

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD NOVEMBER 18, 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 Shepard moved to approve the agenda, second by Councilor Piper, 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 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 - \$146,222.28 - November 18, 2019
- B. Approval of Payroll Claims - \$71,901.66 - November 15, 2019
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - November 4, 2019
- D. Approval of Payment Agreement/Water Service Line Repair, 917 3rd Ave. East and authorize City Manager to sign.

VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT: (Items not on agenda)

None.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC
COMMENT**

APPOINTMENTS:

A. Board/Commission Appointments

City Manager Nicosia said the City received letters of interest from two individuals that currently serve on the Planning Board/Zoning Commission in City-appointed positions. Steve Duffy and Sam Kavanagh have agreed to be reappointed for two year terms expiring on 12/31/2021.

**APPOINTMENTS-
Planning/Zoning &
Police Commission**

Additionally, Nicosia reported that the City has a vacancy on the City Police Commission as the previous member did not wish to be reappointed. The City received a letter of interest from Mr. Shawn Bates. Mr. Bates has previously

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served as a Councilman and is currently a Volunteer Fireman and a Water Operator for the City. City Manager Nicosia recommended appointment of Mr. Bates to the Police Commission.

Councilor Fisher motioned to appoint Steve Duffy and Sam Kavanagh to the Planning Board/Zoning Commission and Shawn Bates to the Police Commission, second by Councilor Lovering and the motion passed.

RESOLUTION/ORDINANCES:

A. Resolution # 1810 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Designating the Night of Lights 2019 Parade as an Official Activity of the City of Columbia Falls.

**RESOLUTION -
#1810 - 2019 Night
of Lights Parade**

City Manager Nicosia said this is the annual resolution to recognize the Night of Lights Parade as a city-sponsored event, as required by MDOT.

Councilor Piper motioned to approve Resolution # 1810, second by Councilor Robinson with council voting as follows. AYES: Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Piper, Robinson, Shepard and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

B. SECOND AND FINAL READING - Ordinance # 791 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Amending Title 3 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code.

**ORDINANCE #791
- Title 3**

City Manager Nicosia said Title 3, Chapter 3.14 established fees were amended to include: Breath Test, Court of Record Audio Recording Copy and Records Check. Staff recommends approval of the amendment as it agrees with the fee schedule adopted by resolution.

Councilor Fisher motioned to approve Ordinance # 791, second by Councilor Karper with council voting as follows. AYES: Karper, Lovering, Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Fisher and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

C. SECOND AND FINAL READING - Ordinance # 792 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Amending Title 6 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code.

**Ordinance #792 -
Title 6**

City Manager Nicosia said there were no changes to Title 6 from the first reading, and recommends approval.

Councilor Shepard made motion to adopt Ordinance # 792, second by Councilor Lovering with council voting as follows. AYES: Lovering, Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Karper and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT:

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None.

D. SECOND AND FINAL READING - Ordinance # 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 -
Title 8**

Councilor Robinson motioned to adopt ordinance # 793, second by Councilor Shepard with council voting as follows. AYES: Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Karper, Lovering and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

**Ordinance #794 -
Title 13**

E. SECOND AND FINAL READING - Ordinance # 794 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Amending Title 13 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code.

City Manager Nicosia said on Section 13.08.260 she considered striking some of the older dates but upon careful review it is best we leave the dates as written.

Councilor Lovering made motion to approve Ordinance #794, second by Councilor Piper with council voting as follows. AYES: Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Karper, Lovering Piper and Barnhart. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

F. FIRST 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 First
Reading**

City Manager Nicosia said there are some changes in Chapter 15.04.030 Board of Appeals as we want to make sure we comply with Exhibit B of the ICC Building Codes. Nicosia also noted that Chapter 15.28 - Floodplain was updated with Ordinance 755 in 2015. Staff will update the formatting to conform to municipal code. Nicosia said the only change thus far was on section 15 Penalties; we deleted the penalty of jail time as it is no longer applicable. This title will come forward at the Dec. 2nd council meeting.

Councilor Karper motioned to approve the first reading of Ordinance # 795, second by Councilor Robinson and the motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilor Shepard asked if anyone read the article in the Daily Interlake on septic systems in the county, noting that he had served on the county-wide committee studying septic systems for over 2 years.

**MAYOR AND
COUNCIL
COMMENTS**

Councilor Fisher said Hungry Horse News wrote an article that clarified the Nucleus District monuments; Mark Johnson stated in the article the

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foundation was not asking for TIF money.

Mayor Barnhart updated council on the Resort Tax Committee progress. Hopefully we will have a complete list of taxable items by the end of December to bring to forward to council by the first meeting in January.

CITY MANAGER:

Nicosia reported that city staff participated in training on Dude Solutions a new maintenance and work order program for the public works department. This program will eliminate duplication of operator efforts and will replace the paper work order system with an automated system. The City is using the program for UB work orders, water distribution, sewer distribution, and WWTP preventative maintenance. The program with staff training is estimated at \$11,000 with an annual fee of \$4,500, beginning the 2nd year.

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT**

Nicosia said when we send the updated Columbia Falls Municipal Code for codification we will have it available on the city website along with books available in the City Clerks office. The goal is to keep the Municipal Code updated as amended.

The area Managers met and discussed the 911 the funding meeting. Nicosia asked council, as elected officials what we should be looking at to fund the 911 center. The Managers agreed to continue the discussion and bring it back to the elected officials. Mayor Barnhart said he would like to have them give us some options. Nicosia requested council think about suggestions to bring forward.

We received a call from Senator Daines office and our BUILD grant was not funded. Out of the 6 Montana applications, only Missoula's was funded. Nicosia said she requested a debriefing on the strengths and weaknesses of our application in order to submit again.

Nicosia said she and Finance Director Carlson will be meeting with the Community Land Trust this Thursday. Hopefully we can work with Neighbor Works Montana and the Community Land Trust to reinvest the \$120,000 in recaptured HOME funds into affordable housing.

Nicosia presented a report on the Top 10 taxpayers for 2019 as compared to the prior 3 years and 2001. Nicosia also reviewed the tax value and mill value changes from 2001 to 2019, with 2001 being the first year of the new tax code. Nicosia noted that the market value rose over 364% and the mills have risen 150% without permissive and voted levies. As previously noted, the numbers reflect that the City does not get the full benefit of tax growth.

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Nicosia noted that she will give notice for the Urban Renewal District and Targeted Economic Development District hearings to be held in January. The hearings will include establishing priorities and budget authority for the TIF and TEDD funds.

The Fire Chief applications are due by November 20th. The Volunteer Fire Department has selected a member and the Rural Board will select a member as well the Public Safety Committee for the interview committee.

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - List available for Review

CORRESPONDENCE

A. REPORTS

- a. Finance - October
- b. Police Activity - October

ADJOURN: Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lovering and seconded by Councilor Shepard and the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

ADJOURN

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION: December 2, 2019