

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD December 4, 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 Lovering, Petersen, Piper, Shepard, Karper  
ABSENT: Fisher

**ROLL CALL**

Also present were City Manager Nicosia, Deputy Clerk Ott, City Attorney Breck, and Sergeant Sean Murphy.

Pledge of Allegiance

**PLEDGE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Mayor Barnhart requested a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Petersen moved to approve the agenda. Second by Councilman Piper and the motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA  
APPROVAL**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Councilman Lovering moved to approve the consent agenda noting that all claims appeared to be in order, with corrections to the minutes for typo and spelling corrections as noted: page 2 after safety issues add such as, page 3 change from order to odor, page 6 delete duplicate are, page 8 change from missions to emissions, second by Councilman Petersen. Motion carried with Council voting as follows: YES: Karper, Lovering, Petersen, Piper, Shepard, and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: Fisher.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA  
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims - \$ 189,387.01 - December 4, 2017  
Approval of Claims - \$314.85 - December 4<sup>th</sup> special
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 15,986.41- November 22, 2017  
Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 99,930.80 - December 1, 2017
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - November 20, 2017
- D. Approval of Revised Encroachment Permit with Backhaul Utility Networks MT, LLC and authorize City Manager to sign.

**VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** (Items not on agenda)

None.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

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**APPOINTMENTS:**

**A. Appointments to Boards**

City Manager Nicosia reported that the following individuals have agreed to be appointed for another term to the respective volunteer boards:

Planning/Zoning Commission Steve Duffy 2 year term ending 12/31/2019 as a City Member.

Columbia Falls Board of Adjustments Barb Riley, Jon Ludviksen, and Olaf Ervin 3 year terms ending 12/31/2020.

Tree Board Doug Karper and Ellis Hagen 3 year terms ending 12/31/2020.

The Planning Board/Zoning Commission will have one City member, one County member and the at-large position open for 2 year terms ending 12/31/2019.

Councilman Lovering moved to approve Appointments to Boards, second by Councilman Shepard. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Barnhart thanked all of the appointees for their service.

**REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:**

Lovering asked if City Manager Nicosia could look into lighting at Clare Park as she had a person who runs on the bike path report that it feels unsafe to run through the park this time of year so the runner usually runs on the road way. Lovering also reported that Night of Lights was really a great fun time, nice to be in Columbia Falls.

Shepard said he had some community members complain about at the belly dumps going through town to CFAC leaving dirt and dust along the roadway. Shepard followed a truck from Stoltze Lumber area to CFAC.

Mayor Barnhart asked that people have a little more patience while driving, hard to enjoy the Holidays with people and driving.

**REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:**

Breck reported on the Rotary Club Night of Lights parade was very successful with 50 entries, not including Western Building Center who had Santa and the Fire trucks. He read the list of float winners to council.

Mayor Barnhart expressed concern about the parade participants handing out candy with the kids and parents crowding closer to the floats, resulting in the narrowing the road way and a potential public safety issue. City Manager Nicosia noted that the city was advised by the insurer not to throw candy from floats as that was also a safety risk. Nicosia stated that the city will work with parade planners for the best solution to the crowding to reduce any public safety risks.

Breck also reported on the current status on the lawsuit against Badger Drilling. The attorney's office is waiting for a court ruling on filed motions.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**PLANNING &  
ZONING  
DUFFY**

**BOARD OF  
ADJUSTMENT  
RILEY, ERVIN &  
LUDVIKSEN**

**TREE BOARD  
KARPER & HAGEN**

**REPORTS FROM  
MAYOR & COUNCIL**

**REPORT FROM  
CITY ATTORNEY**

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**CITY MANAGER:**

Nicosia reported on the active city projects with MT DOT including the Nucleus Avenue entrance encroachment permit, the 6<sup>th</sup> Street West/Nucleus Avenue encroachment permit design requirements, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue West Urban Highway funding/planning and the Wayfinding signs encroachment permit. Nicosia reported that the City will meet at least quarterly with MT DOT officials. Councilman Petersen asked why the Nucleus Ave project comes under the welcome sign category. Nicosia advised this is in the MT DOT codes.

**CITY MANAGER  
REPORT**

Nicosia advised Eagle Transit is meeting Wednesday's December 6<sup>th</sup>, 4-6pm Kalispell (40 11 Street W, South Campus conference room.).

Nicosia reported that Planning Staff is looking at text amendments to SAG 5 and SAG 10 to match Flathead County regulations as the zones are next to each other, also looking at text for accessory dwellings, and The Board of Adjustment would like council to consider adopting language for subdivision entrance signs. Nicosia asked Council to review city code and bring up any potential amendments at the Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

Nicosia discussed cancelling January 1<sup>st</sup> meeting due to holidays. Mayor Barnhart and Council decided to hold the regular meeting on January 2<sup>nd</sup> particularly to swear in newly elected and appointed city officials.

Nicosia reported that the Council will hold a work session on Monday January 22<sup>nd</sup> with Planning/Zoning Board for training with the City Attorney and City Planner.

Nicosia advised of the Salvation Army bell ringing will be December 14<sup>th</sup> 10:20am to 6:30pm. Nicosia will also take the signup sheet to the Chamber meeting.

Nicosia reported that the independent auditor has completed the 2017 fiscal year field work and upon issuance of the report, the auditor will conduct an exit with the finance committee.

Mayor Barnhart asked Nicosia for an update on new employees. Nicosia reported that Hayden George was recently hired for the Public Works position. Mr. George will work in water, sewer, streets and parks. Nicosia also reported that the City has just completed the Public Works/Planning Clerk interviews and will be selecting the finalist soon. Nicosia also noted that the part-time Court Clerk/Civil and Jury was recently filled and Shelby Piper will start tomorrow. Nicosia also reported that Logan Harwood has joined the Police Department as a probationary police officer and will come

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before Council upon completion of his probationary period.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

- A. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review.

**MISC.  
CORRESPON-  
DENCE**

**ADJOURN:**

Upon motion duly made by Councilman Shepard and seconded by Councilman Piper the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m. **ADJOURN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: December 18, 2017