

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD SEPTEMBER 04, 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 and Police Chief Peters.

Pledge of Allegiance

**PLEDGE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

**AGENDA  
APPROVAL**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

**CONSENT  
AGENDA  
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims - \$42,396.06 - September 4, 2018
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 79,506.48 - August 24, 2018
- Approval of Payroll Claims - \$79.12 - September 4, 2018
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - August 20, 2018
- D. Approval of Employment Screening Services Agreement with Advanced Reporting LLC and authorize City Manager to sign.
- E. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement Between MT Dept. of Transportation and the City of Columbia Falls for Air Quality Equipment - UPN 9005, CFDA # 20.205 Highway Planning & Construction and authorize City Manager to sign.
- F. Designate City Manager as Entity Administrator for City's SAM Entity Registration and authorize City Manager signature.
- G. Approval of Standard Agreement between MT Department of Transportation State Highway Traffic Safety Section and City of Columbia Falls, Columbia Falls STEP, CTS Number 110122 beginning October 1, 2018 and authorize City Manager and Police Chief to execute.
- H. Accept Diane Rd completed infrastructure - street, curb gutter, sidewalk and lighting

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

None.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/NOTICES:**

**A. Notice of Hearings - Planning Board September 11<sup>th</sup>, City Council  
September 17<sup>th</sup>:**

**NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC  
HEARINGS**

Mayor Barnhart read the hearing notice: The Columbia Falls City-County Planning Board will hold a public hearing for the following items at their regular meeting on Tuesday, September 11, 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 September 17, 2018 starting at 7:00 p.m. in the same location.

**Request by the City of Columbia Falls for a text amendment to the  
manufacturing/warehouse use parking standards:**

The City of Columbia Falls is requesting a Zoning Text amendment in the Columbia Falls Zoning Regulations. Current zoning regulations require one parking space per 800 square feet of gross floor area. Manufacturing is in a state of change with the advancement in robotics and digital technology. The result is there are fewer workers needed in these manufacturing plants to create a unit of product and the result is less need for parking.

**Request for a major subdivision in the Columbia Falls Planning  
Jurisdiction for the Columbia Rising Industrial Park:**

Columbia Rising, LLC is requesting approval of a 19 lot industrial park. The property is located along Truck Route and was the site of the Weyerhaeuser Stud Mill and surrounding properties consisting of a total of 36.58 acres. The property is described as Assessor's Tracts 7J, 7EA, 7EB, 7K, 7K4, and 11 in Section 8, Township 30 North, Range 20 West, P.M.M., Flathead County. Access will be provided by existing public streets and proposed private roads. The parcels are within the City Limits of Columbia Falls and will utilize municipal sewer and water services.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Letter to Secretary of State RE: ARM Change for POST  
Rules

Police Chief Peters said POST is responsible for two separate things, one is they investigate officer conduct and the other is to provide training standards along with training records and have standardized certifications (Basic,

**NEW BUSINESS-  
Letter to Secretary  
of State on POST  
Rules.**

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Intermediate, Advanced). They are proposing changes to the Administrative Rules of MT (ARM) so they will no longer be in charge of standardized training or training records, it will be up to local departments. Chief Peters said he has attempted to get our officers into POST classes but was unsuccessful due to demand. However, officers must be properly trained and there should be standardization in the issuance of certificates. If POST discontinues standardized training certification and document training, local departments will be put in a bind. Chief Peters said he is asking to have a letter drafted and signed from Mayor and Council to oppose the rule changes. After discussion, Mayor and Council unanimously supported sending a letter opposing the rule changes as outlined by Chief Peters.

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

A. Resolution # 1781 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Setting and Adopting the Mill Levies on all Real and Personal Property Within the City of Columbia Falls; Approving Special Levies for Special Purposes on Property Within the City of Columbia Falls for the 2018-19 Fiscal Year

**RESOLUTION  
#1781-Adopting  
Mill Levies**

City Manager Nicosia said at 2:00 pm today, the City received a revised certified tax value. The new certified value decreased our tax value. Nicosia said she has been working with DOR since the value was certified on August 3<sup>rd</sup> but did not receive updated values until this afternoon. Nicosia noted that the resolution has been updated to reflect the decrease in the certified value. Nicosia reported that based on the statutory calculation, recalculated general would increase 5.49 mills to receive the same funding. Nicosia firmly believes the City needs to levy the statutory limit to maintain stability and fund necessary services. This change would result in an increase of \$17.70 per \$200,000 residence.

