

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD SEPTEMBER 5, 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: None. (Karper on 90 separation)

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

**CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims - \$ 57,800.62 – September 5, 2017
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 71,730.25 -August 25, 2017
Approval of Payroll Claims - \$13,345.21 – August 30, 2017 Clothing Allowance
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – August 21, 2017
- D. Approval of Public Works Clerk Job Description
- E. Park Lot Lease Agreement Renewal, 2017-2019

VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT: (Items not on agenda)

Nucleus Avenue Intersection Project Presentation:

Mark Johnson, representing the Columbia Falls Community Foundation, reported on the committee that has been working on the Nucleus District entrance for the last 3 or 4 months. Councilman Petersen and Councilman Lovering along with other members are also involved with the project. Mr. Johnson said as you know the triangle piece of property located at the intersection of Nucleus Avenue and Hwy 2 is owned by MDOT and maintained by Glacier Bank. Johnson noted on the east side of Nucleus they would like to make it more presentable and visually appealing, this would also include the concrete retaining wall by the Hungry Horse News. The

**VISITOR/PUBLIC
COMMENT**

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committee is recommending two large monuments, one on each side of Nucleus, constructed of cement to have the look of natural rock; one side will read "Nucleus District Gateway to Glacier," the other monument will read "Nucleus District Adventure Lives Here." The plan includes an overlay on the wall by the Hungry Horse News to match. The Community Foundation intends to start fundraising within the next month.

Councilman Shepard asked if they had the estimated cost of the project. Mr. Johnson said they have not gotten formal estimates or bids but we estimate around \$30,000 for the monuments and light landscaping; Glacier Bank has recently installed a new sprinkler system. Nicosia said if Council concurs with the plans, she and Bruce Lutz will meet with MDOT to submit an encroachment and maintenance permits. Mr. Johnson added the committee has discussed adding pedestrian lighting at the intersection with future expansion continuing up Nucleus Avenue.

Councilman Petersen said another element for improvement is dressing up the wall on the south side to match the Nucleus side. O'Brien Byrd presented drawings of the monuments and one with the wall with a steel overlay that will be low maintenance, along with shrubs and trees. Councilman Lovering asked if there was concern with snow plowing. Byrd said this is sturdy material and there should not be a problem with snow plowing. Mr. Byrd said Nucleus Avenue is a very marketable part of Columbia Falls. There will be back lighting of the monuments for better visibility of the entrance. Mr. Johnson said it is the committee's intention to fundraise this entire project without asking the city for any funding. Councilman Shepard said he liked the idea of the new Nucleus entrance. Mayor Barnhart added the "get it done" sentiment and don't let MDOT bog this project down.

Councilman Shepard asked how much each pedestrian light would cost. Nicosia said typically they are a couple thousand per light pending on the model.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:

- A. Brian Hader - WWTP Operator - 10 years

Mayor Barnhart recognized Brian Hader's 10 years of service with the City. Mr. Hader was not in attendance.

**EMPLOYEE
RECOGNITION**

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Barnhart read the notice of hearings: The Columbia Falls City-County Planning Board will hold a public hearing for the following items at their regular meeting on Tuesday, September 12th at 6:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers of City Hall, 130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, Montana. The Columbia Falls City Council will hold a subsequent hearing on September 18th, 2017 starting at 7:00 p.m. in the same location.

**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC
HEARINGS-Swan
Mtn. Zone Change**

Request for a Zone Change in the Columbia Falls Zoning Jurisdiction:

Swan Mountain Real Estate Holdings, LLC, applicant, and Lester Elletson, land owner, request to amend the zoning district map for property in the Columbia Falls Zoning Jurisdiction. The applicants have a contract to purchase 0.42 acres of land that is currently zoned CRA-1 (Residential Apartment). The applicants propose to change the zoning to CB-2 (General

Business) or CB-3 (Limited Business) which would allow them to operate their snowmobile guide and rental business and a full time reservation office. The property is located at the corner of Railroad Street and 6th Avenue East North and is described as Lots 1, 2, 3, & 4 of Lot 24 Van's Acre Tracts in Section 9, T30N, R20W, P.M.M. in Columbia Falls.

