

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD DECEMBER 17, 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, Piper and Robinson
ABSENT: Lovering and Fisher.

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

**CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims -\$ 135,647.79 - December 17, 2018
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 105,529.90 - December 14, 2018
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - December 3, 2018
- D. Approval of Plant Investment Fee Agreement, GDRS, LLC, 1531 4th Avenue West and authorize City Manager to sign.
- E. Approval of Developer Improvement Agreement, GDRS, LLC, 1531 4th Ave West and authorize City Manager to sign.

VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT: (Items not on agenda)

Tom Schneider with Eagle Transit said he was here to answer any questions the city may have due to their transportation service.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC
COMMENT**

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NOTICES:

A. Public Hearing - Municipal Code Amendments - Continued until complete:

**PUBLIC
HEARINGS**

The City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, shall conduct public hearings for the purpose of adopting changes to the Columbia Falls Municipal Code Title 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 15 pursuant to a comprehensive legal analysis of the codes for compliance with state and federal statutes.

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The City Council is proposing completing the suggested text changes as recommended by the legal analysis and to update other outdated or necessary text changes as identified by City staff or Council. This hearing will be continued until the code changes are complete. Text review will be continued in January and February.

City Manager Nicosia said the text review will continue to the January 7, 2019 council meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Lift Station 2 Project

City Manager Nicosia said the City received two bids for Lift Station 2 with the low base bid being more than \$40,000 over the engineer's estimated price. The bids were reviewed by Public Works Director Bradshaw, HDR Engineers and LHC, the apparent low bidder; they determined to reopen the bid for Lift Station 2 with a clearer understanding of specific requirements. Staff's recommendation is to decline the low bid and reopen the bidding process. The City Clerk will return the two bid bonds received.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Columbia Falls TCC recommendation - 4th Ave West (OT Phase)

City Manager Nicosia said the City's Urban Transportation met and recommended that the City Council submit a formal letter to MDOT requesting the official start of 4th Ave West with the study (OT) phase. Nicosia said the Transportation Committee met last week and reviewed the Columbia Falls' urban area and potential projects. The study of 4th Ave West will include, but not limited to a complete analysis of utilities, storm water, surface condition, soil testing and review of traffic data.

Nicosia said the current Administrative Rules state we can borrow ahead 3 years, if money is available. Nicosia noted that approving the formal letter this evening will allow for the study phase of the 4th Ave West from Railroad Street to Hwy 2. MDOT estimates we are 3-5 years away from a completed project.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Piper motioned to have the Mayor sign the letter requesting the OT Phase on 4th Ave West from Railroad St to Hwy 2, second by Councilman Robinson and the motion carried.

B. Approval of Fire Truck purchase

Fire Chief Hagen said they have a capital plan for equipment in the Fire Department; and they have slated the replacement of a pumper truck. With some of the taller buildings going up in town they need the ladder capability. Chief Hagen said he has been looking at used trucks and is pursuing a quint

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truck that is in North Haven, Connecticut, they are asking \$115,000. It is a 2002 HME/Central States 105 ft. straight stick ladder, 500 gallon tank, 2,000 gpm pump and 6-man custom cab. It has 29,000 miles, 574 aerial hours and 2,600 engine hours. These are all low for the year and price. At the request of Chief Hagen, Kyle Nace (RES) flew out to inspect the truck on Saturday and there were a few minor issues but the company has agreed to address the issues. They did ask that we split the cost of the new rear tires. They have agreed to drive it out here for \$3,500. Chief said it would cost double that if we had it shipped. Chief Hagen said the City will insure it as soon as we purchase it, and they will also insure it when they drive it out here. Chief Hagen said his recommendation is to have them drive it out here for \$3500. Councilman Piper asked if Kyle would be available to go over it again once it arrives. Chief Hagen said once it gets here, RES and the fire department will inspect it. Hagen also noted that RES will service the truck.

Councilman Piper motioned to approve the purchase and pay for transportation of the 2002 Quint Fire Truck, second by Councilman Shepard and the motion carried.

City Manager Nicosia provided a spreadsheet of the total cost of the 2002 Fire Truck. The Rural share will be \$83,428.99 and the city share will be \$56,571.01. The city had originally budgeted \$24,000, at the Jan. 7th meeting, Council can approve a budget amendment and a resolution approving a loan from the Cedar Creek Trust of \$40,500.

Councilman Shepard motioned to approve the City Manager to draft the resolution amending the budget and the CCT loan for the city share of the new Fire Truck, second by Councilman Robinson and the motion carried.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

None.

**ORDINANCES/
RESOLUTIONS**

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Mayor Barnhart said he was extremely proud to be a member of this community and the recent win in the Salvation Army Bell Ringing Competition is an example of the caring and giving spirit of the residents of this community. Mayor Barnhart thanked all those who participated in ringing the bell to raise money for those in need and said it was very satisfying to reclaim the title and trophy.

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL**

Councilman Shepard said Pat Walsh went through the Woodlawn Cemetery and marked most of the veterans graves to put the wreaths up. Shepard also noted that the Night of Lights was very enjoyable.

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Councilman Piper asked if the gate across 6th street E. is closed for the year. Nicosia replied yes, it is closed for the winter season.

Mayor Barnhart said the opinion on the Columbia Falls Resort Tax in the Sunday Daily Inter Lake was well written.

Mayor Barnhart said there was a complaint from a citizen on the corner of 3rd and 4th Ave. to turn on truck route, that the trucks were loud when slowing down. Mayor Barnhart said on the highway you cannot restrict trucks from having auxiliary braking systems but noted that in the city we could make restrictions on city streets. Mayor Barnhart would like to see a restriction of using compression (jake) brakes on city streets. City Manager Nicosia said she will look into it. Shepard said when the trucks come off the viaduct you can certainly hear them.

CITY MANAGER:

A. Manager's Update - On-going projects and activities

The public safety funding workshop will meet on January 17, 2019 at 6:30. The Public Safety Committee members are Barnhart, Piper, Lovering and alternate Shepard.

January 28, 2018 Whitefish will host a FECC interlocal Agreement meeting.

MLCT will have a new legislative application put in place to communicate faster and keep cities updated on legislative action. Nicosia met with representatives from the FC Spay and Neuter Task Force and the Flathead County Animal Shelter Advisory Group on how best to address the feral cat problem at River's Edge Parks. They have agreed to work with us on this issue.

City Hall will close at noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Employees will use vacation or comp time hours as these days are not considered paid holidays.

Nicosia reviewed the Building permit activity for 2018 calendar year compared to the 2017 calendar year. 73 building permits were issued totaling about \$16 million in value, 8.7 million are residential and 7.2 million are commercial. Last year we issued 64 permits, 5.8 million residential and 4.8 million in commercial.

Nicosia also reported that the Wayfinding signs have started going in as well as the 25 MPH flashing public safety lights.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT:

None.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Peters said they have completed Detective interviews and are working on background checks. Chief said they hope to have a decision made soon.

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

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INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

**CORRESPONDENCE/
REPORTS**

A. REPORTS:

- a. Finance - November
- b. Police - November Activity/Calendar YTD

ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilman Karper and seconded by Councilman Robinson the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

ADJOURN

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: January 7, 2019