

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HELD DECEMBER 06, 2021**

REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 P.M.

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

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Councilor Lovering motioned to approve the Agenda, seconded by Councilor Piper and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilor Fisher made motion to approve the Consent Agenda noting all claims appeared to be in order, seconded by Councilor Shepard and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Claims - December 6, 2021 - \$121,288.85

Approval of Payroll Claims - November 26, 2021 - \$128,069.39

Approval of Payroll Claims - Special Payroll - November 30, 2021 - \$3,095.11

Approval of November 15, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Barnhart read the Arbor Day Proclamation, and proclaimed May 6, 2022 as Arbor Day.

Call for Bids - Diesel Backup Engine Generator for Well

City Manager Nicosia said city staff is requesting council approval to call for bids on the Backup Generator for our new well at Horine Park. The sealed bids will be opened at 3:00 p.m. on January 20, 2022; the City Council will then award the bid on February 7, 2022.

Councilor Shepard motioned to approve the call for bids for the Backup Generator for the new well, seconded by Councilor Robinson and the motion carried.

Approve City Board Appointments - Planning Board, Tree Board and Board of Adjustment:

City Manager Nicosia said Steve Duffy and Sam Kavanagh have agreed to be reappointed for 2 year terms on the Planning Board. Tree Board members Peregrin Frissell, Paula Robinson and Eric Lovering have also agreed to serve 3 year terms on the Board. Steve Marquesen is opting to not be reappointed on the Board of Adjustment but both Roger Newman and Alida Wright have requested reappointment to the Board. Nicosia noted that the City will advertise for one opening on the Board of Adjustment as well as the opening on the Police Commission.

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Councilor Piper motioned to approve the listed Board appointments, seconded by Councilor Fisher and the motion carried.

Council Appointment - Flathead City-County Health Board - 3 yr. term beginning January 1, 2022:

Councilor Fisher motioned to appoint Mayor Barnhart to serve a 3 yr. term on the Flathead City-County Health Board, beginning January 01, 2022, seconded by Councilor Shepard and the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Barnhart said he would be happy to represent the City of Columbia Falls on the City-County Health Board. Mayor Barnhart recommended Council authorizing an alternate to attend the Board meetings if he had to be absent.

Councilor Lovering made motion to appoint Mike Shepard as the alternate to the Flathead City-County Health Board, seconded by Councilor Robinson and the motion carried.

Approve Intent to Dispose of Surplus Equipment - 2016 Ford Interceptor

City Manager Nicosia said the Police Department has received the replacement vehicle for the 2016 Interceptor and the City would like to dispose of this car which is no longer useable, noting that the vehicle has well over 125K hard miles on it. Upon approval from Council and after the public comment period, Nicosia said the City will advertise for sale.

Councilor Karper motioned to declare the 2016 Ford Interceptor as surplus and give notice of intent to dispose, seconded by Councilor Piper and the motion carried.

Approve Cancellation of December 20, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Nicosia said there is no advertised Public Hearing or other business items coming forward that must be dealt with on December 20th therefore staff recommends canceling the December 20, 2021 Council Meeting. Councilor Fisher motioned to cancel the December 20, 2021 Regular Council Meeting, second by Councilor Lovering and the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS / BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

Councilor Karper said he appreciated the opportunity to attend the November meetings virtually but he is glad to be back in person.

Councilor Shepard said he has had several inquiries about our letter to EPA regarding the City's water quality concerns with the Glencore property cleanup.

Councilor Lovering said she was happy to see the Night of Lights well attended. Lovering reported that there was a Parks Committee meeting and they discussed Columbus Park regarding the splash pad, pickleball and playground equipment. Lovering said there was also discussion on the closure of 5th St. W. for a park/courtyard that they are not quite ready to make a determination on just yet, perhaps we can discuss it further at our future council workshop. Councilor Fisher said the woman that owns the Outlaw Diner was in attendance at the Parks Committee meeting and downtown parking came up. Fisher said a park area like this is a great idea but the Parks Committee would like to take a step back to completely evaluate. Mayor Barnhart said he attended the Parks Committee meeting and it was a good meeting with good ideas noting that Columbus Park will be done in phases as the City can afford.

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Mayor Barnhart said there is a lot of misinformation on the Flathead City-County Health Board appointment. Mayor Barnhart said he looks forward to serving on the Board.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Nicosia reported that the Department of Commerce didn't award our CBDG-CV grant for the pickleball courts but the City will be going after Land, Water Conservation Grant Funds and one of the pickleball folks came in with another donation source. The Parks Committee Meeting was a good discussion about what Columbus Park should look like as it is developed. Nicosia noted that within the 22FY Parks CIP budget, there is \$50,000 for the bathroom which may not use all of the funds; council can then amend the budget to allow for purchase of playground equipment with remaining funds.

Nicosia said city staff has a desktop meeting this Friday on the quiet zone. We are waiting for signatures on the Engineering agreement that went to the Railroad in August. The Engineers for the EDA project on 12th Ave. W. have gotten started. The City was awarded the Transportation Alternative Grant for the sidewalk and bike path on Railroad Street and 4th Ave. W to the school. On December 16th, 2021 the Transportation Commission will give their final blessing of the agreement, and then it comes to council for final approval. The City is working on the start up at the Waste Water Treatment Plant project with the Competitive Grant, the HB 632 money and the ARPA money that came to the City. Nicosia also said the City received a rejection letter on the Raise Grant. City staff will schedule a debriefing in January to see how close we were to getting funded. Nicosia noted that Council will be busy after the first of the year: complete the Extension of Services Plan Update, update the City's Public Works Standards and begin the paid fireman staffing transition. Nicosia said staff and council will also look at Police Department staffing.

Nicosia noted that at the January 3rd, 2022 Council meeting, the City Clerk will administer the oaths of office to Mayor and Council members, the City Judge, and the City Attorney's.

Nicosia presented the city video created by Chris Peterson. Mr. Peterson said he thought it would be good for two years and then need to be updated. Chris said he would like to hand it off to the City and let them add or subtract what they need. Mayor Barnhart thanked Chris for his volunteer work on the video.

Mayor Barnhart asked what the building is on Hwy 2. Nicosia replied it is an Ace Hardware Store with additional retail space remaining on the vacant land.

Mayor Barnhart asked if Mr. Ruis was coming forward with his next project. Nicosia said they will amend the PUD that was approved in 2019 at the January or February Planning Board Meeting for the restaurant/hotel phase of the project.

Councilor Fisher asked if businesses can pay Resort Taxes monthly. Nicosia replied yes they can.

Nicosia presented a report on the top ten tax payers for the 21-22 FY.

ADJOURN

Councilor Lovering motioned to adjourn at 7:46 p.m., seconded by Councilor Shepard and the meeting adjourned.

Mayor

City Clerk