

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD DECEMBER 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 Clerk Staaland, 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 noting ordinances 796 & 797 will be moved to the January 6, 2020 meeting, along with oaths of office for council members. Councilor Lovering moved to approve the revised agenda, second by Councilor Robinson, and the motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA  
APPROVAL**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Councilman Fisher moved to approve the consent agenda noting there was an adjustment in the dollar amount on the claims that should now read \$254,857.94, other than 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 - \$254,857.94 - December 16, 2019
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$ 113,070.86 - December 13, 2019
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - December 2, 2019
- D. Grant Final Plat Approval to Woodland Acres Subdivision, Staff Report CFP-19-01
- E. Approval of two year contract Breck Law Office, P.C. and authorize City Manager to sign.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT:** (Items not on agenda)

Norman Nunnally resides at 99 Gordon Avenue, said he is running for Montana State Senate. Mr. Nunnally handed out a pamphlet to council with background information.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

**APPOINTMENTS:**

A. City Attorney Justin Breck & Deputy City Attorney Stephanie Breck - 2 year appointments through December 31, 2021.

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City Attorney Breck said they would be honored to continue working with the city for another two year term.

Councilor Karper motioned to appoint Justin Breck, City Attorney, and Stephanie Breck, Deputy City Attorney, to 2 year appointments, second by Councilor Piper and the motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/NOTICES:** Mayor Barnhart read the notices:

**NOTICES OF  
PUBLIC  
HEARINGS**

A. **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, will hold a public hearing on January 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Columbia Falls City Hall, 130-6<sup>th</sup> Street West, Columbia Falls, Montana, to adopt an amended 2020 FY budget for the Tax Increment District Fund and Targeted Economic District Fund.

The City received the estimated tax funding for the Tax Increment District Fund at the end of October, 2019. Based on the estimated real estate tax funding of \$459,324, the City Council will amend the appropriations for the 2020 FY. The funds will be spent as provided for in the Tax Increment District Statement of Need and priorities established through the public hearing process.

The City received the estimated tax funding for the Targeted Economic District Fund at the end of October, 2019. Based on the estimated real estate tax funding of \$1,734, the City Council will consider appropriating the available funds for the 2020 FY based on the Statement of Need and priorities established through the public hearing process.

Taxpayers are encouraged to attend the hearing and give written or oral comments on the budget-related item. Written comments may be mailed to the City Clerk, 130 6<sup>th</sup> Street West, Room A, Columbia Falls, Montana, 59912. Questions regarding the proposed items can be made by contacting City Manager Susan Nicosia at 892-4391.

B. **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana will hold a public hearing beginning on January 6, 2020 during the 7:00 p.m. regular council meeting, the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, shall conduct a series of public hearings and meetings for the purpose of obtaining public comment to determine the greatest community development needs (public facilities, economic development, and housing needs). The City will take public comment during the month of January in order to obtain the greatest public input. The intent of the needs assessment process is to provide the City with a list of potential projects or actions in the areas of housing, economic development and public

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infrastructure that could be pursued over a period of years in order to improve the community, particularly as those needs affect low and moderate income persons. Based on the results of the needs assessment, the City may apply for state or federal funding from the Montana Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and other funding sources to deal with local housing, public facilities, or other community needs and would like comments or suggestions from local citizens regarding the City's needs and types of projects which should be considered.

Interested persons may contact the City Manager at 406-892-4391 or 130 6<sup>th</sup> Street West, Columbia Falls, MT for more information about the hearing or to submit community needs suggestions. Comments may be given orally at the hearing or submitted in writing before 5 pm, Thursday, January 2, 2020.

The City of Columbia Falls makes reasonable accommodation for any known disability that may interfere with a person's ability to participate in this hearing. Persons needing an accommodation need to contact Barb Staalnd, City Clerk no later than Friday, January 3, 2020 to allow adequate time to make needed arrangements. Please contact Barb Staalnd at 892-4391 or write to 130 6<sup>th</sup> ST West, Room A, Columbia Falls, MT 59912 to make your request known.

**C. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Columbia Falls City Hall, 130 6<sup>th</sup> Street West, Columbia Falls, Montana, to receive comments on the proposed resort tax funding option.

The Advisory Committee recommendation will be submitted to City Council at the January 6, 2020 Regular Council meeting. The City Council will hold a public hearing at the next regular meeting, Tuesday, January 21, 2020 to receive public input on the proposed resort tax funding option.

Taxpayers are encouraged to attend the hearing and give written or oral comments on the resort tax funding option. Written comments may be mailed to the City Clerk, 130 6<sup>th</sup> Street West, Room A, Columbia Falls, Montana, 59912. Questions regarding the proposed items can be made by contacting City Manager Susan Nicosia at 892-4391.

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:**

A. Resolution # 1811 - A Resolution of the City Council of Columbia Falls, Montana Approving the Final Plat of Woodland Acres, A Two Lot Residential

**RESOLUTION  
#1811-**

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Subsequent Minor Subdivision Described as Lot 12A of the Amended Plat of Lot 12, Riverwood Estates & Driftwater Way, River Terrace Estates Phase 2, According to the Map or Plat thereof on File and of Record in the Office of the Clerk and Recorder of Flathead County, Montana.

**SUBSEQUENT  
MINOR  
SUBDIVISION**

Councilor Fisher motioned to approve Resolution #1811, second by Councilor Lovering with council voting as follows. AYES: Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Piper and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Street Condition Report and Power Point Presentation  
Public Works Director Bradshaw presented a power point update to council on city street maintenance. Bradshaw said the city maintains approximately 39 miles of roadway. Bradshaw said the City has used the IWork Pavement Management Software since 2004 and he would like to continue using the software and keep it updated. Bradshaw continued his presentation noting the most critical roadways.

**NEW BUSINESS-  
Street Condition  
Report and  
Presentation**

Councilor Lovering asked what the timeline was for the reconstruction of the 6 roads. Bradshaw said it would depend on monies available, from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. but he would estimate approximately 10 years. Mayor Barnhart asked about 13<sup>th</sup> Street by the High School. Tyler said it is a priority for the City and was included in the Build Grant which we did not get. City Manager Nicosia and Public Works Director Bradshaw are meeting with the federal DOT program officials in January to go over the City's application to learn why the City did not receive the grant funding.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilor Fisher updated Council on the last Advisory Committee meeting noting that the committee favors a small percentage that will go towards public infrastructure; obviously the biggest push is for public safety.

Councilor Shepard said the 911 funding committee presented 4 ideas; option 1 was a standard mill levy. The next step is the city managers will meet and agree on an option, then it will go to the city attorney for legality purposes, then the commissioners will have to agree to it. We are no longer using the double dipping mentality; it will be equitable for all users. The next meeting is scheduled for January.

**OTHER REPORTS:**

Police Chief Peters said this year's shop with a cop program was very successful. The Association took 14 kids shopping at Target which is the largest amount they have ever taken. Chief thanked staff and spouses that helped out, along with the Hungry Horse News for being there to take photos of the kids.

**OTHER REPORTS**

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**INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE** - List available for Review

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**ADJOURN**: Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lovering and seconded by Councilor Robinson and the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: January 6, 2020