

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HELD DECEMBER 21, 2020**

FINANCE COMMITTEE – 6:30 P.M

(Barnhart, Shepard, Fisher)

REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Barnhart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Barnhart, Councilor Fisher, Councilor Karper, Councilor Piper, Councilor Robinson, Councilor Shepard and Councilor Lovering (via Zoom).

Also Present: City Manager Nicosia, City Clerk Staaland, City Attorney Breck and Detective Denham.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Shepard made motion to approve the Agenda, seconded by Councilor Robinson and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilor Fisher motioned to approve the Consent Agenda noting all claims appeared to be in order, seconded by Councilor Shepard with council voting as follows. Ayes: Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Lovering, Karper and Barnhart.

Approval of Claims - December 21, 2020 - \$551,740.05

Approval of Payroll Claims - December 11, 2020 - \$83,985.66

Approval of December 7, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Approval of Swan Mountain Developer's Improvement Agreement

Approval of Task Order No. 5 - Liquid Polymer Unit Integration, HDR Engineering, Inc., \$18,977 and authorize City Manager to execute.

Conditional Use Permit Extension - Superior Land & Lawn Care, LLC and authorize City Manager to sign.

Employee Recognition:

Kelly King, Street Operator - 5 year pin

Mayor Barnhart presented a five year pin and thanked Kelly King for his five years of service in the City of Columbia Falls Street Department.

NEW BUSINESS:

Arbor Day Proclamation - May 7, 2021 - Mayor Barnhart proclaimed May 7, 2021 as Arbor Day in the City of Columbia Falls.

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ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution # 1839 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls Authorizing Participation in the Board of Investments of the State of Montana Short Term Investment Pool (STIP) and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Documents Related Thereto

City Manager Nicosia said this Resolution is necessary to update Shawn Bates as Finance Director with the Montana Board of Investments. Per the state requirements, the City must update the resolution whenever there is a staff change.

Councilor Shepard motioned to approve Resolution # 1839, seconded by Councilor Karper with council voting as follows. Ayes: Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Piper and Barnhart.

REPORTS / BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

Mayor Barnhart said at the last meeting he mentioned getting a road closed sign at 1st Ave. E. and 7th St. E. There is no sign at this time and Mayor Barnhart would like to see a sign at the bottom of the hill notifying citizens of the closed road.

Mayor Barnhart asked the City Manager to look into the City's water loss. City Manager Nicosia said the City has searched for water loss from the water tank all the way down. City staff has been out listening and we believe there are a lot of leaks in service lines. Nicosia said it remains a priority and we will continue to examine water loss.

Commented [SN1]:

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Nicosia said City Hall will close at 12:00 noon on December 24th, 2020 as we do not have citizen traffic or phone calls in the afternoon. Employees will use their vacation leave for the second half of the day. The City has been given the yellow light on EDA funding on 12th Ave. W. The next step is the City will get a conditional commitment letter. This is approximately a 1.2-million-dollar project with Glacier Medical and the City kicking in about \$633,000. The City's share was budgeted in the Tax Increment Fund. Nicosia noted that the City will want to start the permit process with BNSF as soon as possible.

The City will call for bids on the tennis court project at the second meeting in January. We will also call for bids on the 6th Ave W. overlay project, four blocks to 13th St. W., to have the work completed in June.

Nicosia reported that work was suspended on the well project at Horine Park until Jan 4th; the project is about 80% complete. The City Attorney's office will begin the process of contracting with a water rights attorney.

Nicosia also reported that Chris Petersen has agreed to work on a new city video.

Nicosia reported that the City had an application for an administrative conditional use permit for a short-term vacation rental in the Riverbend subdivision that generated negative feedback; the majority of the letters were unsigned and delivered all at once with similar talking points. Nicosia noted that the code was implemented in 2012 to control the rentals. Nicosia said the City has not had any problems with vacation rentals thus far and if there is a violation of the code requirements, the City can rescind the permit.

Detective Denham said the new officers are doing really well and Officer Smith will be going to the academy in January.

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ADJOURN

Councilor Shepard motioned to adjourn at 7:25 pm, second by Councilor Robinson and the meeting was duly adjourned.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk