

CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD MAY 04, 2020

FINANCE COMMITTEE – 6:30 P.M
(Barnhart, Robinson, Shepard)

REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

In attendance: Shepard, Piper, Robinson, Karper, Lovering and Barnhart. Present via zoom meeting Fisher.

Also in attendance: City Manager Nicosia, City Clerk Staaland, City Attorney Breck and Police Chief Peters.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Fisher motioned to approve the agenda second by Councilor Shepard and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilor Shepard motioned to approve the consent agenda noting all claims appear to be in order, second by Councilor Robinson with council voting as follows. AYES: Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Piper, Robinson, Shepard, and Barnhart.

Claims Approval - May 4, 2020 - \$50,094.70

Approval of April 17, 2020 Payroll - \$73,975.76

Approval of May 1, 2020 Payroll - \$113,085.24

Approval of April 6, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Approval of Transportation Plan Contract - KLJ - \$114,839.95 and authorize City Manager to execute.

Approval of Firehouse Subs Grant - SCBAs - \$24,198

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS/PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mayor Barnhart read the Notice of Public Hearing - Planning Board and City Council - Brunz Conditional Use Permit:

The Columbia Falls City-County Planning Board will hold a public hearing for the following item at their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers of City Hall, 130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, Montana. The Columbia Falls City Council will hold a subsequent hearing on June 1, 2020 starting at 7:00 p.m. in the same location. Both hearings will be conducted in accordance with the most current recommended and/or required public health and safety protocols in place at the time of the hearing. The City website, <https://cityofcolumbiafalls.org>, will contain updated information if there is any change to the planned hearings.

Request for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a dog kennel:

Brunz Enterprises LLC (Will & Andrea Brunz) is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to operate a dog kennel on property located at 443 Rogers Road in Columbia Falls. The 11.8 acre property is described as Assessor's Tract 2M (Tract 4 of COS 20092) in SW1/4SE1/4 of Section 16, Township 30 North, Range 20 West, P.M.M., Flathead County. The property is zoned SAG-5 in the Columbia Falls Zoning Jurisdiction. Commercial Kennels require a Conditional Use Permit in the SAG-5 Zoning District.

Persons are allowed to attend the hearing(s), subject to the most recent public gathering restrictions enacted by County and State agencies at or prior to the time of the hearing. Persons are encouraged to submit written comments prior to the meeting. Written comments carry the same weight as public testimony given during the hearing. Written comments

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may be sent to Columbia Falls City Hall, Attention: Barb Staalnd, City Clerk, 130 6th Street West, Room A, Columbia Falls, MT 59912 or via email: staalandb@cityofcolumbiafalls.com. For more information on the proposed conditional use, please call Eric Mulcahy, Columbia Falls City Planner at 755-6481.

NEW BUSINESS:

Declaration of Surplus Equipment - 2012 Broom Bear Sweeper

City Manager Nicosia said the city purchased a new sweeper last year with the MACI grant funding and now wishes to surplus the 2012 Broom Bear Sweeper. City staff has determined that the cost of maintaining, insuring and repairing the 2012 sweeper is not worth keeping it at this time. Pursuant to state statute, the City must give notice of intent to declare surplus and after 15 days of public comment, the City may dispose of it in the best manner possible.

Councilor Shepard motioned to declare the 2012 Broom Bear Sweeper as surplus, second by Councilor Piper and the motion carried.

Approval of 2021 FY Health Insurance Contribution

City Manager Nicosia said last year the city did not increase the employer contribution on health insurance. The medical insurance rates went up 8%, in part due to the COVID-19 health insurance requirements, with no increase in vision or dental premiums. Nicosia said after analyzing this year's increase, she recommends the employer share increase by 80% of the premium and increase and the employee picks up the remaining 20%. Change in rates:

Current:	Recommended:
Family – \$1,665/month	Family - \$1,782/month
Employee/Spouse - \$1,208/month	Employee/Spouse - \$1,293/month
Employee/Child(ren) - \$1,134/month	Employee/Child(ren) – \$1,208/month
Single - \$608/month	Single - \$650/month

Councilor Karper motioned to approve the 2021 FY city contribution rates for health insurance costs. Second by Lovering and motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #1816 –A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, approving the application of CFALLS LLC for tax benefits for the remodeling, reconstruction or expansion of an existing building or structure located at 624/632 Nucleus Avenue, Columbia Falls, Montana.

