

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD AUGUST 19, 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 and Robinson
ABSENT: Piper

ROLL CALL

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

Pledge of Allegiance

PLEDGE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

**AGENDA
APPROVAL**

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilor 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, Robinson and Barnhart NOES: None. ABSENT: Piper.

**CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of Claims -\$98,897.50 - August 19, 2019
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$121,350.73 - August 9, 2019
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - August 5, 2019
- D. Approval of 2019 FY Audit Contract, Doyle & Associates, P.C. and authorize City Manager to execute.
- E. Approval of extension of Conditional Use Permit CCU-17-01-Rob Pero six-plexs

VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT: (Items not on agenda)

Megan Glidden Sr. Librarian with ImagineIf Library said she will be attending more council meetings to answer any questions Council may have about the Library and learn more about Columbia Falls.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC
COMMENT**

APPOINTMENTS:

A. Probationary Volunteer Fireman Trey Perkins
City Manager Nicosia presented the nomination of Trey Perkins due to Fire Chief Hagen being on a fire call. The Fire Department has voted to approve Trey Perkins as a Probationary Volunteer Firefighter. Trey is a recent graduate of Columbia Falls High School and lives in Columbia Falls. Nicosia reported that Trey has successfully completed the background check and physical examination. Trey has exhibited a strong desire to become a member of the

**APPOINTMENTS-
Volunteer Fireman
Perkins**

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Fire Department. Nicosia and Hagen recommend Trey Perkins be approved as a Probationary Volunteer Firefighter.

Councilman Shepard motioned to approve Trey Perkins as Probationary Volunteer Firefighter, second by Councilor Robinson and the motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk Staaland administered Oath of Office to Mr. Perkins. Mayor, Council and Administration welcomed Mr. Perkins to the City Fire Department.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NOTICES:

Mayor Barnhart noted that the Preliminary Budget hearing remains open for public comment until the final adoption of the budget.

**PUBLIC
HEARINGS - 2020
FY Preliminary
Budget Hearing
continued**

City Manager Nicosia said there have been no additions or deletions to the preliminary budget presented on August 5th meeting and the City has not received any changes to the certified tax valuation. Nicosia reported that the General Fund budget is based on the maximum mill levy which generates \$ 1.33 million for operations, or 178.38 mills, compared to 189.85 mills last year. Nicosia reported that the total mills, including voted and permissive mills total 212.845 mills which is a reduction of 14.13 mills from last year's 226.97.

Mayor Barnhart asked for Public Comment on the City's budget at 7:10 p.m. No comments were received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approval of Updated Growth Policy and Map
City Manager Nicosia first reviewed the changes to the Growth Policy Map as examined during the joint Council/Planning Board workshop held on August 12th. Nicosia then reviewed the four Growth Policy text changes discussed during the August 12th workshop. Nicosia asked if there were any other changes or comments prior to final approval. There were no additional changes from Council.

**NEW BUSINESS
Updated Growth
Policy and Map**

Councilman Fisher motioned to approve the updated Growth Policy and map, second by Councilor Lovering and the motion carried. Nicosia noted that final adoption will be by Resolution at the next regular Council meeting.

B. Appointment of Resort Tax Advisory Committee
Mayor Barnhart said Frank Telling, Clay Lundgren and Dave Petersen meet the criteria to be appointed to the Resort Tax Advisory Committee.

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Councilman Fisher motioned to approve Frank Telling, Clay Lundgren and Dave Petersen as the citizen members to the Resort Tax Advisory Committee, second by Councilman Shepard and the motion carried. The first committee meeting was set for September 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

A. Resolution # 1802 - A Resolution of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana Calling for a General Election to be Held on November 5, 2019 for the Open Columbia Falls City Council Positions

**RESOLUTION
#1802 General
Election**

City Manager Nicosia reported that this resolution calls for a mail ballot election on November 5, 2019. Nicosia noted that the resolution provides for a secure ballot drop box here at City Hall as recommended by the Flathead County Election Supervisor.

Councilor Lovering made motion to approve Resolution #1802, second by Councilor Robinson with Council voting as follows. AYES: Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Robinson, Shepard and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: Piper

REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Mayor Barnhart recommended adding historical information on Columbia Falls on the updated City website.

Mayor Barnhart asked if there is an update on the Shay Engine signage. Nicosia said the Public Works Director is working on it and had received news articles and photos from Hungry Horse News.

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL**

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

City Manager reported the City has published a request for qualifications for engineers for the well project. A member of the Public Works committee will be needed to review proposals.

Nicosia reminded Council that the Parks committee meeting to go over the park development plan is on August 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Nicosia reported that Mayor also needs to schedule a Public Safety Committee meeting to update the Fire Chief job description. After discussion with committee members, the meeting was scheduled for September 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. Nicosia will invite the Columbia Falls Rural Fire District Board members.

Nicosia reported that the 911 Center is still waiting to hear if the DES grant proposal for a communication tower in Columbia Falls will be funded.

Nicosia also reported that police union negotiations will start on August 21, 2019 with Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). This is a first time contract due to the Police changing representatives.

Nicosia reported that there was a mountain lion incident at River's Edge Park over the weekend which left one lion dead on private property and the other

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

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dispatched but not found. Councilor Lovering asked if it was posted in the park that there was a mountain lion sighting. Chief Peters said sometimes it is more effective to put police tape up and people will abide by it versus a sign that said a mountain lion sighting. Peters said some people will just ignore it and go in anyway thinking the mountain lions are gone when there is actually a potential threat to the public.

Councilman Shepard said there is an added food source with the abundance of cats in the area that will attract wild animals.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT:

None.

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

**CORRESPONDENCE/
REPORTS**

A. REPORTS

a. July - Police Activity

ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilman Lovering and seconded by Councilman Shepard and the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: September 3, 2019