

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD SEPTEMBER 16, 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 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 Councilor Shepard, 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 Shepard. 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 -\$ 97,305.51 - September 16, 2019
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 112,558.83 - September 6, 2019
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - September 3, 2019
- D. Approval of Updated Fire Chief Job Description
- E. Approval of Standard Agreement for State Highway Traffic Safety Section Grant Funds, \$16,000, and authorize City Manager and Police Chief to execute.

VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT: (Items not on agenda)

Megan Glidden with ImagineIF Libraries said September is National Library Card Sign up month. If you have a library card you can sign up to receive their newsletter.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC
COMMENT**

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NOTICES:

A. Mayor Barnhart introduced the Public Hearing on the Intent to Adopt Draft Columbia Falls Growth Policy 2019 and asked City Manager Nicosia for a report.

**PUBLIC
HEARING-Growth
Policy 2019**

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City Manager Nicosia reported that this hearing is the last step in adopting the 2019 Updated City Growth Policy. Nicosia reviewed each of the steps to this point. After several months of working on updating the 2013 Growth Policy, the Planning Board completed the 2019 Draft Growth Policy and recommended approval of adoption to Council at the combined Planning Board/Council workshop. Council reviewed and approved the Draft Growth Policy at their subsequent meeting and then at the September 3rd meeting Council adopted a Resolution of Notice of Intent to Adopt the 2019 Draft Growth Policy and published the hearing notice as required by state statute.

With no public comment, Mayor Barnhart open and closed the public hearing at 7:06 p.m.

Mayor Barnhart read the Notice of Hearings – City Council October 7th:

The Columbia Falls City-County Planning Board held a public hearing for the following items at their regular meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers of City Hall, 130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, Montana. The Columbia Falls City Council will hold a subsequent hearing on October 7, 2019 starting at 7:00 p.m. in the same location.

**Notice of Hearing
PUD and Major
Subdivision-The
Benches**

Request for a Planned Unit Development and Major Subdivision in the Columbia Falls Planning Jurisdiction:

Prairie Dog Development, LLC is requesting approval of a Planned Unit Development and a mixed-use Major Subdivision consisting of single family residential and resort cabins. The 55.44 acre property is located at 7073 US Highway 2, Columbia Falls and is described as Tract 3, COS 20092 in Section 16, Township 30 North, Range 20 West, P.M.M., Flathead County.

Persons may testify at the hearing or submit written comments prior to the meeting. Written comment may be sent to Columbia Falls City Hall, Attention: Barb Staaland, City Clerk, 130 6th Street West, Room A, Columbia Falls, MT 59912. For more information call Eric Mulcahy, Columbia Falls City Planner at 755-6481.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #1806 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana Adopting the Columbia Falls Growth Policy 2019 for the Entire Jurisdictional Area of the Columbia Falls City-County Planning Board.

Councilor Shepard made motion to approve Resolution #1806, second by Councilor Robinson with Council voting as follows. AYES: Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Piper and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

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REPORTS/BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

Councilman Fisher asked if there were any significant changes from the prior Fire Chief job description to the new job description. City Manager Nicosia said there are some things that are more policy driven in the new format. It is very similar to the Police Chief job description but follows the MMIA format. The previous job description did not require a CDL but the new one does.

Councilman Shepard said there was a black bear in the neighborhood last week. Shepard reported the push button signs for the pedestrian crosswalks on Nucleus Ave. and 5th Street are still not working.

Councilman Piper said he reported a pot hole on the city website at 3rd ST. E. a week and a half ago and it still is not fixed. Nicosia said she would look into it.

Mayor Barnhart said the Resort Tax Advisory Committee meeting went well. Their next meeting is in October and they will be going over policies on luxury items.

**REPORTS FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCI**

CITY MANAGER:

Nicosia reported there is an October 15, 2019 Planning Board meeting for three applications as described in the hearing notice above: amending a Conditional Use Permit for Randy Jones Construction for a 12 plex instead of a 8 plex on Diane Road, a zone change request for the Cedar Palace property and an amended PUD for Highline apartments.

Nicosia also reminded council that there is a Resort Tax Advisory Committee meeting on October 9th.

Nicosia is completing the HB 652 grant application, providing infrastructure funding to cities/counties and schools impacted by coal, gas or timber. Nicosia reported that the grant requirements set a 1.5 million maximum per county. Nicosia said when she sent the coordinating email to the County and cities, the City of Whitefish indicated they will be applying as well. Nicosia said it is not difficult to document the impact on the City from the loss of timber production; the city lost 130 jobs due to the mill closure along with a reduction in the tax base. Nicosia said she is completing the grant request and will look at applying for the \$750,000 maximum but will apply for at least the \$600,000 loan amount for the Well Project.

Nicosia reported that the Council will see a resolution updating the planning fees at the next council meeting. The fees will be adjusted to include the mailing list and letters so we can avoid the extra billing process. Additionally, staff is recommending "after the fact permit" for Conditional Use Permits such as short-term vacation rentals.

The Fire Chief hiring schedule was reviewed with the Public Safety Committee. The City will start the advertising process in October until the first part of November, interviews in November, and job offer in December. We would like to have the new hire work with Fire Chief Hagen January and

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

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February.

Salary/Negotiations Special Committee meeting October 25, 2016 at 6:30, consisting of Karper, Robinson, Barnhart and Shepard as the alternate.

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

**CORRESPONDENCE
/REPORTS**

A. REPORTS:

- a. Finance - YTD thru August
- b. Police - August activity

Mayor Barnhart explained to the two public members, Patricia Wood and Tamra Hader that they arrived at the Council meeting after the public hearing had already been opened and closed.

ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lovering and seconded by Councilman Shepard the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

ADJOURN

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: October 7, 2019