

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD JANUARY 7, 2019**

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, Police Chief Peters and Public Works Director Bradshaw.

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

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

A. Approval of Claims -\$ 100,315.46 -January 7, 2019/Dec 21, 2018

Approval of Claims \$ 12,025.00 - December 19, 2018

B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 64,782.75 - December 28, 2018

Approval of Payroll Claims - \$20,760.77 - Dec 31st Quarterly payments

C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - December 17, 2018

D. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Flathead County EMS, November 1, 2018 - May 31, 2019 and authorize City Manager to sign.

E. Approval of Easement Agreement with Whitefish Credit Union Association for placement of Wayfinding Sign.

F. Approval of Task Order 04A- HDR Engineering (Lift Station #2 Rebid) and authorize City Manager to sign.

VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT: (Items not on agenda)

Russell Albin was in attendance to update Mayor and Council on his Eagle Scout Project at the Welcome Park near Super One Foods. Mr. Albin said currently they have most of the installation complete, and all they have left is to install the branch of service emblems. The project should be complete the

**VISITOR/PUBLIC
COMMENT**

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week of the 18th. Mr. Albin showed a photo of the project progress.

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.

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.

The proposed changes are available for review at the office of the City Clerk, City of Columbia Falls 130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, MT. Persons may contact the City Clerk or City Manager at 406-892-4391 or 130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, MT for more information about the hearing.

City Manager Nicosia reported that she is working with staff on updating the Municipal Codes. There will be a packet of updates at the January 22, 2019 Council meeting. The Public Hearing will remain open until the review is complete. Nicosia noted that the goal is to have these 11 chapters completed by the end of February.

B. Notice of Hearing - January 22, 2019 - TIF Fund Budget Hearing:

Mayor Barnhart read the notice of hearing:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, will hold a public hearing on January 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Columbia Falls City Hall, 130-6th Street West, Columbia Falls, Montana, to adopt an amended 2019 FY budget for the Tax Increment District Fund.

The City received the estimated tax funding for the Tax Increment District Fund at the end of October, 2018. Based on the estimated tax funding of \$294,605, the City Council will amend the 2019 FY appropriations for the 2019 FY. The funds will be spent as provided for in the Tax Increment District Statement of Need.

Taxpayers are encouraged to attend the hearing and give written or oral comments on the budget-related item. Written comments may be mailed to

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the City Clerk, 130 6th Street West, Room A, Columbia Falls, Montana, 59912. Questions regarding the proposed items can be made by contacting City Manager Susan Nicosia at 892-4391.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

Resolution # 1786 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Amending Fund 4020 General Equipment Capital Projects Fund Revenues and Appropriations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30 2019.

**Resolution #1786-
Amending Fund
4020 Budget**

City Manager said Resolution #1786 is necessary after Council approved the purchase of a 2002 Quint Fire Truck at the last Council meeting in the amount not to exceed \$140,000. The City share is estimated at \$56,571 based on the \$140,000 amount. The Resolution shows the loan from the Cedar Creek Trust of \$40,500 as an "other financing source" and increases the expenditures to cover the cost of the truck, including delivery and equipping.

Councilman Shepard made a motion to approve Resolution #1786, second by Councilman Lovering with the Council voting as follows. AYES: Karper, Lovering, Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Fisher and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

B. Resolution #1787 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Authorizing a Loan from the Cedar Creek Trust Fund for the Purchase of a Fire Apparatus.

**Resolution #1787-
Loan from Cedar
Creek Trust**

City Manager Nicosia reported that this Resolution complies with the statutory debt limits and authority to incur debt. City Manager said Council can incur up to 10% of the General Fund two year average budget authority, approximately \$300,000, and Council is granted statutory authority to incur debt to purchase a fire apparatus. Nicosia also noted that the Resolution complies with the provisions of the Cedar Creek Trust Agreement as adopted by the City Council in August 2005 with Resolution #1398. Nicosia noted that Council had approved the purchase and the loan from the Cedar Creek Trust at the last council meeting.

Councilman Shepard motioned to approve Resolution #1787, second by Councilman Robinson with Council voting as follows. AYES: Lovering, Piper,

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

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Mayor Barnhart Proclaimed May 3, 2019 as Columbia Falls Arbor Day by reading the Annual Arbor Day Proclamation.

Councilman Lovering said the fishing pond at River's Edge Park looks frozen, and wondered about the possibility of ice skating. Public Works Director Bradshaw said we can look at the thickness of the ice but it is ground water and may not be safe. City Manager Nicosia noted that the City is discouraging recreation on the pond at this time.

Councilman Shepard said there is still confusion over the resort tax. Shepard said the street crew did a good job plowing today.

Mayor Barnhart also thanked the street crew and appreciated the gravel at the icy intersections.

CITY MANAGER:

Nicosia reported that the 3 City Managers and the County Manager met today to discuss the FECC (911) interlocal agreement after the Flathead County Commissioners questioned the need to hold the proposed joint meeting of the elected officials to discuss the agreement. Nicosia said Columbia Falls, Whitefish and the County approved the revised interlocal agreement in 2017 but Kalispell had not approved it. There is interest in amending the agreement to have it managed by the county. Nicosia said the committee that had worked on the amended interlocal agreement had made minor corrections and amendments to bring it in line with how the center was actually operating with the belief that county management would happen after the funding was in place. Nicosia said it is highly unlikely that the January 28th meeting will occur to discuss the interlocal agreement. Nicosia said the managers will continue to meet to hash out a new agreement to bring back to each board and council.

Nicosia noted that the MLCT Legislative app is not on line; they hope to have it live this Wednesday.

Nicosia noted that the city is still working with Flathead County on the cat issue at River's Edge Park.

Mayor Barnhart said there seems to be better compliance with snow removal on the sidewalks. Chief Peters said it is complaint driven and we have not received any complaints.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT:

None.

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL**

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

**CITY ATTORNEY
REPORT**

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POLICE CHIEF REPORT:

Police Chief Peters said he received confirmation that the City is getting a permanent tower at the city street shop. He noted that this is good news for the City due to the gaps in radio coverage.

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

CORRESPONDENCE

ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilman Lovering and seconded by Councilman Shepard, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: January 22, 2019