

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD MARCH 20, 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 Shepard, and the motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA
APPROVAL**

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

**CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVAL**

A. Approval of Claims - \$ 101,670.62 - March 20, 2017

B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 92,348.60 - March 10, 2017 Payroll

C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - March 6, 2017

D. MT DOT Agreement Columbia Falls Urban NH 1-2(198)135 C/N - Water and Sewer Manhole Facilities, approve and authorize City Manager to sign

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A. MT DOT - Hwy 2 Project Report - Bob Vosen and Jason Livingston

Bob Vosen, Construction Engineer with MDOT, said he appreciates Council approval on the extended hours of 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mr. Vosen said Highway 2 construction will begin in August with the main portion of paving after Labor Day. Vosen said he would ask for Council permission to do paving from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. The reason for this adjustment is due to the hot mix taking time to set plus traffic will be slower in the later hours. Mr. Vosen said the paving process will be quieter with rollers and no jackhammers. Mr. Vosen reported that there will be cross traffic every couple blocks. Councilman Shepard asked how many nights will be needed to complete paving. Mr. Livingston said his estimated time was about two weeks. Councilman Karper asked if the contractor paves all 5 lanes at the one time.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC
COMMENTS-
MDOT**

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Mr. Vosen replied no we do not, noting that MT DOT allows the contractor to determine the best method of operation. DOT will hold a public meeting and will have radio announcements and newspaper postings on work hours. Councilman Shepard asked about the light poles and sidewalks being done all at once. Mr. Livingston said we do not dictate to the contractor but they won't do both sides of the highway at the same time. Shepard inquired about the timeline for completion. Mr. Vosen replied 90 working days weather permitting. Mayor Barnhart inquired about the business entrances and if there has been contact with the owners. Vosen replied that the project surveyors have been in touch with the owners along the project route. Vosen reported that DOT is required to update the approaches to current ADA standards. Mayor Barnhart asked if the sidewalks are being replaced. Mr. Vosen said the project plan includes upgrading all sidewalks and adding sidewalks from Hilltop to 3rd Ave. plus the south side to the bridge. Mayor Barnhart asked about the street lighting upgrades. Vosen said the lights will be moved to the back of the sidewalk to be in compliance with ADA standards.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Letters of Support – Paving North Fork road to Camas Road
Councilman Petersen said he would like to amend the third paragraph to eliminate a portion of a sentence. Councilman Fisher suggested a correction to read the west entrance of the park. The majority of Council agrees with Councilman Petersen in revising the letter of support. City Manager Nicosia will draft up a revised letter for Council approval and signatures

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS-Letters
of Support**

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Award Bid - Riverwood SID Project
City Manager Nicosia said the bid opening was on March 1, 2017 and reviewed by Public Works Director Jenkins and RPA engineers. The apparent low bid was \$2,552 higher than the engineer's estimate of \$835,840. Nicosia noted that staff requested that Council award the bid to the apparent low bidder, Cutting Edge Excavation in the amount of \$838,392, contingent upon MT Land Board approval of the easement across the DNRC property.

**NEW BUSINESS-
Bid Award for
Riverwood SID #38
Project**

Councilman Fisher made motion to award the Riverwood SID Project to Cutting Edge Excavation, subject to Land Board Approval, second by Councilman Lovering with Council voting as follows. AYES: Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Petersen, Piper, Shepard and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

B. Approve Amended FECC Interlocal Agreement and authorize City Manager to sign. City Manager Nicosia said this is the final draft of the agreement, which does show the two amendments recommended by the subcommittee and approved by the FECC Board.

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Councilman Shepard motioned to approve the amended final FECC Interlocal Agreement and authorize City Manager to sign, second by Councilman Piper with Council voting as follows. AYES: Karper, Lovering, Petersen, Piper, Shepard, Fisher and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #1745 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Creating Special Improvement District No. 38

**RESOLUTION
#1745-Creating SID
#38**

City Manager Nicosia said there are multiple steps in creating a SID and this Resolution formally creates SID #38. Nicosia reported that the original SID creation was based on 28 lots due to a potential lot amendment but there are only 27 lots at this time. Accordingly, the Resolution to create is based on the 27 lots resulting in a per lot cost of \$12,593, an approximate increase to each property owner by \$25 per year.

Councilman Karper made motion to approve Resolution #1745, second by Councilman Shepard, with Council voting as follows. AYES: Lovering, Petersen, Piper, Shepard, Fisher, Karper and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Mayor Barnhart addressed the request for work hour extension on the Highway 2 project. Councilman Fisher said he believes the night paving makes a lot of sense and is for the recommended change from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Council is in agreement to amend the hours for paving on the Hwy 2 project.

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL**

Councilman Fisher recommended turning the lights off at Glacier Bank and the Shay Engine.

Councilman Shepard said he attended the last 911 Board meeting and he noted that the City of Kalispell board member or alternate were not in attendance.

Petersen asked Mr. Vosen from MT DOT if the Nucleus Avenue intersection was going to be amended during the project. Bob Vosen said DOT and City staff discussed the intersection and it will not be altered during this project; it is a properly marked intersection and believes there is an enforcement issue with cars not stopping behind the cross bar.

Councilman Petersen noted the construction of the new building on Nucleus Avenue with retail space on the lower level and apartments above it is coming right along.

Mayor Barnhart reported on the Public Safety Committee meeting that reviewed Police Department operations and planning for the future, including the Office Assistant position.

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REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:

None.

**REPORT FROM
CITY ATTORNEY**

CITY MANAGER:

Nicosia provided Council with detailed budget and actual data and gave an update on the 2017 FY budget and project activity to date. Areas of concern included future federal and state funding and capital projects planning and funding.

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

The City was selected to participate in the Building Active Communities Initiative (BACI). Committee members attending the training in Butte in May will be: Darin Fisher, Grady Jenkins, Eric Mulcahy, Susan Nicosia and Wendy Olson, FC Health Dept.

Nicosia updated Council on state legislative activity, noting that HB 573 affects TIF districts by allowing the 95 state-wide school mills to be used only for the first 15 years which could affect bonding capacity of a TIF district. As a result of the multiple TIF bills, the state has asked the Legislative Auditor's Office to review TIF districts. HB 473, Gas Tax bill is still alive in the House.

Nicosia met with MT DOT on the wayfinding signs and they will not issue an encroachment permit until after the construction is complete as DOT will not allow the installation of a sign on a pole that is going to be moved during the construction of Highway 2.

Mayor asked if EPA gave us any findings on the well monitoring's. Nicosia said they were supposed to be posted on the EPA website and last she looked they were not posted. Nicosia said representatives from EPA will attend the April 17th council meeting.

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

**CORRESPONDENCE
& REPORTS**

A. Reports:

- a. Finance - February
- b. Police - February

ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilman Lovering and seconded by Councilman Shepard, the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: April 3, 2017