

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

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 Robinson, and the motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA  
APPROVAL**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

**CONSENT  
AGENDA  
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims - \$ 124,344.07 - June 18, 2018
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 66,947.29 - June 15, 2018
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - June 4, 2018
- D. Approval of 2019 FY Audit Contract with Doyle & Associates, P.C. and authorize City Manager to sign.
- E. Approve Land Use Lease - Whitefish Credit Union Association and City of Columbia Falls - Heritage Days July 27 - July 28 Vendor Space and authorize City Manager to sign.
- F. Approve Land Use Lease - Allen A. Jacobson Living Trust and City of Columbia Falls - Heritage Days July 27 - July 28 Vendor Space and authorize City Manager to sign.

**PRESENTATION: MT Wilderness Association - Amy Robinson**

Ms. Robinson said they are a state wide nonprofit organization since 1958 with approximately 25 employees. They are headquartered of Helena, and have worked with the Kootenai National Forest and the Whitefish range. They believe that all interests have a place and a say in public lands. Ms. Robinson passed out a packet to council. We have been across the state visiting with councils and commissions to educate them about the wilderness areas. Ms.

**PRESENTATION-  
MT Wilderness  
Association**

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD JUNE 18, 2018**

Robinson said they are trying to get letters of support from city council. Councilman Shepard asked where the closest WSA was located. Robinson said Eureka, in the Ten Lakes area. Mayor thanked Ms. Robinson for her presentation.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT:** (Items not on agenda)

None.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/NOTICES:**

**A. Mayor Barnhart read the NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - Water & Sewer Rate Changes - July 2<sup>nd</sup>:**

**PUBLIC  
HEARINGS-Water-  
Sewer Rate Change**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Columbia Falls is proposing an increase to the water and sewer base rates. The City Council approved the following water and sewer base rates for the purpose of conducting the public hearing.

**Water**

The rate structure for water contains a fee for volume and a fee for base service charge. The City Council is proposing raising only the base fee by \$2/month for a ¾' meter. An Equivalent Connection Factor ratio is applied according to Meter Size:

Base Service Charge Table			
Per Connection Size Per Month			
Meter Size	Ratio	Existing Fee	Proposed Fee
¾"	1	\$ 8.50	\$ 10.50
1"	1.8	\$ 15.30	\$ 18.90
1 1/2"	4	\$ 34.00	\$ 42.00
2"	7	\$ 59.50	\$ 73.50
3"	16	\$ 136.00	\$ 168.00
4"	28	\$ 238.00	\$ 294.00
6"	64	\$ 544.00	\$ 672.00
8"	113	\$ 960.50	\$ 1,186.50
10"	178	\$ 1,513.00	\$ 1,869.00
12"	256	\$ 2,176.00	\$ 2,688.00

**Sewer**

The rate structure for sewer also contains a fee for volume and a fee for base service charge. The City council is proposing raising only the base fee by \$1.50/month for a residential equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) from \$7.35 to \$8.85. Residential single family customers are billed at the rate of 1 EDU. All other customers, commercial, industrial, government, multi-family, are billed 1 EDU for every 50,000 gallons of metered water usage calculated annually.

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD JUNE 18, 2018**

For example, a business with annual metered usage of 2 million gallons is equal to 40 EDUs.

The public hearing will be held on July 2, 2018 at the City Council Chambers at City Hall at 130, 6<sup>th</sup> Street West, Columbia Falls, MT. Interested persons may attend the hearing or submit written testimony mailed or delivered to City of Columbia Falls, City Clerk, 130 6<sup>th</sup> Street West, Columbia Falls, MT 59912 or by email: [staalandb@cityofcolumbiafalls.com](mailto:staalandb@cityofcolumbiafalls.com). For questions or further information regarding the hearing, contact City Manager Susan Nicosia at City Hall, (406) 892-4391 or email [nicosias@cityofcolumbiafalls.com](mailto:nicosias@cityofcolumbiafalls.com).

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Call for Bids - Nucleus Ave Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project  
Nicosia said we have a call for bids for improvements on Nucleus Avenue which include the bulb outs

**NEW BUSINESS-  
Bulb outs on  
Nucleus**

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

A. Resolution #1772 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Amending the 2018 FY and Adopting the 2019 FY Budget for the Tax Increment District Fund

**RESOLUTION  
#1772-Amending FY  
18 Budget and  
Adopting FY 2019  
budget for TIF**

Councilman Fisher made motion to approve Resolution #1772, second by Councilman Robinson with Council voting as follows. AYES: Fisher, Karper, Piper, Robinson, Shepard and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: Lovering.

