

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD MARCH 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: Fisher, Piper, Shepard and Robinson
ABSENT: Karper and Lovering

ROLL CALL

Also present were City Manager Nicosia, City Clerk Staland, City Attorney Breck, Police Chief Peters, Fire Chief Hagen and Public Works Director Bradshaw.

Pledge of Allegiance

PLEDGE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Barnhart requested a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Piper 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 with the exception of one claim needing a signature, second by Councilman Fisher. Motion carried with Council voting as follows: YES: Shepard, Fisher, Piper, Robinson and Barnhart NOES: None. ABSENT: Lovering and Karper.

**CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims -\$ 21,068.91 - March 4, 2019
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 69,370.20 - February 22, 2019
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - February 19, 2019

APPOINTMENTS:

A. Police Detective - Gary Denham

Police Chief Peters said Detective Denham comes to us from Nevada and brings several years of experience to the department. Chief Peters said the City is excited to have Detective Denham on board.

Councilman Shepard motioned to approve hiring Gary Denham as probationary Police Detective, second by Councilman Fisher and the motion carried.

**APPOINTMENTS
DENHAM
THORSTEINSON**

B. Volunteer Firefighter - Dillon Thorsteinson

Fire Chief Hagen said Dillon Thorsteinson was a prior volunteer firefighter and resigned to move to Texas. He has since moved back and would like to return to the Fire Department as probationary Volunteer Firefighter.

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD MARCH 4, 2019**

Councilman Piper motioned to approve bringing Dillon Thorsteinson back as probationary Volunteer Firefighter, second by Councilman Robinson and the motion carried.

VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT: (Items not on agenda)
None.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC
COMMENT**

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NOTICES:

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

Presentation on March 4th of proposed amendments to all 11 Chapters

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 until complete.

City Manager Nicosia said staff remains to go through the Municipal Code for amendments. Mayor Barnhart stated at this time the Public Hearing will remain open.

**PUBLIC
HEARINGS-
Municipal Code
Amendments**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Letter of Support - DHS Grant - Radio Tower

City Manager Nicosia said the DHS Grant application to be submitted by the Flathead Emergency Communications Center is due March 8th and they requested a letter of support from the Council. FECC staff is submitting the grant proposal to build an 80 foot tower at the street shop property. Chief Peters said this will be a vast improvement in radio communications in and around Columbia Falls and we will have coverage where we have not had it before. Mayor Barnhart asked if the county would be responsible for the tower as far as maintenance and ownership. Nicosia said that is correct, the tower would be owned and maintained by FECC.

Councilman Shepard made motion to authorize the letter of support for the DHS Grant, second by Councilman Piper and the motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS-
DHS Grant**

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD MARCH 4, 2019**

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

None.

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Shepard said he noticed we are hit and miss on sidewalk snow removal on Highway 2. Mayor Barnhart believes MDOT is doing a good job on snow removal on Nucleus Avenue and Highway 2. Mayor Barnhart thanked the businesses that keep the sidewalks in front of their business clear of snow.

Councilman Shepard said the local American Legion group did very well with the Western VA group in Boulder CO. Veteran suicide is very problematic with the loss of twelve Montanans. Shepard said when they are done with their training next week they will have 35 people trained on Veteran suicide in the Flathead Valley.

Councilman Fisher complimented city crews for keeping up with snow plowing and removal.

Mayor Barnhart asked Fire Chief Hagen if the new Fire truck was here yet. Chief Hagen said it hasn't left just yet, but he does expect it in the next couple weeks.

CITY MANAGER:

City Manager Nicosia handed out the amended FECC Interlocal agreement and discussed the changes with Council. Nicosia reported that the managers met and produced this agreement that will be brought forward to each governing body. Mayor and Council concurred with the recommended changes. Nicosia will report their agreement to the County and the Cities of Kalispell and Whitefish.

Nicosia reviewed Legislation affecting the City to date.

Nicosia reported that the City is requesting proposals from consultants to prepare a development plan for River's Edge Park. This plan would include not only the fishing pond improvements but also the bathroom, parking, trails, and other park development. The RFP requires the preliminary development plan to be completed by August 1st. Mayor Barnhart asked if the restroom will be installed by summer. Nicosia replied that the bathroom can be installed with the completion of the development plan, ensuring the bathroom is placed in the right location. The bathroom can be ordered and ready to be installed in September after the plan is completed Nicosia noted. Public Works Director Bradshaw said looking at River's Edge Park; the City would like to see signage, a paved path, parking and the restrooms. As reviewed with the parks committee, the City wants to make sure we are not just throwing things up without thorough planning. The intent of the RFP is to have a plan moving forward with community and council input. Nicosia said the proposals must be submitted no later than Thursday April 4, 2019. Nicosia

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL**

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD MARCH 4, 2019**

asked for a Council member to review proposals on April 8, 2019. Councilman Fisher volunteered to review proposals with staff.

Nicosia also reported that in reviewing the possible development plans at Depot Park, it was discovered that the existing easement with BNSF is only 60' wide and the lengths agree to the green space currently maintained by the City; therefore the City didn't have the space to install a bathroom or visitor center. As included in the claims, the City revised the easement area to provide more space, which required a \$600 application fee. Nicosia will report to Council when we hear back from BNSF on the revised easement.

Nicosia also reported that she and City Attorney Breck have continued to work with the Flathead County Library officials on the Interlocal Agreement amended by the City in October to provide risk management and insurance coverage. Nicosia attended the October Board meeting and both she and Attorney Breck have met with them several times. Deputy County Attorney Overland is supposed to proposed amendments to the agreement and return them to Nicosia and Breck for review.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT:

None.

**CITY ATTORNEY
REPORT**

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

CORRESPONDENCE

ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilman Fisher and seconded by Councilman Shepard the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

ADJOURN

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: March 18, 2019