7.

**VISITOR
COMMENT**

Councilman Shepard asked how you will address safe removal of material through Columbia Falls. Mr. Boyd described the process of removing the material and loading it on the trucks. At the end of each pot room, the trucks will be loaded then swept off before leaving the plant. The haul route through town will be the truck route, they had looked at removal by rail and it is just not feasible.

Fire Chief Hagen asked for clarification on removing the paste plant with the high reach clipper in the spring. Mr. Boyd said the building removal should be completed by June. Fire Chief Hagen said his concern was with the building being flammable, but noted spring will be a good time to disassemble. Fire Chief Hagen asked if there was any water at the plant due to the concern fire prevention. Mr. Boyd said no there is no water at this time but there will be a water truck on site.

Mr. Boyd said the old lab has a significant amount of asbestos as well as other parts of the site, resulting in additional demolition time. It is going to be more like 3 years for time of completion instead of the original two year estimate. Mr. Boyd said he is doing what he can to keep the money locally, with rentals, food and fuel and hiring local employees.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

A. SECOND AND FINAL READING – Ordinance # 756 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Amending Portions of Title 18 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code (Increase the Accessory Building Height to Allow for Current Building Standards and to Amend the Building Height from 30' to 35' to be Consistent Within all of the Residential Districts).

**ORDINANCE #756-
Accessory Building
Height**

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Councilman Karper motioned to approve Ordinance #756, second by Councilman Petersen with Council voting as follows. AYES: Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Petersen, Piper, Shepard and Mayor Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

A. **SECOND AND FINAL READING - Ordinance # 757** - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Amending Title 18 Chapter 18.438 Signs of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code (Chapter 18.438 Signs to comply with a recent US Supreme Court decision requiring sign regulations be content neutral while still regulating time, place and manner of signage.)

**ORDINANCE #757-
Signs**

Councilman Shepard motioned to approve Ordinance #757, second by Councilman Lovering with Council voting as follows. AYES: Karper, Lovering, Petersen, Piper, Shepard, Fisher and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

A. **SECOND AND FINAL READING - Ordinance # 758** - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Adding Title 18 Chapter 18.439 Cluster Unit Development to the Columbia Falls Municipal Code (to provide another zoning tool that respects the overall density of a property but also preserves more farm and open space areas.)

**ORDINANCE #758-
Cluster Unit
Development**

Councilman Shepard motioned to approve Ordinance #758, second by Councilman Lovering with Council voting as follows. AYES: Lovering, Petersen, Piper, Shepard, Fisher, Karper and Mayor Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

A. Council Organization - appointment of "president pro tempore," also known as Vice-chairman.

Councilman Shepard recommended Councilman Lovering be appointed as Vice-Chairman, Council approved recommendation.

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL**

B. Council Committee appointments-

After Council discussion, the appropriate appointments were made to the Council committees.

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Councilman Fisher complimented the street department on snow removal around town, as well as the sidewalk being cleared along Highway 2. Fisher also wanted to thank the Police Department for patrolling and making traffic stops on Highway 2. Fisher reported that he had just completed his first batch of beer and things seem to be on track for a March or April opening of the Backslope Brewery.

Councilman Lovering asked if the pot hole at the end of Nucleus was fixed. Mayor Barnhart said it was fixed today.

Councilman Shepard said he too wanted to compliment the street department on the snow plowing. Shepard said it is nice to see the hotel going up. Shepard said he is pleased to see Calbag is aware of the amount of asbestos at the CFAC plant.

Councilman Petersen said the scaffolding that was used to erect the mural was removed today.

Mayor Barnhart said he misspoke on the electrical transformer at the hotel site, he thought they moved the transformer but have not. The state plowed the sidewalks and some of the business entrances were plugged as a result of their plowing; noting perhaps the next time the city crew can help clear business entrances. Mayor Barnhart said he was pleased with the City snow plowing as well.

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:

None.

**REPORT FROM
CITY ATTORNEY**

CITY MANAGER:

With the termination of the 911 District process, the 911 Board and a committee to be appointed by the Commissioners will begin anew the discussion of how to fund the 911 center. Nicosia noted that we are not alone in these discussions sharing an article from Hamilton County, Ohio.

Mayor Barnhart noted that the percentage of taxpayers was still very small and may have passed had it not been for the significant problems with the commercial assessments. Mayor Barnhart said the committee should seriously look at what it costs to run the center; can there be reductions within the 911 center? Councilman Shepard said they need to bring in a headhunter and review what the 911 center has done and is doing. Shepard said he wasn't for this 5 years ago because we were still learning, but now is the time. Mayor said they need to show the citizens that they are looking at this in depth.

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

The City received official word this week that the Youth Recreation Grant request in the amount of \$88,000 has been approved. Contracts and other documents will be forthcoming. Mayor Barnhart asked if that just covers paving? Nicosia said correct. Nicosia said the baseball group is working with

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Round Up For Safety for new backstops and received funding from the Plum Creek Foundation for some of the field improvements.

Nicosia said she would like to have a Parks Committee meeting soon to review the fishing pond proposal. There is a February 1st deadline for a MT FWP Community Pond Program grant. There is a 30% match. Nicosia said if we needed to apply for the grant there would need to be a recommendation and approval from the Council. Nicosia said she will email the parks committee when she hears from Mark Deleray, FW&P.

Nicosia said there will be training for Council and Planning Board Tuesday January 12, 2016. There is a regular Planning Board meeting followed by training by City Attorney Breck, City Planner Mulcahy and herself.

Nicosia reported that she and Fire Chief Hagen are completing an AFG FEMA grant for SCBA's and air compressor/fill stations. The grant is due by January 15th. There is an extended review period and we will not know for several months if we are successful. There is a 5% match requirement. Fire Chief Hagen added discussion on the current SCBA's, bottles and the system in use, noting that our bottles are 3000 psi and are at least 10 years old.

The representative from the MT Main Street Program will be here to present at the January 12th Chamber lunch. Nicosia said she would encourage any council members that are available to attend.

Councilman Petersen asked with making part of the highway a boulevard and various ideas for Nucleus, would that type of project fall under the main street program. Nicosia said it could fall under the Transportation study.

Sink hole in the highway is still being looked into. The highway department wants it fixed before the overlay.

Nicosia handed out the Municipal training information and asked council to contact City Clerk Staland for registration purposes.

Fire Chief Hagen reported more incidents this year than in the past 5 years.

A. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review
- B. Reports:
 - a. Fire Report-Thru Nov

**CORRES-
PONDENCE**

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ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilman Fisher, and seconded by Councilman Piper and the meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

ADJOURN

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: January 19, 2016