

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD OCTOBER 3, 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 Staland, City Attorney Breck and Officer Stanberry.

Pledge of Allegiance

PLEDGE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

**AGENDA
APPROVAL**

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilman Shepard moved to approve the consent agenda noting that all claims appeared to be in order with the reduction of a claims adjustment in the amount of \$6.50, second by Councilman Fisher. Motion carried with Council voting as follows: YES: Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Petersen, Piper, Shepard and Barnhart NOES: None. ABSENT: None

**CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims - \$ 38,588.85 - October 3, 2016
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$61,192.34 - September 23, 2016
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - September 19, 2016
- D. Approval of Dept. of Administration Local Government Services Bureau Standard Audit Contract for the July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016 Fiscal Year and authorize City Manager to sign.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NOTICES:

None.

**PUBLIC
HEARINGS**

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

None.

**ORDINANCES/
RESOLUTIONS**

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Request from City Judge - Clerical Assistance

Council thanked City Attorney Justin Breck and City Manager Nicosia for their reports addressing the information requested by the council. Mayor Barnhart asked Breck and Nicosia if they had any additional information or comments. Nicosia and Breck replied that they would entertain any questions from the Council. Judge Gordon then addressed the Council on her request for additional clerical assistance. Judge Gordon reported that on the most recent quarterly report, DUI's had doubled. Gordon said in response to Mayor Barnhart's question at the last Council Meeting as to why she didn't ask for monies before the budget approval, at that time the court still had an intern through the federal program. The intern was with the city court until budget time was over. Judge Gordon had understood the city would have her for 2 years and she only stayed for 6 months when she resigned.

Councilman Piper asked if the situation has changed, do we have emergency funding. City Manager Nicosia said we split the pie up based on priorities and have appropriated funds accordingly, even using a portion of the reserves.

Councilman Petersen asked for clarification on if the Judge goes to the City Manager or Council for such requests. City Attorney Breck said the City Manager prepares the budget, at budget time the budget is presented by the City Manager who takes into account from department heads all requests. The City Judge can go to Council for unusual requests. City Manager Nicosia is responsible by State statute to prepare the budget. Judge Gordon said if she disagrees with the City Manager then she could to the City Council. Councilman Petersen said the timing is off with the emergency needs as the budget has already been approved. City Manager Nicosia said budgets can be amended if there is a new funding source available and noted that every decision we make has long lasting fiscal implications. Mayor Barnhart said when the City implemented Digiticket we were under the impression that it would help the Police Officers and take some work load off the Court. Judge Gordon said it hasn't helped a lot as there are still a lot of errors. Mayor Barnhart said it seems that the caseloads have diminished based on the quarterly reports and official state reports. Mayor Barnhart said you reduced clerk hours 3 years ago, can you convince me that a new clerk/additional hours are needed. Judge Gordon said the defendant determines our case load. Mayor Barnhart asked if the case load has increased. Judge Gordon said per her quarterly reports the DUI's have doubled from this quarter from last quarter. Councilman Piper said you mention hand written reports, is there technology not provided for use. Judge Gordon said there is no technology that we are not using. Councilman Petersen asked Nicosia when you look ahead 6 months do you see anything changing. City Manager Nicosia replied that every year we evaluate needs and priorities and will

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS-
Court Clerk**

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work together on how we make this work. Mayor Barnhart noted that Whitefish has night court one night a week, is that something in the future we could put together for the benefit of service to our community? Judge Gordon said she believes Kalispell and Whitefish no longer have night court and she would not consider night court.

Councilman Karper motioned to stand by the 2017 FY budget as presented by Nicosia and passed by Council, second by Shepard and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

2015 FY Audit Report

The audit is complete and went very well. The auditors will be returning to start the 2016 audit and will meet with the Council at that time.

**NEW BUSINESS-
Audit Report**

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Fisher asked if the street lights been upgraded as they seem brighter. Nicosia said FEC came in and replaced bulbs and are working their way through town. Fisher said he attended the EPA meeting and found it very informative and appreciated the fact that we were supported by several different branches except the County representation was absent.

Councilman Shepard said the City received an A+ from out of town American Legion members. Several of them stayed at the Cedar Creek Lodge and said the hospitality was exceptional and the people in town were pleasant.

Mayor Barnhart said we talked about volunteer projects being available in the City and getting it on the city website with an explanation on what would be needed and how to request help from the city. Mayor asked City Manager the outcome of the Public Works Foreman position. Nicosia said the Public Works Director came back with changes to the job description. A new job description will be available at the next council meeting. Mayor asked if the Parks maintenance employees are still working. Nicosia replied yes until the end of October.

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL**

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:

None.

**REPORT FROM
CITY ATTORNEY**

CITY MANAGER:

Officer Gary Stanberry helped deliver a baby a few days ago, while the ambulance was on the way. Officer Stanberry said this was his fourth baby he has delivered. Council applauded Stanberry for his efforts.

The EPA meeting on Thursday was well attended, 52 in attendance. Nicosia believes there is confusion and misinformation over the process and hopes that, DEQ, EPA and Glencore/CFAC can dispel the confusion and provide

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

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good information to the public. Mayor Barnhart asked how the wells compare to the City water, is that something we can look at.

Tomorrow is the Economic Development Committee: 9:00 a.m. Tuesday October 4th. Council Chambers with Kirk Keysor, EDA, special funding information. Members of the Chamber and MWED will also be in attendance.

The Public Works Director Jenkins, RPA Engineer Ryan Mitchell and I have compiled the information requested by the Public Works Committee on the Riverwood Estates project. We would like to schedule a meeting with the Public Works Committee for Tuesday October 11th.

October 12th, the 911Administrative Board will hold a joint meeting with the Operations Board to discuss the independent review report.

The Police Chief application review committee has narrowed down the applicants and will be selecting finalists for interview. Mayor Barnhart selected Councilman Karper and Councilman Piper. Other members of the interview committee include Kalispell Police Chief Roger Nasset, Police Commission Chairman Larry Wilson and Nicosia.

Preliminary tax reports are done. TIFF monies \$96,000 Council will have to decide when to appropriate and where to put the monies according to the Needs Assessment Plan.

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

CORRESPONDENCE

ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilman Shepard and seconded by Councilman Lovering the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

ADJOURN

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: October 17, 2016