

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD JANUARY 16, 2018**

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, Shepard, Fisher, Lovering, Piper and Robinson
ABSENT: None.

ROLL CALL

Also present were City Manager Nicosia, City Clerk Staland, City Finance Director Carlson, City Attorney Breck and Police Chief Peters.

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, second by Councilman Fisher. Motion carried with Council voting as follows: AYES: Karper, Shepard, Fisher, Lovering, Piper, Robinson and Barnhart NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

**CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims - \$77,505.15 - January 16, 2018
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$108,944.37 - January 12, 2018
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - January 2, 2018

VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT: (Items not on agenda)

Sam Kavanagh, 1405 Columbia Drive, is with The Gateway to Glacier Trail Group and would like to invite the public and council to a meeting this Thursday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. to find out where their group is focusing their attention. The meeting is open to the public and is an opportunity to get involved with the group. Kavanagh said they have gotten great support from the community. Mayor Barnhart asked if the intention for the trail was to start from the Cedar Lake Road. Mr. Kavanagh said it is the Cedar Flats Trail and it is the southern end of the forest service boundary. Kavanagh said they hope to get a general buy in from the community as it is in the best interest of the community.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC
COMMENT**

Chris Peterson with the Hungry Horse News said the last snow storm was a disaster for keeping the sidewalks clear. The state plowed and HHN cleared the sidewalk then the state plowed again and the snow was put onto the

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sidewalk. Peterson stated in his opinion the current process is not working very well. Peterson said HHN is working with the state to have the retaining wall removed, due to the difficulty with snow removal on the sidewalk.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NOTICES:

Mayor Barnhart read the Notice of Hearings:

The Columbia Falls City-County Planning Board held a public hearing for the following items at their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 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 **February 5th, 2018** starting at 7:00 p.m. in the same location.

**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC
HEARINGS - FEB
5th**

Conditional Use Permit - Expansion of a Casino: A request by CFalls, LLC and Yikes, Inc. to expand the number of gaming machines from the twelve existing machines to 20 machines total. The building in question is located at 624 Nucleus Avenue and is the former Bandit Bar which is being remodeled into a restaurant, lounge and casino. The property is zoned CB-4 (Central Business) District and the zoning ordinance requires a Conditional Use Permit for a new or expanding casino. The property is described as Lots 8, 9, 12, & 13 of the Columbia Falls Original Townsite and Lot A of the Amended Plat of Lots 10 & 11 of the Columbia Falls Original Townsite. All located in Section 8, Township 30 North, Range 20 West, P.M.M., Flathead County.

Columbia Falls Zoning Regulations - Title 18 (Zoning Text Amendment):

A request by the City of Columbia Falls to amend certain portions of the text of the Columbia Falls Zoning Regulations (Title 18 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code). The City proposes changes to the SAG-5, SAG-10, and SAG-20 zoning classifications to make them more compatible with the Flathead County Zoning Regulations. In addition the text amendment will amend the definition of Guest house to now include a kitchen facility. A third amendment is at the request of the Board of Adjustments for subdivision signage. Lastly the Text amendments will look at creating accessory dwelling provisions with performance standards.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

NEW BUSINESS:

City Finance Director Carlson said we are 50% into the year and we look to be right on schedule. Carlson discussed and answered questions on the Interim Financial Report thru December 31st that was presented to council.

**NEW BUSINESS-
Interim Financial
Report**

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ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution # 1765 - A Resolution of the City Council of Columbia Falls, Montana Approving the Final Plat of Sled Hill Subdivision, A Two Lot Minor Subdivision, Described as Lot 15 of Block 52 of Columbia Falls Townsite, in the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 8, Township 30 North, Range 20 West, P.M.M., Flathead County, Montana.

**RESOLUTION
#1765-Sled Hill
Final Plat**

Nicosia said the owners of the property submitted an application for waiver of preliminary plat that was approved in August 2017. The owner recently submitted the final plat. The staff report indicates compliance with the preliminary plat requirements and staff recommends approval of final plat of "Sled Hill Subdivision." With the approval of Resolution #1765, Nicosia noted that Council will be adopting Staff Report CFP-18-01 as findings of fact and approving the final plat.

Councilman Fisher motioned to approve Resolution #1765, adoption of Staff Report CFP-18-01 as findings of fact, second by Councilman Lovering with Council voting as follows. AYES: Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Piper, Robinson, Shepard and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Lovering requested an update on building activity in the city.

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL**

CITY MANAGER:

Nicosia said there was a sewer main break on 8th Street East near the sledding hill today. The City Public Works Department was able to get it repaired but will have a closer look to see if it needs further attention as the break was a few feet away from a previous repair.

Nicosia reported that the City had budgeted \$80,000 to repair the diversion ditch and Cedar Creek Dam overflow based on an estimate by USDA's National Recourses Conservation Service. The Federal Government has awarded the City funding to repair the diversion ditch from the watershed and flood prevention operation program. The City will have to reestablish the original line and grade of the bypass channel. Mayor Barnhart asked what portion of the project the grant will fund. Nicosia said the grant will fix the diversion ditch and the City will have to fix the bypass channel.

Nicosia said in regards to snow removal on Hwy 2, the state agreed to not plow the snow on to the sidewalks; this season they would place it adjacent to the driving lane. Due to the extreme snow storm two weeks ago, the State had to push the snow back on the sidewalk and agreed to remove it later. The City hired Shannon Click to remove the snow from the sidewalks as the state was delayed on US 93 and could not remove the snow in a timely manner. The City may have to send out a harsher letter to property owners

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

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that they are responsible for clearing the snow from the sidewalk adjacent from their property or they will be fined.

Fisher said some folks are trying hard but some businesses are not making an attempt. Lovering said people were clearing their sidewalks but then creating snow banks at the street intersections. Mayor Barnhart said let's see how this year goes and we will meet with property owners to improve the plan for next year. Councilman Fisher said perhaps with actual data as to who has cleared the sidewalks and who hasn't will give us an idea how effective it is. Nicosia said the City is trying to track compliance now. Mayor Barnhart said some store fronts on Nucleus clear the sidewalks and some do not.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT:
None.

**REPORT FROM
CITY ATTORNEY**

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

CORRESPONDENCE

ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilman Lovering and seconded by Councilman Shepard and the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

ADJOURN

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: February 5, 2018