

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD June 3, 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, Lovering, Piper, Fisher and Robinson

ABSENT: None

ROLL CALL

Also present were City Manager Nicosia, City Finance Director Carlson, City Attorney Breck, Police Chief Peters and Public Works Director Bradshaw.

Councilor Piper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Barnhart requested a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Robinson moved to approve the agenda, second by Councilor Lovering, and the motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA
APPROVAL**

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilor Fisher moved to approve the consent agenda noting that all claims appeared to be in order, second by Councilor Shepard. Motion carried with Council voting as follows: YES: Karper, Shepard, Lovering, Piper, Robinson, Fisher and Barnhart NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

**CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVAL**

A. Approval of Claims -\$ 154,694.74 - June 3, 2019

B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$74,217.76 - May 31, 2019

C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - May 20, 2019

D. Approval of Burke Move With Us Grant and authorize City Manager to execute.

VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT: (Items not on agenda)

None.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:

A. Matt Cox and Rick Lawrence from the Public Works/Street department were each recognized for their service and awarded a 5 year pin by Mayor Barnhart. Public Works Director Bradshaw expressed his appreciation for their hard work and dependability and he hopes they are here for a long time.

**EMPLOYEE
RECOGNITION**

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PUBLIC HEARINGS/NOTICES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. City Manager Nicosia discussed the funding opportunity for a Federal 2019 **BUILD Grant app** BUILD Columbia Falls Grant (formerly known as Tiger Grant). The City is seeking assistance from the Federal Government to fund street improvements that promote active, safe and affordable multimodal transportation and pedestrian access throughout Columbia Falls. Nicosia noted that it is important to receive congressional support, support from our businesses, schools and support from the Department of Transportation. Nicosia indicated that the City would not know if the Department of Transportation would support the grant until Wednesday of this week. Senator Tester has expressed full support. Manager Nicosia will bring it to the Chamber of Commerce and expects to receive full support. Given the time constraints of the grant, it was important to bring it to Council for consideration assuming support from all parties.

Public Works Director Bradshaw gave the scope and vision of the project. The project would complete select secondary streets with improvements to bicycle/pedestrian walkways, water lines and curb and gutter.

The City has proposed a consultant contract with Morrison-Maierle to perform preliminary engineering for the project as well as assemble documentation, prepare and submit the grant application on behalf of the City.

The project would be \$5,000,000 to \$8,000,000. The grant does not require matching funds. The deadline for the application is July 15, 2019.

Councilor Shepard asked if we heard from Senator Daines office. Manager Nicosia stated no we have not.

Mayor Barnhart stated this would be a good opportunity to upgrade cast-iron waterlines which could be the cause of significant water loss. Public Works Director Bradshaw indicated he does not plan to rebuild a street over any old cast-iron lines.

Mayor Barnhart asked where the funds are coming from. Manager Nicosia

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suggested funding for the \$34,100 engineering contract come from the General Fund original matching fund appropriation of \$135,000 for a Transportation Alternative Grant. Council concurred with recommendation.

Councilor Fisher motioned to approve the Federal BUILD Grant and related consultant contract with Morrison-Maierle and authorize City Manager to execute all related documents. Councilor Lovering seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council voting as follows: YES: Shepard, Robinson, Piper, Lovering, Karper, Fisher and Barnhart NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

None

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilor Shepard indicated his meeting in Washington DC was good. He was pleased at the knowledge and support that Senator Tester's staff has for the Columbia Falls community.

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL**

Councilor Lovering wanted to recognize and encourage all to vote for Raychel Hoerner's winning submission to Doodle for Google. If she wins nationally, she would get \$30,000 and \$50,000 for the school. Everyone can vote.

Councilor Fisher stated he has a Gateway to Glacier Trail meeting this Wednesday. He will bring up the BUILD grant potential and ask for their support.

Mayor Barnhart stated it was important for all three representatives to support our initiative on the BUILD grant. He also stated that Tammi Fisher, appointed to the Transportation Commission, is a good resource and very supportive of our community.

Mayor Barnhart attended the ribbon cutting for the Community Foundation Monument project on Nucleus Ave. He said it was well attended and impressed with the community driven support of this project. Columbia Falls was built by its citizens and businesses and encouraged more public/private partnerships. He was proud to be there and cut the ribbon.

Mayor Barnhart was concerned about properly taking care of the landscaping around the welcome signs. He wants to make sure the City is taking care of our parks and improvements. Anytime we have a new project, how we plan to maintain the project and costs to maintain should be a part of the discussion. He hopes that city officials keep that in mind as budget and project discussions take place.

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Councilor Shepard stated his concern for the number of un-kept yards. He would like the police to issue weed letters.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

City Manager Nicosia indicated that City staff has started enforcement of un-kept lawns and other land-use issues such as decay and junk vehicles. A police officer and the public works assistant went out and knocked on doors where compliance was an issue.

**REPORT FROM
CITY MANAGER**

City Pool opens Monday June 10th. We are still looking for lifeguards. It is difficult to compete in the tight labor market. Mayor Barnhart asked how we are doing with the leaks. Public Works Director Bradshaw indicated we fixed the easy leaks with the main service line. The leaks potentially under the pool have not been addressed. Manager Nicosia indicated we have made a lot of progress towards repairing the leaks.

The Burke Move with Us Grant on the consent agenda for the Playground Structure at Horine Park will complete the playground. It will be twice as large as any equipment that we could purchase without this grant. The matching money comes from dedicated Cash in Lieu from surrounding subdivisions. The grant provides 50% of the funding so the City will pay \$32,363 for a very nice structure. The other planned improvements for Horine Park include paving of the parking area with millings and the addition of a gazebo/pavilion.

Councilor Lovering asked Manager Nicosia if any progress on been made on the tennis courts. Nicosia stated the parks committee will meet to review.

Mayor Barnhart asked about the Teamsters negotiations. Manager Nicosia indicated she met with representatives on May 15th and has a tentative agreement for the next three year period. The negotiated agreement will be presented to Council on June 17th. Police negotiations have not yet started. The bargaining unit is changing and the State has not yet recognized the unit.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT:

None.

OTHER REPORTS:

Police Chief Peters indicated they are addressing the weed violations. There are six lots on the list with most of them empty lots. He expects letters to go out by the end of next week.

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Public Works Director Bradshaw reminded Council that the River's Edge survey closes June 11th. If Council did not complete the survey, he encouraged them to do so.

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

CORRESPONDENCE

A. REPORTS: None

ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lovering and seconded by Councilor Piper the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

ADJOURN

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: June 17, 2019