



City of Columbia Falls
130 6th Street West
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Phone: (406) 892-4391

**Columbia Falls Study Commission
Workshop Minutes
April 16, 2025**

Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm.

Roll Call - Present: Study Commissioners Hopkins, Konopatzke, Nicosia and Piper. Also present: City Manager Hanks

Approval of Agenda – Motion made by Commissioner Nicosia to approve agenda, seconded by Commissioner Konopatzke. All voted in favor of motion.

Approval of Minutes – March 12, 2025 - Commissioner Nicosia motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Hopkins. All voted in favor of the motion.

Public Comment (for Items not on the agenda) – Chris Peterson, Hungry Horse News, shared historic reflections of a 1975 newspaper article about the first government review meeting following the 1972 constitutional changes.

New Business:

Updated Survey/Hopkins Report: City Manager Hanks provided a summary of the public survey responses from 110 community responses, noting the 75% satisfaction with the current form of government. The survey results did not include any comments on changes that the public would like to see. The commissioners had in-depth discussion of the efficacy of self-government powers within the State, including in the discussion the information provided by Commissioner Hopkins. Seeking specific examples, the commissioners agreed to invite the Montana State University Local Government Center to present self-government case studies from other cities on May 15th. Commissioner Hopkins had previously spoken to Mr. Clark, and he was available to speak to the Columbia Falls Study Commission on that day.

Commissioner Comments/Proposals for Next Agenda:

Nicosia made a motion to hold a workshop on May 15th in the afternoon with Dan Clark, MSU LGC, and move the regular May meeting from May 14th to the May 15th workshop, seconded by Konopatzke. All voted in favor of the motion. City Manager Hanks will schedule the May 15th workshop.

Chair Piper stated that he had reviewed the adopted by-laws and believes there is no need to amend them as proposed by Commissioner Hopkins regarding public comment to the Commission.

Adjourn: Motion made by Commissioner Konopatzke to adjourn with a 2nd by Commissioner Hopkins. The meeting adjourned at 5:49 pm.

Chair

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