

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD FEBRUARY 4, 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, Deputy City Attorney S. 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 with an amendment to add park discussion in NEW BUSINESS. Councilman Fisher moved to approve the agenda as amended, second by Councilman Shepard, 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 Shepard. 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 -\$199,058.86 - February 4, 2019
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 64,840.63 - January 25, 2019
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - January 22, 2019
- D. Approval of Plant Investment Fee Agreement (10 year payment) and related trust documents with Highline Apartments and authorize City Manager to execute

VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT: (Items not on agenda)

None.

**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.

The City Council is proposing completing the suggested text changes as

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recommended by the legal analysis and to update other outdated or necessary text changes as identified by City staff or Council.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 City staff is continuing to review the 11 Chapters and will review with Council at the February 22nd, 2019 meeting. Nicosia reminded Council to make notes on any text that they would like reviewed or amended.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District appropriations/projects:

Nicosia reported that this agenda item was requested by Council to review the public comments received at the last council meeting during the public hearing of the Tax Increment District budget and projects for the 2019 FY.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

Councilman Shepard reported that he has been conversing with residents about the possibility of lighting on the buildings or pedestrian lighting on Nucleus Ave. and felt there was some interest to pursue. Shepard said he would like to see a presentation on what the plan may be for high speed internet. City Manager Nicosia said she is meeting with Montana Sky on Thursday and will relay information on to council.

Mayor Barnhart noted that he would like to see water available to the garden spot on the highway by the Hungry Horse News, as noted during the public hearing. Mayor Barnhart was also interested in the internet upgrade, to potentially attract new businesses to the business areas and also noted that it is prudent to save money for larger projects. Councilman Fisher echoed the Mayor's interest in saving money for larger projects.

Councilman Robinson inquired on how long the City can set TIF funds aside. Nicosia said indefinitely, there is not a cap on that reserve as it is not considered a tax fund. In response to another question, Nicosia noted that the fund earns interest.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consideration of CGI Communications Agreement - Community Video
City Manager Nicosia reviewed the CGI program sponsored by the NLCT and US Conference of Mayors. Nicosia said the City does not pay for the video as it is done through sponsorships. Nicosia showed the Rock Springs, WY video.

NEW BUSINESS

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For community organizations there is no fee, sponsors pay for the video and their business logo and link will appear on the website.

Dave Petersen asked about the logos on the website, do they have a value. Do they know how many businesses they need to provide such video? Who would control our website? Nicosia said they own the copy rights to the video; but we can display and share it and have it updated.

B. Parks Bathrooms

Mayor Barnhart said he met with Glacier Precast to review options for concrete bathrooms. Mayor Barnhart reported that Glacier Precast has a lot of experience for building permanent restrooms throughout the state. They came up with pricing for single and double restrooms, \$31,600 and \$42,900, respectively. Mayor Barnhart reviewed the specifications provided by Glacier Precast and asked for the Parks Committee to review in more detail.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

None.

**ORDINANCES/
RESOLUTIONS**

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Piper thanked Public Works Director Bradshaw for the informative report.

Councilman Karper reported that there is a Tree Board meeting Tuesday February 5, 2019. He invited everyone to join them at 5:30 p.m.

Councilman Shepard reported that Flathead Wildlife Inc. is willing to help the City on the fishing pond project.

Councilman Lovering said she recently attended a tech conference and one thing they talked about was websites for cities and schools and keeping them up to date.

Councilman Fisher said he planned on attending the meeting in Kalispell for the County Parks and Recreation Weed Board where they were going to discuss the updated Trails Plan. The meeting was cancelled due to bad weather but it was his understanding that the Weeds, Parks and Recreation Board had concerns about adopting the updated Trail plan. Fisher said he would like to send a letter of support and approval of the plan. The item will be added to the next regular council agenda.

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL**

Joyce Hassard, 320 Nucleus Ave, represents the Glacier Institute. Two weeks ago they moved into the old WFCU building on Nucleus Avenue and are making improvements to the building. Joyce reported that they are a National Park partner and a partner with the National Forest Service. They provide outdoor science based programs. They are able to raise funds through memberships, grants, donations and tuition.

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CITY MANAGER:

Nicosia reported that the City Election filing opens April 18, 2019 and closes June 17, 2019. The City will need to decide if the election will be held by mail ballot or polling place. City Council positions open are Fisher, Karper and Piper. Nicosia said she will meet with Montana Sky representative on Thursday to discuss their planned fiber improvements in Columbia Falls. Nicosia said city staff is working with Applied Water to submit an application to update the City's place of use map for the City's water rights.

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT:

Deputy City Attorney Stephanie Breck reported on the Badger Drilling case, they are still waiting on the court for a motion to amend the complaint.

**REPORT FROM
CITY ATTORNEY**

OTHER REPORTS:

Chief Peters said he was excited for Detective Denham to start next week. Chief said he is watching legislation very closely. The department has 6 new active portable radios purchased for \$22,000.

OTHER REPORTS

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

CORRESPONDENCE

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

ADJOURN

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: February 19, 2019