

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD DECEMBER 18, 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, Lovering and Piper
ABSENT: Fisher

ROLL CALL

Also present were City Manager Nicosia, City Clerk Staland, City Attorney Breck, Police Chief Peters and Fire Chief Hagen.

Pledge of Allegiance

PLEDGE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Barnhart requested a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Karper 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, second by Councilman Petersen. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims - \$ 152,012.47 - December 18, 2017
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 65,020.59 - December 15, 2017
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - December 4, 2017

VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT: (Items not on agenda)

Steve Duffy, 1503 Eddy Court, said he noticed coming in to town from the heights the welcome sign has not been moved. Duffy also said the 25 mph speed limit sign coming from the Hwy 2 E. is not very visible, and asked if we could have a look at it. Duffy said he would like more information on the two pines trees that were removed on 4th Ave W. south and Talbot intersection. Were the trees in the right of way and what was done with them? What is the plan for that intersection?

**VISITOR/PUBLIC
COMMENT**

Mayor Barnhart said the welcome sign coming into town will be moved in the spring. Mayor asked if the speed limit signs were being replaced with larger ones. Nicosia said the city is purchasing the flashing signs for 25 mph on both ends of town, which will cost about \$6,000. Nicosia said on the pine trees she was not certain if the city paid for the tree removal or if it was on private property and the owner removed them. Mayor suggested if they removed the trees they should be completely removed or chipped to prevent any future hazard.

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APPOINTMENTS:

A. Probationary Volunteer Fireman – Bryan Shaffer

Fire Chief Hagen said Bryan Shaffer is a Columbia Falls graduate and has just completed army boot camp and completed the department of defense firefighting academy. Chief Hagen recommends appointment of Mr. Shaffer as Probationary Volunteer Firefighter.

Councilman Lovering motioned to appoint Bryan Shaffer as Probationary Volunteer Firefighter, second by Councilman Piper and the motion carried.

City Clerk Staland administered Oath Of Office to Mr. Shaffer.

**APPOINTMENTS-
Bryan Shaffer,
Probationary
Volunteer
Firefighter**

B. City Judge – Kristi L. Curtis

City Manager Nicosia said the hiring committee consisted of Councilman Piper, Lovering, Mayor Barnhart, Deputy City Attorney Stephanie Breck and herself. They were impressed by the caliber of applicants for the City Judge position. Mrs. Curtis was the unanimous choice of the hiring committee based on the results of the interviews, education, professional references and Mrs. Curtis' professional experience.

Kristi Curtis said she is proud and honored to fill the position as the City Judge. Curtis stated she will work very hard to make this the best court she can and is looking forward to working with council and the City of Columbia Falls. Mrs. Curtis introduced herself to council and staff.

Councilman Karper made motion to appoint Kristi Curtis as City Judge, second by Councilman Shepard and the motion carried unanimously.

**CITY JUDGE-
Kristi Curtis**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

NEW BUSINESS:

A. City Attorney Contract Renewal

Nicosia said she and the Attorney's office updated the contract for the 2018 and 2019 calendar years with minor changes to the language. The 2018 calendar year contract amount is a 2% increase over the last contract, 2016 and 2017 calendar years. The attorneys did not request an increase for 2017. The 2019 contract amount will be adjusted by the 2018 calendar year CPI-U but not less than 2%.

Mayor Barnhart asked for clarification on what the City Attorney does for the City on a daily basis. Nicosia said they answer the phone on procedural questions, Municipal Codes along with receive calls from City Court, Police Department and City Manager. They review City Ordinances, Resolutions, Text Amendments, personnel issues, review zoning and are on call to address conflicts that arise. They write up any contracts and grant agreements. If there is a lawsuit against the city the City Attorney's serve as the liaison. City Attorney Breck added they also deal with correspondence on noncompliance

NEW BUSINESS

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and legal contracts. Nicosia said she recommends approval of the 2018 and 2019 Calendar Year City Attorney Contract.

Councilman Piper motioned to approve the City Attorney Renewal Contract, second by Councilman Shepard and the motion carried.

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Shepard said he has visited with some relators and discovered over a 10 year period the National Association of Realtors estimate a house around a funeral home with a crematory is a plus or minus 6.5 % when it came time to sell. Shepard said this question could not be answered at the November 20, 2017 council meeting.

Councilman Karper said it has been a pleasure serving with Councilman Petersen.

Councilman Petersen said he has enjoyed his years on City Council. Petersen said over the period he has been here he has seen several significant positions filled, the Police Chief, City Manager, Mayor, Fire Chief and City Attorney.

Mayor Barnhart presented Councilman Petersen with an engraved utility knife and thanked him for his years of service.

Mayor Barnhart said he would like to see the welcome sign moved and would like to see the City Manager get with the Public Works Director to get a schedule of upcoming projects.

Mayor said he is very proud of the residents of Columbia Falls for their contribution during the bell ringing competition; we raised \$4,072.99 in 8 hours. Mayor said we came in second place just under 1% of the current winner Evergreen.

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:

None.

CITY MANAGER:

A. Manager's Update

Clare Park lift station #4 was repaired for a cost of just under \$25,000; the original estimate was \$28,000-\$34,900. The City crew did a great job on prep work and cleaning resulting in savings on the contract. In addition to the cost of the repair, the City paid \$5,835 for the by-pass pumping while the repairs were made. In response to Councilman Lovering's inquiry, we are investigating additional lighting to light the trail.

The Public Service Announce and the letters were sent to property owners adjacent to Hwy 2 and Nucleus Ave. regarding sidewalks. Mayor said it is the property owner's responsibility to know the Municipal Code, with the letters sent out they are aware they need to keep the sidewalks cleared or there may be citations issued. Councilman Petersen asked if the tenant or the owner is responsible for the sidewalks. Nicosia said ultimately the fee will go on the

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL
REPORT FROM
CITY ATTORNEY**

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

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owners tax bill.

Mayor asked on the new subdivisions if there is something stating they are responsible for snow removal. City Attorney Breck said it is a City Ordinance and people are responsible for knowing the law.

Police Chief Peters said shop with a cop went very well this year and is proud of the officers and clerk for volunteering their time to help kids in our community. Chief said it has been a busy year with calls and we are going to be breaking records.

A. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

CORRESPONDENCE

A. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

B. REPORTS:

- a. Finance - November
- b. Police Department - November activity

ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilman Petersen and seconded by Councilman Lovering, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

ADJOURN

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: January 2nd, 2018