

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD MAY 18, 2015**

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, Plevel, Fisher and Lovering
ABSENT: Karper

ROLL CALL

Also present were City Manager Nicosia, City Clerk Staaland, City Attorney Breck and Police Chief Perry.

Pledge of Allegiance

PLEDGE

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**

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Matt Caudle, 379 Kokanee Bend, Distributed a Proposal for Feasibility and Conceptual Design Study, Flathead River Whitewater Park Project. Mr. Caudle discussed the contents of the packet with Council. Mayor Barnhart asked if the company invests in the project and operates it. Mr. Caudle said they research and design the park. Mayor Barnhart asked Mr. Caudle if he was requesting approval from Council. Mr. Caudle said he believes a river activity would bring people to the area but he does not know which location would be best, Hungry Horse, Columbia Falls, or somewhere else. He noted that he wasn't sure where to start so he came to the City Council first. Councilman Lovering asked if the \$13,000 was for the design and study. Matt said yes and they would recommend the area that works best. Mr. Caudle said the community could do crowd funding for support. Mr. Caudle said instead of people driving through Columbia Falls to spend money they would stop in Columbia Falls to spend money. This is a great town and there is so much that could be done here. Mayor Barnhart suggested starting with Flathead County Parks. Councilman Shepard believes Mr. Caudle would need to start with the Corp of Engineers for a project on the Flathead River, noting that a portion of the river is designated scenic and wild. Mayor thanked Mr. Caudle for bringing his idea forward.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC
COMMENT**

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilman Petersen moved to approve the consent agenda noting that all claims appeared to be in order, second by Councilman Plevel. Motion carried with Council voting as follows. YES: Fisher, Petersen,

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

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Shepard, Plevel, Lovering and Barnhart NOES: None. ABSENT: Karper.

- A. Approval of Claims \$ 320,773.01 – May 18, 2015
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 85,622.79 – May 8, 2015
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2015
- D. Approval of 2015 Swim Team Agreement and authorize City Manager to sign.
- E. Approval of Change Order – Watson Excavating, Inc. – Schedule One Water/Sewer Projects - \$34,143
- F. Approval of Plant Investment Payment Agreement (Sewer) with Wendy Guiltner and authorize City Manager to sign.

PRESENTATIONS:

A. MWED/CenturyLink - IT Capabilities in Columbia Falls/Flathead Valley

John Bemis, Marketing Manager for CenturyLink presented information on the area broadband capabilities provided by CenturyLink. Mr. Bemis noted that CenturyLink is the third largest telecommunications business in the world. Councilman Shepard asked Mr. Bemis how to get IT businesses here in Columbia Falls; referencing Bozeman's IT businesses. Mr. Bemis said the broadband is better in the Flathead than in Bozeman. Councilman Petersen asked if everybody was on an equal playing field for operating a business from a consumer standpoint. Mr. Bemis said CenturyLink can provide adequate GB to a business. Bemis said there are some office locations that they would not be able to provide service to such as the Polebridge area, but 80-90% offices could be served with high speed service. Petersen inquired about just Columbia Falls. Bemis said we have an office here in Columbia Falls and provide good service. Petersen asked about rates. Bemis replied pricing is standardized which is about the same as Seattle. Petersen asked if a business was moving from Polson to Columbia Falls, would one community be more attractive than another. Bemis said yes, this is an attractive area and the pricing would be the same from Polson to Columbia Falls.

Kellie Danielson, Executive Director, MWED, asked if there is a % of fiber optics to homes. Mr. Bemis replied yes we have fiber huts around the valley and we do have 4-5% fiber to homes. Councilman Petersen asked do you know what the capability is across the tracks, north of town. Bemis said he did not know but would research it. Mayor Barnhart stated he just upgraded his personal service and CenturyLink said they could have about any service he needed.

Councilman Shepard asked Mr. Bemis if he could write a paragraph that we could put it on the City website letting residents and potential businesses know what was available in Columbia Falls. Mr. Bemis said he would be happy to do that.