B. Resolution #1773 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Declaring an Infrastructure Deficient Area Exists within the City of Columbia Falls, Montana in a setting known as the Columbia Rising Industrial Area and that Investment in Infrastructure in that Area is Necessary in the Interest of Public Health, Safety, or Welfare of the Residents of Columbia Falls

**RESOLUTION  
#1773 Columbia  
Rising Industrial  
Infrastructure**

City Manager Nicosia said the Columbia Rising Industrial Area also known as the Plum Creek Sawmill is lacking infrastructure, such as interior roads, and is in need of an upgrade to exterior roads such as Truck Route, the water and sewer system, buffering, light safety, along with additional general improvements. Mayor asked what the purpose of declaring this an infrastructure deficient area was. Nicosia said this is the first step in creating a Targeted Economic Development District, in order to use TIF monies.

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD JUNE 18, 2018**

Councilman Shepard motioned to approve Resolution #1773, second by Councilman Robinson with council voting as follows. AYES: Karper, Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Fisher and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: Lovering.

A. Resolution #1774 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Designating Heritage Days 2018 as an Official Activity of the City of Columbia Falls and Designating Persons Responsible for Planning the Events of Heritage Days 2018.

**RESOLUTION  
#1774 - 2018  
Heritage Days**

Councilman Robinson motioned to approve Resolution #1774, second by Councilman Piper with the council voting as follows. AYES: Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Karper and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABESENT: Lovering.

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

Councilman Fisher reported next week the Montana Conservation crew will be coming to finish up work on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. E. connector trail. Flathead Land Trust is also bringing up 4-5 volunteers to work on the trail for a day.

**REPORTS FROM  
MAYOR AND  
COUNCIL**

Councilman Shepard said he has had a lot of people comment on the edges of the intersections on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. W. and inquired if we will be feathering the intersections. Nicosia said the city crew will finish touch ups. Shepard said there are several lots in town that need mowed. Nicosia said the letters are being processed.

Councilman Robinson inquired about the work being done at DQ. Nicosia said it is believed the vibration from the heavy equipment working on the highway may have loosened up the water line which was leaking and repaired. MDOT will bill the city; the invoice estimate is between \$20,000 to \$24,000.

Mayor Barnhart said uptown area is looking nice with the new Gunsight Bar and Grill and other activity.

Shepard said he has spoken with the local highway gentleman and they want to know when we are going to have a meeting with their boss on snow removal on the sidewalks. Nicosia said we will schedule it soon.

Mayor said the roof at the Railroad Park is in need of repairs. Nicosia said it is on the list.

**CITY MANAGER:**

Nicosia gave the welcoming address at Montana Preservation Alliance. There are lots of interesting historical sites in town such as the old jail on 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

**CITY MANAGER  
REPORT**

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD JUNE 18, 2018**

East behind Smiths.

June 11<sup>th</sup> letters were sent out to customers on the water/sewer rate increase. Kudos to Hungry Horse News for the article on the rate increase.

June 11<sup>th</sup> was the official pool opening; unfortunately there has been a lot of rain.

We did received news the diversion ditch repair has been restored. We are in the process of completing the required documents.

The mosquito letters were delivered and there was concern over the feral cats. There were 6 individual home owners opt out. They will continue to look at standing water for larva. There will be no fogging in that area at this time.

The 911 Board met on June 13. They adopted the 2019 FY budget. The city's portion has increased by 4.25% which is approximately \$5,000.

The Broadband folks said Columbia Falls had a lot of people that work out of their home. Nicosia said they want to get good service to the residents.

There was a presentation from Economic Development.

Paul Travis is having a trails economic development forum in Colorado. They will pay for 3 representatives from each community to see if they may be interested. There would be no expense to the city; Councilman Fisher said he may be able to attend and will look into getting a couple more to attend.

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT:**

Steve Berg has been the city's contracted prosecutor for the last 8 years and has served us wonderfully. He let us know that on June 30<sup>th</sup> will be his last day. Fortunately we found someone to take his place. Larissa Anderson, who comes highly recommended, has prosecution and experience in the County Attorney's office. Her first day will be July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**REPORT FROM  
CITY ATTORNEY**

Chief Peters said we have two new Patrolman hired and they will be here on July 2<sup>nd</sup> to be sworn in. Both new hires are qualified and excited to be here.

Mayor would like City Manager Nicosia to draft a letter to the Police Department to give thanks for enduring the shortage of man power.

**INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE** - List available for Review

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**A. REPORTS:**

- a. Finance - May
- b. Police - May Activity
- c. Fire - Activity

**ADJOURN:** Upon motion duly made by Councilman Piper and seconded by Councilman Shepard, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD JUNE 18, 2018**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: July 2, 2018