

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD DECEMBER 2, 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 Piper

ABSENT: Robinson

**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. Councilman Shepard moved to approve the agenda, second by Councilman Fisher, 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 with the addition of adding \$35. payable to the Department of Health, second by Councilman Shepard. Motion carried with Council voting as follows: YES: Karper, Shepard, Fisher, Lovering, Piper and Barnhart NOES: None. ABSENT: Robinson.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA  
APPROVAL**

A. Approval of Claims - \$27,074.08 - December 2, 2019

B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$77,528.55 - November 29, 2019

C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - November 18, 2019

D. Approval of Easement Agreement, Williams and City of Columbia Falls, and authorize City Manager to execute.

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

Allison Dubenezic, resides at 405 Bills Lane, said with the new construction starting between 1 a.m. and 7 a.m. it is hard to get sleep. Ms. Dubenezic said she would like to understand what the construction permit states for working hours. Mayor Barnhart asked City Manager Nicosia about the construction work hours. Nicosia said we do not have specific work hours on building construction but in subdivision regulations we suggest 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nicosia said she reached out to the developers and the contractor and they explained they were working with concrete for the foundation which was near completion.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

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

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.

**NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC  
HEARINGS - TED**

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 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

**Community  
Development  
Needs**

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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 Staaland, City Clerk no later than Friday, January 3, 2020 to allow adequate time to make needed arrangements. Please contact Barb Staaland at 892-4391 or write to 130 6<sup>th</sup> ST West, Room A, Columbia Falls, MT 59912 to make your request known.

**ORDINANCES:**

A. SECOND AND FINAL READING - Ordinance # 795 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Amending Title 15 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code.

**ORDINANCE  
#795- Title 15**

City Manager Nicosia said we have made changes from the first reading in order to be in compliance with the State of Montana Administrative Rules. Nicosia said we will continue to fix section references along with typos if needed. Staff recommends approval.

Councilor Lovering made motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance #795, second by Councilor Shepard with council voting as follows. AYES: Karper, Lovering, Piper, Shepard, Fisher and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: Robinson.

B. **AMENDED** SECOND AND FINAL READING - Ordinance No. 793 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Amending Title 8 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code.

**ORDINANCE #793  
Amending Title 8**

Nicosia said this ordinance was previously adopted but after a second look Fire Chief Hagen recommended removing the Life Safety Code reference as it has conflicting requirements with the International Fire Code.

Councilman Shepard motioned to adopt the amended second reading of Ordinance #793, second by Councilman Karper with Council voting as follows. AYES: Lovering, Piper, Shepard, Fisher, Karper and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: Robinson.

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**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilor Piper said he will not be available for the council workshop scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Shepard said he too will miss the workshop.

Councilor Lovering said the arm across 1<sup>st</sup> Ave E. is not in place and was inquiring on when it was going to be repaired as it is closed in the winter.

Councilor Fisher wanted to bring to council's attention the Forest Service did issue a draft decision on the Crystal Cedar project. There are approximately 24 miles of trail. Fisher noted that the project is now in the final objection period.

Mayor Barnhart wanted to make sure the city is keeping the sidewalk in front of the pocket park clear of snow.

Mayor Barnhart said we need to consider addressing the construction work hours, noting that the City has been able to rely on common courtesy in the past. He also reminded everyone that Night of Lights is this Friday and we need to have the tree lights on at Railroad Street and Glacier Bank.

**MAYOR AND  
COUNCIL  
REPORTS**

**CITY MANAGER:**

Nicosia reviewed the election report; we had a 24% turnout, which is an increase from previous years. The elected three councilors will be sworn in at the January 6, 2020 Council meeting.

Nicosia updated council on HB 652 grant request. Nicosia said we submitted a request for \$750,000 for the well project and we will look to hear back from them after the first of the year.

At the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting Public Works Director Bradshaw will present a street condition report.

**CITY MANAGER  
REPORT**

**INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE** - List available for Review

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**ADJOURN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: December 16, 2019