**PRESENTATIONS
CENTURYLINK**

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:

A. Resolution #1697 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana Approving the Petition of BID Group Properties (US) Inc. for Annexation of Property Described as Tracts 1, 1BA, 5, 5A and 5BA, Section 4, Tract 4 Section 5, Tracts 10, 10B and 10CB, Section 8 and Tracts 1B, 1C, 1CA and 1E, Section 9, Township 30 North, Range 20 West, P.M.M., Flathead County, Montana, as Shown of File at the Flathead County Plat Room and Containing About 110 Acres of Land, More or Less.

**RESOLUTION
#1697
Annexation BID
Group Properties**

City Manager Nicosia said the industrial park is currently serviced with City water and will be served by City sewer as the park is developed. This is the first step, with the new owner, to update the Industrial Park, ultimately creating a subdivision. Nicosia noted that the Council has already approved creating an Industrial TIF. A zone change application is also being processed for hearing by the Planning Board and Council for SmartLam's new location.

Councilman Shepard made motion to approve Resolution #1697, second by Councilman Plevel with Council voting as follows. YES: Lovering, Petersen, Plevel, Shepard, Fisher and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: Karper.

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Lovering reported the Community Garden is up and running with 26 plots. Lovering added there is a fund raiser for the garden Friday May 22, 2015 at the Vet's home.

Councilman Petersen asked City Manager Nicosia if the city video was still on the website. Nicosia said yes, we have the long version on the website again. Petersen asked if the Chamber of Commerce uses the video. Nicosia replied yes they do along with the School District.

Councilman Shepard said on Memorial Day the Freedom Post is adding a new plaque on the Veterans Wall at Marantette Park. The Post has 80 current members and has the highest % in memberships in Montana. Shepard said they are looking for an electrician to put in a light at the wall.

Mayor Barnhart said he and City Manager attended the Community Liaison meeting at CFAC. Mayor said they toured the plant and attended a meeting which was open to the public.

Mayor Barnhart mentioned he has not seen any advertising on the

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL**

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Cedar Creek North lots that the City has for sale. There is a small sign at the entrance but there is a cable across the road. Mayor said we need to market these lots with better signage and remove the cable across the road so people can view the lots.

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:

None

**REPORT FROM
CITY ATTORNEY**

CITY MANAGER:

City Manager Nicosia said the Water/Sewer change order approved on the consent agenda was to pave the entire 3rd Ave W street width as patching was not going to be successful. She also reported that Downing will be starting Schedule Two work next week.

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

Nicosia noted the legislative session was not kind to cities and towns. HB 33, amended at midnight before adjourning, funded "Crisis Intervention and jail Diversion Grant Programs: by taking \$1.050 million out of the state entitlement program. She is still reviewing the changes for any effect on City code.

Nicosia said she and Mayor Barnhart were invited to the Community Liaison Panel Organizational meeting along with 25 others on May 14, 2015. Glencore has hired AnnGreen, a public relations company to oversee the process. Initially, they will meet monthly to discuss all issues surrounding the CFAC site: cleanup, redevelopment and dismantling.

Nicosia said she has a meeting with County Commissioner Mitchell to review the SRO agreement which has been in place since 2003 and other items of interest between the City and County.

The Building permit activity is still up and we are looking forward to SmartLam's 140,000 SF building in the industrial park.

Councilman Petersen said he would like to find out more about the group on the panel; specifically how the panel was picked and what the end game was. Nicosia said it is not an organization it is a forum for open discussion between CFAC/Glencore and the community. Nicosia said it is a diverse group. Mayor said they are public meetings and anyone can attend. There was discussion on the clean-up of CFAC.

A. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

**CORRES-
PONDENCE**

B. REPORTS:

- a. Finance – April
- b. Police – April activity

REPORTS

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ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilman Plevel and seconded by Councilman Lovering the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

ADJOURN

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: June 1, 2015