Persons may testify at the hearing or submit written comments prior to the meeting. Written comment may be sent to Columbia Falls City Hall, Attention: Susan Nicosia, City Manager, 130 6th Street West, Room A, Columbia Falls, MT 59912. For more information call Eric Mulcahy, Columbia Falls City Planner at 755-6481.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTIONS:

A. RESOLUTION # 1760 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Designating the Glacier Glow Run as an Official Activity of the City of Columbia Falls.

**RESOLUTION
#1760-Glacier Glow
Run Activity**

Councilman Lovering motioned to approve Resolution 1760, second by Councilman Fisher with Council voting as follows. AYES: Shepard, Fisher, Lovering, Petersen, Piper and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

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B. SECOND AND FINAL READING - Ordinance 769 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Changing the Zoning Classification From CR-5 Two-Family Residential To CI-1 Light Industrial for Certain Property in the Columbia Falls Zoning District, Described as Tract 11 in Section 8, Township 30 North, Range 20 West, P.M.M., Flathead County, Montana

**ORDINANCE #769
SECOND
READING**

Councilman Fisher made motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 769, second by Councilman Shepard with Council voting as follows. AYES: Fisher, Lovering, Petersen, Piper, Shepard and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Piper likes the idea of the Nucleus project, and would still like to see the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center at the end of Nucleus.

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL**

Councilman Petersen informed Council the Bandit Bar has been sold and the new owner has experience with restaurants/bars.

Councilman Shepard said folks are asking him what they are hauling out of the Aluminum Plant. Shepard said he noticed a truck with plastic bags going across the viaduct and there was white powder blowing out the back. Shepard believes they are not watering the roads as there appears to be a lot of dust in the area. Shepard asked Nicosia if she can request dust abatement.

Councilman Shepard reported the murals on the Masonic Lodge were repainted by the CF Community Foundation and it has made a significant change in appearance.

Mayor Barnhart read an article on how Columbia Falls got its name and found it very interesting.

Mayor suggested talking about the announcement of Flathead County purchasing Cedar Palace. Councilman Shepard reported a neighbor said they liked the idea of additional officers in town, with the question of what could happen to the other 24 acres. Nicosia said the county will host public meetings for discussion perhaps here in the Council Chambers. Nicosia said the City will have to discuss the pros and cons of annexation; particularly with respect to road maintenance. Police Chief Peters said he thinks it's a fantastic idea and could bring jobs to our area plus existing employees will be spending money in the community. Chief Peters said CFPD works well with the County Sheriff Department and the rumors that the City police department will be dissolved are not true.

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REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:

None.

**REPORT FROM
CITY ATTORNEY**

CITY MANAGER:

The City received a letter from DNRC about a model airplane airport runway near the WWTP on DNRC property adjacent to the Vet's Home. The City's planner sent a letter to DNRC noting that that use does not comply with the SAG 10 zoning. Council also discussed concerns with noise, parking and the proximity to the powerlines.

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

Nicosia provided the Hwy 2 work update: Knife River is working on the sidewalks Tues-Sat and starting demo work on the west side of Veterans Drive.

There was another water main break on 7th Street at the same location as the recent break. We have replaced 16 feet of the 20 foot section. The engineer and manufacturer of the pipe are coming in to look at it. The break did cause some dampness at Mr. Hutchison's residence but no visible standing water per a preliminary report from the Public Works Director. The City may request that the 20 foot pipe replaced and the contractor repave the road. Lovering asked if the damage to Mr. Hutchison's driveway was due to the first break. Nicosia replied yes.

Riverwood Estates water/sewer project is about 77% complete. Nicosia said so far things are going pretty good, there were some dust concerns.

Mayor Barnhart commented about Knife River putting a 35 MPH sign down by the Blue Moon, and then 35 MPH sign at the base of the hill. Chief Peters said the traffic is backed up to the Blue Moon and it is getting them to slow down. Mayor Barnhart asked Chief Peters if the City has traffic control enforcement on Truck Route to Meadow Lake. Chief said yes, the City has a 3 mile jurisdiction outside the city limits.

A. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

**CORRESPONDENCE/
REPORTS**

B. REPORTS:

- a. Fire Department Activity
- b. Finance - YTD August 2017

ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilman Lovering and seconded by Councilman Shepard and the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

ADJOURN

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Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: September 18, 2017