

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD MAY 7, 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, Lovering, Shepard, Fisher, Piper and Robinson

ABSENT: None

**ROLL CALL**

Also present were City Manager Susan Nicosia, Finance Director Sandy Carlson, City Attorney Justin Breck, Sergeant Sean Murphy, Public Works Director Grady Jenkins

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 Councilwoman Robinson, and the motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA  
APPROVAL**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Councilwoman Robinson 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: Shepard, Fisher, Karper, Piper, Lovering, Robinson and Barnhart NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA  
APPROVAL**

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS - COMMUNITY FISHING POND**

Ken Breidinger from Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) presented information on the potential Community Fishing Pond located at River's Edge Park. Ken indicated he was working with City staff and Paul Travis from Flathead Land Trust on the details. He provided a preliminary engineer design overview. Ken also indicated that FWP would stock and regulate the pond indefinitely. FWP would also hold stocking events and provide education and fishing events for kids. There would be future development of a trail around the pond with ADA access and educational sign boards.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Questions were asked by Council regarding creating a potential mosquito breeding area. FWP response was that because the water would be moving, mosquito breeding would not be an issue.

A question about the structure of the bottom of the pond and whether it would be mud. FWP indicated the bottom of the pond would have a layer of gravel.

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A question was asked on whether FWP could help with the construction of a permanent restroom. Ken indicated that there could be competitive grant funds to help finance a project like that. Grady indicated that sewer and water taps are in the area.

Ken summarized that the fishing pond would be a great addition to the park and assured the Council that FWP won't walk away from it.

Ken introduced the new Information Officer for FWP, Dillon Tabish. Dillon suggested the Council check out Pine Grove Pond, another project of FWP. He indicated that creating a fishing pond at River's Edge park would create a great gathering place for the community as well as a great additional amenity to the park. He encourages the Council to consider this project.

**HDR- WASTEWATER FACILITY PLAN**

Craig Caprara from HDR Engineering presented information on the City's Wastewater Facility Plan. He indicated he has worked with the City since 1999 on the sewer treatment plant facilities. He believes the City should be proud of their facilities and the protection given to the water.

Craig gave a brief overview of the plan covering

- 1) The basis & planning
- 2) Flow & Loading
- 3) Regulatory Discussion
- 4) Wastewater Treatment Plan Evaluation
- 5) Wastewater Collection System evaluation
- 6) Capital Improvement Plan & Financial evaluation

He indicated that the current capacity should last for a few more years. There are a number of maintenance & repair items that need to be addressed very soon to preserve the assets. Assuming a 2% growth, the current capacity should last until the large bond issue is paid off in 2020. If the growth rate develops as projected, further expansion will be needed by 2020.

An increase in rates is recommended to finance the current maintenance and repair items as well as position the utility for future expansion. With a steady rate of inflation, cash would reach a dangerous level without a rate increase.

Regulatory issues may become more of an issue in the future. Currently the City transports sludge to the landfill. Craig recommends continuing to do this as it is the least expensive alternative. If this option is no longer available, the City may have to invest in other options.

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**VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**PUBLIC HEARING: HB 473 Bridge and Road Safety and Accountability Program Funds**

**PUBLIC  
HEARING- HB 473  
Funds**

City Manager Nicosia gave an overview of HB 473 and reported that staff recommends requesting distribution of this year's HB 473 funds, in the amount of \$34,277.40, to overlay/repair 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue West from 9<sup>th</sup> St West to 3<sup>rd</sup> St West and to overlay/repair the 1<sup>st</sup> Ave East/9<sup>th</sup> St E intersection. A match of 5% will be required, and is budgeted in Fund 2500 Street Maintenance.

Mayor Barnhart opened the Public Hearing at 8:13 pm for the purpose of allocating HB 473 Bridge and Road Safety and Accountability Program Funds. No comments from public. Mayor Barnhart closed the meeting at 8:13 pm.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:**

Councilman Shepard motioned to approve Resolution #1769 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana Approving the 2018 Preliminary Engineering Report for the Wastewater Facility Plan Update and Accept Preliminary Engineering Report Recommendations for the City of Columbia Falls, Montana. Seconded by Councilwoman Lovering.

**RESOLUTION  
#1769 WWTP-PER**

YES: Lovering, Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Karper and Barnhart NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

Councilwomen Lovering motioned to approve Resolution #1770 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana Requesting Distribution of Local Government Road Construction and Maintenance Match Program Funds. Seconded by Councilman Fisher.

**RESOLUTION  
#1770 HB 473  
Funding  
Distribution  
Request**

YES: Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Karper, Lovering and Barnhart NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

**REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL**

Councilman Karper congratulated all those involved to make Arbor Day a success. Seventy five students attended along with Forest Service representatives and staff from DNRC. He also mentioned he was thrilled with the new path from Columbus Park down to River's Edge Park.

**REPORTS FROM  
MAYOR AND  
COUNCIL**

Councilman Shepard noted that he was on the Citizens Advisory Committee. He also noted that the proposed fishing pond is the only one that will be walkable within a City.

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Councilwomen Lovering mentioned the Columbia Falls Community Garden Opening day. There are 30 plot holders. She also questioned where the park bench went from River's Edge Park. Public Works Director Jenkins noted it was temporarily removed due to rising waters. Once waters recede, they will be put back.

Councilman Piper noted the Baseball Association has chosen another contractor for the bleachers. He also noted the tourism grant received a six month extension.

Mayor Barnhart said he liked seeing the expansion of downtown with the improvements made to the Bandit Bar. He is happy to see downtown thriving.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Nicosia asked Public Works Director Jenkins to give the Council an update on the Flood control. Mr. Jenkins indicated that Cedar Creek Reservoir has risen 4 ½ feet in 4 days. He passed around a graph showing the levels. They are trying to divert the water so it does not go into town.

City Manager indicated that the USGS flood control report link was put on the front page of the City's website.

Fishing Pond Update: City staff is working with Morrison & Maierle to determine what damage could occur to the paved roadway. The estimate to build the pond as designed is about \$200,000. Funding is about \$88,000 from the LOR Foundation Grant (passed through Flathead Land Trust), up to \$40,000 from the Bill Kamp's money, \$1,000 from Larry Fowler/CFalls RV Park. We will also receive in-kind donations from Schellinger Construction for the excavator. Other contractors, Hamilton, JD Thinning will provide hauling at a reduced rate.

Nicosia reported that Dave Konopatzke volunteered again this year to groom trails in River's Edge Park. Dave groomed 42 miles this season between Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup>. He reported that on each of his 7 trips, there were 8 to 10 people walking, cross country skiing or snow shoeing. Mayor and Council expressed their appreciation to Mr. Konopatzke.

Nicosia also reported that the first meeting to begin the TEDD process and review the draft of the Columbia Rising preliminary plat took place earlier this week.

Public Safety Committee meeting Monday May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30. (Members Mayor Barnhart, Councilman Piper, Councilwoman Lovering)

Tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant is scheduled for Tuesday May 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 4:00 pm. Public Works Committee meeting will follow at 6:30 pm

**CITY MANAGER  
REPORT**

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**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT** None

**INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE** - List available for Review

**REPORTS:**

- a. Police – April activity

**CORRESPONDENCE  
AND REPORTS**

**ADJOURN:** Upon motion duly made by Councilwomen Lovering and seconded by Councilman Shepard the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. **ADJOURN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Director

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: May 21, 2018