

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD JANUARY 22, 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, Public Works Director Bradshaw and Finance Director Carlson.

**PLEDGE**

Pledge of Allegiance

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Mayor Barnhart requested a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Shepard moved to approve the agenda, second by Councilman Lovering, 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 -\$ 76,854.76 -January 22, 2019
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$99,752.02- January 11, 2019
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – January 7, 2019
- D. Approval of Amended HOME Grant Management Plan Amendment – Part III Program Income/Recaptured Funds and authorize City Manager to sign.

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

Steve Duffy, 1503 Eddy Court, said with the increased amount of traffic on Talbot Road he would recommend double yellow lines down the middle of the road.

**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.

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD JANUARY 22, 2019**

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Council is proposing completing the suggested text changes as recommended by the legal analysis and to update other outdated or necessary text changes as identified by City staff or Council.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 6<sup>th</sup> Street West, Columbia Falls, MT. Persons may contact the City Clerk or City Manager at 406-892-4391 or 130 6<sup>th</sup> Street West, Columbia Falls, MT for more information about the hearing.

City Manager Nicosia said the Public Hearing will be continued until completed; hopefully complete in February. Nicosia said you will see a refreshed Chapter 12 as it has been helpful to have a fresh set of eyes with Public Works Director Bradshaw taking a look at it.

**B. Public Hearing - TIF Fund Budget Hearing:**

Mayor Barnhart read the hearing notice:

**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, 130-6<sup>th</sup> 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.

City Manager Nicosia said this Public Hearing is required to appropriate funds for the Tax increment District, Fund #2310. Nicosia said the City doesn't know how much will be generated by the TIF until all of the taxing jurisdictions set their levies in the fall. The City receives the estimated amount with the tax levy reports in October. Nicosia reported that based on the statutory requirements to have available resources and established budgetary appropriations, the recommendation is to increase the adopted budget by \$294,605, the amount of the anticipated tax resources for the 2019 FY. The total budget authority, after the amendment would be \$585,296. Year to date, the Council has approved expenditures in the amount of \$392,585 due to the required sidewalk vault repair on 6<sup>th</sup> Street West and Nucleus Avenue. The remaining balance would be \$192,711. Therefore City Manager Nicosia recommends the Council determine the priorities, based on the Urban

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD JANUARY 22, 2019**

Renewal District Plan, to appropriate the \$192,711.

Mayor Barnhart asked if it has to be spent within identified areas. Nicosia replied that is correct, it must be spent within the defined TIF district. Mayor asked if the city doesn't spend all the funds if it will roll into the next year. Nicosia said that is correct.

Mayor Barnhart opened the Public Hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Dave Petersen, 201 4<sup>th</sup> Ave EN. said the bump outs on Nucleus Avenue have been a significant improvement as well as the pedestrian crossing signs.

Mr. Petersen said he would like to see the city website video updated. The monument at the highway and Nucleus Ave. will be in place in June which would be a nice addition to put in the video. Another idea Petersen had was to have roofline lighting up Nucleus Avenue. Mr. Petersen said if we could figure out a way to get ahead of others in the internet connectivity would give us a competitive edge.

Don Bennett said he would encourage Council to reserve a portion of the TIF funds because there may be projects come up that are more expensive. Mr. Bennett said he would agree with Mr. Petersen on an updated video to the city website. Mr. Bennett said from an economic development standpoint to build a great infrastructure of high speed fiber that is reliable would be a great improvement to Columbia Falls. Mr. Bennett suggests for council to consider, anytime there is any trenching or digging in an easement to require them to put in conduit for future development.

Chris Petersen, 1906 Nucleus, said Peggy Newman has been taking care of the little landscaped area along Highway 2 by the Hungry Horse News and it does not have irrigation; adding irrigation would help maintain that area.

Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 7:33 p.m.

Councilman Shepard suggested to have the City Manager put the discussed items in a format for discussion at the February 4, 2019 Council meeting.

Councilman Lovering asked if the City video could fall into the TIF monies. Nicosia said it would have to comply with the Urban Development Plan.

City Manager Nicosia said she should also mention that the Columbia Falls Foundation has discussed that Phase Two of the Nucleus project could include pedestrian lighting along Nucleus Ave. which would also be a permitted TIF project.

Maddy Stoddard said there is no street light on 13<sup>th</sup> Street down by the high school.

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD JANUARY 22, 2019**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Mid-Year Financial Review

City Finance Director Carlson reviewed the mid-year financials for all departments.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

A. Resolution # 1788 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Amending the 2019 Fiscal Year Budget for the Tax Increment District Fund.

**RESOLUTION  
#1788-Fund 2310**

Councilman Fisher motioned to approve Resolution #1788, second by Councilman Lovering with council voting as follows. AYES: Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Piper and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

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

Councilman Fisher asked about the weed memo from Flathead County. Nicosia discussed the noxious vs nuisance weeds and which jurisdiction is responsible.

**REPORTS FROM  
MAYOR AND  
COUNCIL**

Councilman Piper asked about the first pothole at Nucleus and Highway 2. Public Works Director Bradshaw said he has notified DOT.

Mayor Barnhart said the new beam in the Fire Department looks good and sturdy; and the approved fire truck purchase is moving forward.

**CITY MANAGER:**

Nicosia reviewed current legislation, noting that SB 135 was withdrawn this afternoon; the bill would've taken away all school district mills or 54% of the total mills. HB 6 is the RRGL funding and the City is project number 36, slated for \$122,950 (last on the funded list.) The hearing on HB6 is January 30<sup>th</sup>; Public Works Director Bradshaw will be in attendance to testify on the City's behalf.

**CITY MANAGER  
REPORT**

The National League of Cities and Towns sponsors a program for promotional videos at no cost to the City, Nicosia recently reviewed the program and will bring to City Council at the next meeting. Mayor Barnhart believes we have a good base video. Nicosia said she had talked to Adam and he cannot update the current video, we have to start over.

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT:**

None.

**REPORT FROM  
CITY ATTORNEY**

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD JANUARY 22, 2019**

**OTHER REPORTS:**

Chief Peters said the City has selected an applicant for the Detective position and we are just waiting for testing results. The Chief has ordered 6 new radios utilizing this year's capital funds set aside for equipment replacement; he said he was fortunate to be able to take advantage of good pricing.

Public Works Bradshaw said the new Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator starts on Monday.

**INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE** - List available for Review

**A. REPORTS:**

- a. Police - December Activity
- b. Fire - 2018 Calendar Year Activity

**ADJOURN:** Upon motion duly made by Councilman Lovering and seconded by Councilman Shepard the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

**OTHER REPORTS**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**ADJOURN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: February 4, 2019