

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HELD JANUARY 18, 2022**

REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Barnhart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Councilor Karper, Councilor Lovering, Councilor Lovering, Councilor Piper, Councilor Robinson, Councilor Shepard and Mayor Barnhart. Absent: Councilor Fisher.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Councilor Piper motioned to approve the Agenda, seconded by Councilor Robinson and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilor Lovering made motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilor Karper with Council voting as follows. Ayes: Lovering, Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Karper and Barnhart.

Approval of Claims - January 18, 2022 - \$95,812.92

Approval of Payroll Claims - January 7, 2022 - \$89,105.87

Approval of January 3, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Approval of 2021 FY Audit Contract, Doyle & Associates, P.C., \$11,800, and authorize City Manager to execute

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Items not on agenda)

Dave Petersen resides at 201 4th Ave. E. Mr. Petersen said in reference to closing 5th St. W. and making it a park he believes the Parks Committee did the right thing by deciding to hold off until further research can be done. Petersen would like to see a creative design such as concrete stamping or perhaps extending the mural on the Masonic Building to the ground.

Mr. Petersen said the City doesn't have a lot of parking space and suggested speaking with property owners such as Chisholm Law, CenturyTel and Three Rivers Ambulance for potential downtown parking.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

City Manager Nicosia said the City advertised for vacancies on the Board of Adjustment and the Police Commission in the Hungry Horse News, City website and on the notice board at City Hall. Nicosia reported that Dave Petersen submitted a letter of interest to serve on the Board of Adjustment and Clay Lundgren submitted a letter of interest for the Police Commission.

Staff recommends approval of Dave Petersen to a 3- year term ending December 31, 2024 on the Board of Adjustment and Clay Lundgren to serve a 3 year term ending May 31, 2024 on the Police Commission.

Councilor Piper motioned to approve the appointments as recommended, seconded by Councilor Shepard and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mid-Year Financial Review Presentation

City Manager Nicosia presented Council with the Mid-Year Financial Review noting the Finance Director was unable to attend. Nicosia reported that there are no concerns at this time, revenues are coming in as anticipated and expenditures are occurring as planned. Nicosia noted that the Wastewater Treatment Plant ARPA funding is still in the beginning start up phases resulting in lower revenues and spending in Fund 5310. Nicosia also reviewed the progress of the 2020 and 2021 FY Council Goals and achievements as well as the 2022 FY projects.

REPORTS / BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

Councilor Lovering said city streets are dangerously slick right now, it would have been ideal if city crews could have gotten the slush cleaned up when we had warmer temperatures.

Lovering asked how to clean up the entrance to River's Edge Park entrance and not have as much needed maintenance. Nicosia said it is hard to have landscaping with low maintenance but will have Public Works look at it before spring.

Councilor Shepard said he will be zooming into the February 7th meeting.

Mayor Barnhart said he attended his first official Flathead County Health Board meeting earlier today. Joe Russell believes the county should be done with Covid in a couple weeks. He reported that Pam Holmquist is the Vice-Chair and does a good job conducting the meetings and other members of the Board seem to be really good people.

Mayor Barnhart asked how the Resort Tax money is received from Marijuana shops as they can only pay cash. Nicosia said the city accepts payments in cash.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Nicosia said a local nonprofit group is interested in creating a skate board park in Columbia Falls. Nicosia advised them that the Parks Committee would be the starting point. They would like to meet sometime between February 5th – 15th for discussion. Nicosia will set up the meeting with the Parks Committee. Nicosia also reported that we have a date for the diagnostic meeting for the Quiet Zone, Wednesday March 2, at 1:30 p.m. here in the Council Chambers and then on site.

The City is starting the process with the Northwest Community Land Trust to see if the City needs to have a public hearing for any of the possible housing grant programs being made available to non-profits and governments.

Nicosia noted the increase in calls for service on both the Fire Department and Police Department reports.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Police Chief Peters said the Chamber of Commerce is interested in adding to the City's wayfinding signs with directions to the Chamber building. Nicosia noted that the DOT regulations do not allow for specific businesses/organizations; they do allow the tourist info symbol. Nicosia noted that the existing signs may not be large enough to accommodate additional information.

MISCELLANEOUS

Police Department - December 2021 Activity

2021 Fire Call Report

November 2021 Election Canvass

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ADJOURN

Councilor Lovering motioned to adjourn at 8:07 p.m., seconded by Councilor Shepard.

Mayor

City Clerk