

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD MARCH 18, 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 Fisher, 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 Fisher. 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 -\$63,762.20 - March 4, 2019
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 108,909.33 - March 8, 2019
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - March 4, 2019
- D. Approval of Community Fish Pond Project Agreement, MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks, in the amount of \$5,508 and authorize City Manager to sign.
- E. Acceptance of Dorothy Street Water Main Extension (Michael Blend)

**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**

**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

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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Council is proposing completing the suggested text changes as recommended by the legal analysis and to update other outdated or necessary text changes as identified by City staff or Council.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.

City Manager Nicosia presented Title 5 Business License Regulations as reviewed and amended by city staff. Nicosia provided council with both current text and with the proposed changes. Nicosia noted that the changes are mostly due to redundancy in text, outdated requirements and with the liquor licenses, compliance with state statute.

Mayor Barnhart said the Public Hearing will remain open.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Approval of Mural - Hungry Horse News Retaining Wall  
Chris Peterson was in attendance with Columbia Falls High School Art Teacher Shelby Johnson. Chris said he was searching for a way to make the cement wall by the Hungry Horse News more attractive. He was referred to Shelby Johnson who agreed to consider his request of a mural. Ms. Johnson said she has about 5 students that would work on the mural and could have it completed in 2-3 days. Chris said the area on the wall to be painted is 95 feet long and 4 feet high. Chris said long term they might want to change the mural every 3 years. Council reviewed the mural criteria in city code.

**NEW BUSINESS-  
Mural on the cement  
wall at the HHN**

Councilman Piper made motion to approve the mural, as presented, on the cement wall by the Hungry Horse News, second by Councilman Shepard and the motion carried.

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

None.

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

Councilman Lovering said she had a couple of recommendations on the City website, including moving the Municipal Codes to the top of the page and have the code be searchable. Nicosia said we are in the process of updating the Municipal Codes which will include being searchable when it is done. Councilman Shepard mentioned some people have frozen water service lines due to the frost. Councilman Karper said his brand new sewer line froze up and it took him two and a half days to get it unthawed.

**REPORTS FROM  
MAYOR AND  
COUNCIL**

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Councilman Piper said thanks for fixing the pot holes. Piper said he went to the fire hall to have a look at the new fire truck and it is an impressive piece of equipment. Piper noted there were a couple of letters from 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in correspondence that he appreciated.

Mayor Barnhart said the pot holes are good now, but there may be an issue on Nucleus as the thaw progresses. Mayor Barnhart echoed Piper on the new fire truck, noting it is in even better condition than imagined. Barnhart commended Chief Hagen on the purchase.

**CITY MANAGER:**

Nicosia reported the following items to Council:

The City received notification from DNRC that the Natural Resources Conservation Service will no longer provide engineering assistance to the city to complete the 5-year formal inspections on Cedar Creek Dam. They will provide a list of private engineers qualified to provide the service and they estimate the cost to be between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Cedar Creek Dam is due for inspection in 2020.

The Board of Investments announced the Intercap Loan rate beginning in August 2019 at 3.37%. We will monitor loan rates and refinance if necessary.

The new Fire Truck has arrived and training is in progress. It is understood that all firemen are to be properly trained before climbing on the truck.

The FECC (911) Board met on Wednesday. Nicosia reported that the Columbia Falls Council was in general agreement with the proposed amended Interlocal; as was Kalispell. Nicosia said she will bring the resolution forward when all parties are in agreement. The Board discussed the process for establishing the 2020 FY budget.

City Attorney Breck and MMIA are reviewing the amended agreement from the Flathead County Library. Nicosia noted that she and Breck have been working with the Library Board and staff since the City proposed the amendments in October.

Nicosia reminded Council of the goal setting meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> as we begin the City's preliminary budget process. We are also in the process of completing a salary survey for all city positions. The police and teamster contracts both expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The 2019 Growth Policy Survey will launch soon on the city website.

The Chamber of Commerce is doing a food drive and there is a box at the front counter for donations.

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT:**

None.

**OTHER REPORTS:**

Public Works Director Bradshaw said he has received many calls due to

**CITY MANAGER  
REPORT**

**CITY ATTORNEY  
REPORT**

**OTHER REPORTS**

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frozen lines and no water. Bradshaw said the homeowner is responsible for lines from the main to the house, per city code. The calls are tapering off at this time; last week folks were touching base to see where things stand. We are giving them resources to get help. Mayor Barnhart said if the lines stay frozen for a long period they will break.

Chief Peters said he has just returned from 5 day training session which was both motivating and informative.

**INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE** - List available for Review

A. REPORTS:

- a. Finance - February
- b. Police - February Activity

**CORRESPONDENCE/  
REPORTS**

**ADJOURN:** Upon motion duly made by Councilman Lovering and seconded by Councilman Robinson, the meeting adjourned at 8:11p.m.

**ADJOURN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: April 1, 2019