

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD JUNE 17, 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, Fisher, Piper and Robinson
ABSENT: Lovering and Shepard

ROLL CALL

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

Pledge of Allegiance

PLEDGE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

**CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims -\$ 331,358.17 - June 17, 2019
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$112,488.65 -June 14, 2019
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - June 3, 2019
- D. Authorization to void outstanding checks
- E. Approval of Bad Debt Write-off - 2019 FY
- F. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the City of Columbia Falls for Public Fishing Pond at River's Edge Park and authorize City Manager to execute.

VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT: (Items not on agenda)

Presentation - Conservation Crew Trash Audit

Delaney Conger president of the Conservation Crew reviewed the findings of the trash audit they performed at City Hall last month. Ms. Conger said the city is doing a great job, but noted some things that could use improvement such as the amount of trash bags used in a day along with recycling plastic and aluminum cans.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC
COMMENT**

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EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:

Mayor Barnhart recognized Shane Steele for his 5 years of service and Craig McConnell (in attendance) was awarded his 15 year pin and given thanks for his years of service with the City.

**EMPLOYEE
RECOGNITION**

APPOINTMENTS:

Probationary Volunteer Fireman – Kyle Woodruff

Fire Chief Hagen said Kyle Woodruff comes to us with firefighting experience from Goldendale, WA and Whitefish. Mr. Woodruff has exhibited a strong desire to become a member of the Columbia Falls Fire Department. Chief Hagen and Manager Nicosia recommend council approval of Kyle Woodruff as Probationary Firefighter.

APPOINTMENTS

Councilman Piper made motion to approve Kyle Woodruff as Probationary Firefighter, second by Councilman Robinson and the motion carried.

Mr. Woodruff was then sworn in by City Clerk Staaland.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NOTICES:

A. Public Hearing – Municipal Code Amendments – Continued until complete – Title 2 Administration and Personnel – June 17th:

PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council of the City of Columbia Falls is conducting 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. June 17th hearing will include Title 2 Administration and Personnel. The final code review will be Title 13 Public Services at the July 1, 2019 meeting.

City Manager Nicosia reviewed Title 2 Administration and Personnel noting required and needed changes. Council concurred with the recommended changes. Nicosia noted after the final Title is reviewed, she will get with the City Attorney's office to prepare the ordinances for reading. Nicosia noted that the administration is looking forward to having the updated code codified and available to the public.

Mayor Barnhart said the Public Hearing will remain open at this time.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of Marantette Park Movie Night - park open 12 midnight
The Chamber of Commerce has submitted a special use permit for an Outdoor Movie Night at Marantette Park "The Greatest Showman". The event will be held from 9 pm - 12 am July 20th. This is a community event and if successful they may host similar events in the future. Nicosia noted that city code notes that the parks close at 10 pm; she also noted that she did not have the authority to waive this code. City staff has reviewed the request and recommends approval of extending the hours to 12 midnight for Movie Night.

Councilman Karper motioned to approve extending Marantette Park hours to 12 am for movie night, second by Councilman Fisher and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Teamsters Union Local 2 Collective Bargaining Agreement - 2019-2022 FY

City Manager Nicosia said the Collective Bargaining Unit negotiation lasted four hours. We got to where we needed to be in reasonable amount of time. There were not a lot of changes to the contract for this three year term.

Councilman Piper motioned to approve the Collective Bargaining Unit Contract as presented, second by Councilman Fisher with Council voting as follows. AYES: Piper, Fisher, Karper, Robinson and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: Shepard and Lovering.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution # 1792 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Designating Heritage Days 2019 as an Official Activity of the City of Columbia Falls and Designating Persons Responsible for Planning the Events of Heritage Days 2019

Councilman Robinson motioned to approve Resolution #1792, second by Councilman Karper with voting as follows. AYES: Robinson, Fisher, Karper, Piper and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: Lovering and Shepard.

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Piper said the mosquitos were not bad this year. He reminded residents need to maintain the alley ways, and keep the grass and weeds cut to assist in mosquito control.

Councilman Fisher reported a week ago the Forest service released the assessment for the Crystal Cedar project north of town. The comment period will close on July 5th, if council would like to submit any comments and another letter from the city in support of the project would be appreciated. Mayor Barnhart requested the letter, similar to the one sent last year, be on the

NEW BUSINESS

**Res #1792 -
Heritage Days**

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL**

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July 1st agenda for approval.

Fisher said he ran into Cliff Boyd with Calbag on the CFAC project and he said the silos will be coming down at the CFAC site soon.

Mayor Barnhart said Chris Petersen asked if we could supply some dirt for the triangle flower bed by the Hungry Horse News. Nicosia said she is working with the public works department on their request; as well as MDOT. Mayor Barnhart said the Falls Park adjacent to Glacier Bank looks nice since they did some landscaping work on it. Nicosia said Glacier Bank had the work done.

Mayor Barnhart said the pocket park needs a lot of attention; it does not look good with the new uptown changes. Mayor Barnhart asked if we have enough park employees to keep up with city parks. Nicosia stated that she is currently reviewing staffing levels and needs with the Public Works Director.

CITY MANAGER:

City Manager Nicosia reported that taxpayers received reappraisal notices in early June. It looks like assessed values are up 20-30%. Nicosia noted that there is a 30 day deadline to request an informal review of the new assessed value. The taxpayer must complete Form AB-26 (copies are available at City Hall or on the DOR website). Nicosia noted that the city does not have any protested taxes currently and encourages taxpayers to appeal the value and not wait to protest in November as that is too late.

Nicosia reviewed the 2020 FY Budget Calendar with council.

The joint Council and Planning Board Growth Policy workshop is tentatively set for August 12th, 2019 at 6:30.

The City will not need to conduct a primary election in June unless more the 9 council candidates file. The election department reported that 5 candidates have filed as of today. City officials will need to adopt a Resolution on or before August 5th calling for the fall election. Nicosia had asked for mail ballot costs vs polling place election. More information will be obtained in order for council to make the final election determination.

The Fishing Pond ceremony is tomorrow from 4-7.

The 2018 FY audit report was delivered on Friday. Nicosia noted that the City has received the highest opinion and there were no written comments. Nicosia asked Council to review and let her know if there were any questions or comments. Nicosia thanked Finance Director Carlson for her hard work on the report as well as the other department heads for following city code and state statutes, thus resulting in no non-compliance comments.

Nicosia reminded residents of the no Firework law within the city limits.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT:

None.

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

**REPORT FROM
CITY ATTORNEY**

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POLICE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Peters said his department is trying to be proactive on weeds. Chief said they are making phone calls and it seems to be making a difference. There have been two black bears spotted down at River's Edge Park. Pass the word and be bear aware.

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review
REPORTS:

- A. Finance - May 2019
- B. Police - May activity

**CORRESPONDENCE
/REPORTS**

ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilman Robinson and seconded by Councilman Fisher and the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: July 1, 2019