Mayor Barnhart asked if the newly built structures will come into our tax base next year. Nicosia said yes, DOR uses January 1<sup>st</sup> as the measurement date so they should be included in next year's tax base.

Councilman Fisher motioned to approve Resolution #1781, setting the total annual mill levy at 226.970, second by Councilman Shepard with Council voting as follows. AYES: Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Piper and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

B. Resolution # 1782 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Adopting the Budget for the City for the Fiscal Year Commencing on July 1, 2018 and Ending June 30, 2019, Making Appropriations from each Fund of the City of Columbia Falls of Expenditures

**RESOLUTION  
#1782-Adopting  
the FY 18-19  
Budget**

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to Meet City Expenses.

City Manager Nicosia presented the final budget schedules noting spending authority totals \$ 8,768,648; adjusted by \$143,000 for the final priorities and approved projects including restrooms from CCT and Parks, General Fund adjustments for FEMA Safer Grant and parks improvements and Sewer was adjusted by a net \$19,400.

Councilman Piper inquired about the SAFER grant. Nicosia said she is expecting to hear from them any day.

Councilman Shepard made motion to adopt Resolution #1782, second by Councilman Lovering with Council voting as follows. AYES: Shepard, Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Piper, Robinson and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

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

**REPORTS FROM  
MAYOR AND  
COUNCIL**

Councilman Lovering said the High School Homecoming Parade is Monday, September 17th at 4:00. Lovering said she spoke with the City Manager on the Drivers Training Teacher having concerns with the clear vision triangle in some areas. Mayor Barnhart asked who is responsible for the weeds at 13<sup>th</sup> and South Hilltop. Nicosia said it is a county road but City Staff will have a look at it.

Councilman Shepard said he is surprised by the property owners that have not taken care of the weeds on their property.

Mayor Barnhart asked what the city cost is for paving the alley by the new apartments on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Nicosia said she has not seen the final bill, but expects around \$40,000, as the drainage became a bigger and more expensive issue. Mayor Barnhart asked when the welcome sign will be moved. Nicosia said between the two contractors they were not available over the holiday weekend but will hopefully get to it this week. Mayor Barnhart inquired about the request of speed reduction on Highway 2. Nicosia said they have talked to MDOT and requested that the speed limits be studied.

Mayor Barnhart asked where we are at on the street light on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue E. Nicosia said she would have to confer with City Attorney Breck on the lighting district statutes.

Mayor Barnhart said we have an issue with the barn cats by River's Edge Park, and inquired if we have a solution. Chief Peters said the county has suspended the program. City officials will continue to pursue resolution of the feral cat issue.

Mayor Barnhart said the tax payers pay for the county to spray the right of

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ways but there are some that have not been done.

Councilman Shepard said the grass is very tall at the industrial park. Mayor Barnhart asked if Pit to Park is closed. Nicosia said DEQ has not closed it yet.

**CITY MANAGER:**

The contractor repaired the paving on Riverwood, chip sealing is underway plus there are some landscaping repairs to be completed.

The zoning/parking compliance team will be going out again; Nicosia reported that the City has made progress on compliance with some owners. Councilman Robinson asked if it might be more successful on weed control by going to the Board. Nicosia said we have been in contact with the department head and head of weeds and the City has an agreement with them, Nicosia felt it was not necessary to go to the Board.

Advance credit reporting on the consent agenda is to start doing our background checks. We cannot use our CJIN system to do background checks.

The deadline for the Public Works Director position is September 5, 2018. We currently have three applicants.

Nicosia reminded Council that on September 17<sup>th</sup> Justin Juelfs, MDOT, will be here for snow removal discussion and can we will let the business owners know ahead of time so they may attend.

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT:**

None.

Chief Peters reported that there are more stop signs around town and City staff is identifying problem areas in town that justify stop signs. He also reported that we just lost two Police Officers to other agencies.

**INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE** - List available for Review

**ADJOURN:** Upon motion duly made by Councilman Lovering and seconded by Councilman Piper the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: September 17, 2018

**CITY MANAGER  
REPORT**

**REPORT FROM  
CITY ATTORNEY**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**ADJOURN**