City Manager Nicosia said the request is for the Gunsight Saloon remodel which qualifies for the tax benefits per state law and approved by the MT DOR. Staff is recommending council approval.

Councilor Lovering motioned to approve Resolution #1816, second by Councilor Robinson with council voting as follows. AYES: Karper, Lovering, Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Fisher and Barnhart.

First Reading - Ordinance # 801 – An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, amending the Columbia Falls zoning map to allow the development of a Planned Unit Development (PUD) overlay at 540 Nucleus Avenue further described as lots 1 – 15 of block 37 of Columbia Falls Townsite in Section 8, Township 30 North, Range 20 West, P.M.M., Flathead County, Montana

City Manager said this is the First Reading for the PUD for the Ruis project on Nucleus Avenue.

Councilor Piper made motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance #801, second by Councilor Shepard and the motion carried.

REPORTS / BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

Councilor Lovering said she emailed City Manager to ask for use of the city owned aluminum bleachers for the High School graduation held at the football field. Lovering said they would also need help from the city crews to move the bleachers to and from the school. Nicosia said she checked with Public Works Director Bradshaw and he will coordinate with Bob Rupp for delivery and pick up times.

Mayor Barnhart said he has not gone forward with the Fire Chief plaque due to COVID-19.

Mayor said the sign is up at the Shay engine and it looks good, but he would like to see something on the back side as well. Nicosia said Public Works Director Bradshaw has something in the works for the backside of the sign.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Staff is working hard to provide the essential services to our customers while being safe and taking the necessary precautions. Police personnel are maintaining their patrol presence and business checks and the Fire Department has had excellent response to incidents. Today was our first day to have the front doors open to the public and citizens have understood the safety precautions we have put into place. We will consider opening the City Pool under Phase 2 – DPHHS indicated that they will issue specific guidelines. We are hopeful it will be the second week in June. We may not be able to allow for swim lessons at this time but we can analyze it at a later date.

Staff is continuing to work on the 2020 Build Grant submittal. The due date is May 18th and the requests for letter of support have been sent. We are meeting with MDOT representatives on Monday morning to discuss their support. Nicosia will continue working with Kirk Keysor of EDA on the 12th Ave West water/sewer/street project and will have Kim Morisaki on board this week. The City was awarded \$100,000 in RTP funding for River's Edge Park. Coupled with the DOC grant for the bathroom, we are reaping the benefits of having the River's Edge Park Master Plan completed.

The Well project is out for bids with a deadline of May 25th. Public Works Director Bradshaw is currently working on scheduling chip seal projects for this summer. The city has received approximately \$96,000 in Gas Tax Funds. KLJ will get started on the City's first comprehensive Transportation Plan.

We are working on City Hall and city function phasing in accordance with the Governor and Flathead County Health Department guidelines. City Hall will be open subject to the Phase 1 recommendations beginning Monday, May 4th. City Council meetings will be held via Zoom meeting password protected for distancing of attendees.

The census may be a little later or not complete. The City is at 41.3% for residents completing the census form. The census curtailed all home visits and the forms are not mailed to PO boxes so it makes response delayed.

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The City has two new employees to replace the employees that have recently retired. Link Gunther is the new Utility Billing/Deputy City Clerk. Michelle Herman is the new Cashier/Deputy City Clerk.

MISCELLANEOUS

Correspondence List

March 2020 Financial Reports

Police Activity March 2020

ADJOURN

Councilor Lovering motioned to adjourn, second by Councilor Robinson and the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk