

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD JANUARY 2, 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 Attorney Breck, Deputy City Attorney Breck and Police Chief Peters.

Pledge of Allegiance

PLEDGE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

**AGENDA
APPROVAL**

OATH OF OFFICE:

City Clerk Staland Administered Oath of Office to Mayor Barnhart, Council Members Shepard, Lovering, Robinson, City Judge Curtis, City Attorney Breck and Deputy City Attorney Stephanie Breck.

OATH OF OFFICE

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilman Fisher moved to approve the consent agenda noting that all claims appeared to be in order, second by Councilman Shepard. Motion carried with Council voting as follows: YES: Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Piper, Robinson, Shepard and Barnhart NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

**CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims - \$56,758.21 - January 2, 2018
Approval of Claims - \$14,131.35 - December 21, 2017
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$80,726.50 - December 29, 2017
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - December 18, 2017
- D. Approval of Arbor Day Grant Application and authorize City Manager to sign.
- E. Approval of Standard Agreement between Morrison Maierle and City of Columbia Falls for engineering services for Project 0541.025, 6th Street West and Nucleus Ave Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project

VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT: (Items not on agenda)

None.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC
COMMENT**

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PUBLIC HEARINGS/NOTICES:

Notice of Hearings:

Mayor Barnhart read the Notice of Public Hearings. The Columbia Falls City-County Planning Board will hold 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**

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.

CUP-CFalls LLC

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.

**TITLE 18-Zoning
Text Amendment**

Columbia Falls Subdivision Regulations - Title 17 (Zoning Text Amendment):

A request by the City of Columbia Falls to amend certain portions of the text of the Columbia Falls Subdivision Regulations (Title 17 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code). The City proposes changes to 17.12.020 (Phasing of Plats).

**TITLE 17-Zoning
Text Amendment**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Barnhart Proclaimed May 4, 2018 Arbor Day in the City of Columbia Falls.

**NEW BUSINESS-
Arbor Day
Proclamation**

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REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Shepard said several people have asked him why some sidewalks are cleaned off but others remain untouched.

Councilman Karper said he appreciates all the hard work the street department has done getting the streets plowed.

Councilman Piper echoed Councilman Karper and said he noticed the street department out working at 3 and 4 in the morning to get roads plowed.

Mayor Barnhart concurs with Karper and Piper that the street department is doing fabulous job on getting the roads cleared. The highway department will be working on the Nucleus Avenue berms tomorrow morning.

Mayor Barnhart said it's time to appoint a President Tempore. Mayor asked Councilman Lovering if she would like to continue that role, Lovering said she would like to continue.

Mayor Barnhart said with issues of getting the sidewalks cleared of snow, perhaps instead of a sidewalk on Railroad Street the City should contact BNSF to put a paved path on the north side of Railroad street, requiring two crossings. This could eventually tie into the trail system from the North Fork Road.

Mayor thanked everyone for stepping up and renewing their term.

CITY MANAGER:

City Manager handed out a list of the 2017 Top 10 tax payers, noting there are some changes in status of the tax payers compared to 2016. Mayor asked how many of the top 10 are in our TIF district. Nicosia said Cedar Creek Lodge, Super One, WBC and the industrial park. Mayor asked if we were going to see money going into our TIF district. Nicosia replied yes and Council will hold a hearing in the near future to appropriate this year's funds in compliance with the Urban Development Plan.

Nicosia reminded Council there will be training with Charlie Harball on Jan 4th and there will be joint training with Council and Planning/Zoning Board on Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:

Deputy City Attorney Breck updated Council on the Badger Drilling lawsuit which is ongoing; we are waiting for court to respond to their motion to dismiss an item. Once that is done we will move along in litigation and get discovery going.

Police Chief Peters said when the road report is emergency travel only he hopes our citizens will respect that and not be on the roads. There were 14 vehicles stuck or off the road during the last emergency travel only this weekend.

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL**

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

**REPORT FROM
CITY ATTORNEY**

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Chief Peters also said this year was a record year for police calls and he is proud of his staff for the work they have put in and for adapting to many changes.

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

CORRESPONDENCE

ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilman Lovering and seconded by Councilman Robinson the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

ADJOURN

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: January 16, 2018