

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE – 6:30 P.M

(Barnhart, Shepard, Fisher)

REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: City Manager Nicosia, City Clerk Staaland, City Attorney Breck, Chief of Police Peters and Fire Chief Weeks.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Councilor Lovering moved to approve the Agenda seconded by Councilor Shepard and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

Approval of Claims - September 21, 2020 - \$702,408.61

Approval of Payroll Claims - \$82,135.41 - September 18, 2020

Approval of September 8, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Items not on agenda)

Matt Bowser resides at 522 1st St. EN, said he heard that the city was going to resurface the tennis courts. Mr. Bowser said he is excited about the decision and would like to help with grant writing if needed.

APPOINTMENTS/EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:

Fire Chief Weeks said Mr. Fenley and Mr. Brite have shown a great interest in the Fire Department. The Fire Department has voted to approve both as Probationary Volunteer Firefighters. Chief Weeks noted that they have passed their background checks and physicals. Chief Weeks and Manager Nicosia recommend Council appoint both candidates as probationary firefighters.

Councilman Piper motioned to approve the appointments of Probationary Volunteer Firefighters - Virgle Brite and Matthew Fenley, second by Councilor Shepard and the motion carried. City Clerk Staaland administered the oaths of office to Mr. Brite and Mr. Fenley.

Employee Recognition - Shawn Bates - 5 year service pin (Water - Transferring to Finance)

Mayor Barnhart recognized and thanked Shawn Bates for his 5 years of service with the City. Mayor presented Mr. Bates with his 5 years of service pin.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS/PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mayor Barnhart read the NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

The Columbia Falls City-County Planning Board will hold a public hearing for the following item at their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 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 November 2, 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, will contain updated information if there is any change to the planned hearings

Request to establish a Mixed Use Planned Unit Development in the Columbia Falls Zoning Jurisdiction:

The Nitopi Family Trust is requesting a Mixed Use Planned Unit Development overlay for the property located at 812 4th Ave West which is at the corner of 8th Street West and 4th Ave West. The PUD will create nine residential units and three commercial spaces in two buildings on the half acre parcel. The three story building will meet the setback and height standards of the CB-2 (General Business) zoning district as well as providing 22 off-street parking spaces. The property is described as Assessors' Tract 8AA (Parcel B of COS 12484) in the SW1/4 of Section 8, Township 30 North, Range 20 West, P.M.M., Flathead County.

NEW BUSINESS:

Award Bids - River's Edge Park Bathroom and Trail Projects

City Manager Nicosia said Knife River is the apparent low bidder on the River's Edge Park Restroom and Trails Improvements project. No irregularities were found with the bid and all appropriate documentations were submitted. Staff recommends the award of this project to Knife River in the amount of \$234,275.

Councilor Karper motioned to award the bid to Knife River in the amount of \$234,275 for the River's Edge Park projects, second by Councilor Piper and the motion carried.

ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS:

Second and Final Reading - Ordinance # 804 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Amending the Columbia Falls Zoning Map to Allow the Development of an Amended 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 Nicosia said there have been no revisions to the Ordinance since the first reading at the last council meeting on September 08, 2020.

Councilor Piper motioned to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance #804, seconded by Councilor Shepard with council voting as follows. Ayes: Lovering, Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Karper and Mayor Barnhart. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Resolution # 1833 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Adopting the Budget for the City for the Fiscal Year Commencing on July 1, 2020 and Ending June 30, 2021, Approving Appropriations for each Fund of the City of Columbia Falls

City Manager Nicosia said there was an increase in the Sewer Fund (5310) in the amount of \$33,900 which results in total appropriations for 20-21 in the amount of \$13,457,981.

CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES HELD ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

Councilor Lovering motioned to approve Resolution #1833, seconded by Councilor Robinson with Council voting as follows. Ayes: Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Karper and Lovering. Noes. Mayor Barnhart. Absent: None. Nicosia noted that Council will receive the Final Budget Books at the next Council meeting.

REPORTS / BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

Councilor Shepard said the new medical group has not cut their field and it could become a fire hazard. Councilor Piper said he would like to do something different to slow the rate of speed at the intersection of 4th Ave. and Talbot Road. Piper wants to know if we can we put up flashing lights or signs. Nicosia said we have the reflective pedestrian signs in place already but will have staff take another look at it as well as review it during the work on the Transportation Plan. Mayor Barnhart said it is great to see the path under construction going towards the heights. Mayor Barnhart said we still need to get Pit to Park in compliance on weeds.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Nicosia said she has been getting calls on the resort tax. Staff will push out information on the City website with the start date of October 1, 2021.

The Census is still low for Columbia Falls and Montana is only at 59.5% confirmed.

The Election Department will have a drop box for residents to drop off their ballots here at City Hall from Oct. 9th – Nov. 3rd. City Hall will be closed on November 3rd but the Election Judges will be here to collect ballots.

Nicosia reported that the well project #3 is going good and asked CR Leisinger, project engineer from HDR if he had anything to add. CR said the well is drilled and casings installed and the water main is installed and testing is being done. The contractor has started excavating for the well building which will take a while to complete. Councilor Karper inquired about the black pipe laying across Talbot Road. CR said it was temporary service pipe for the pump test which has now been removed.

OTHER REPORTS:

Chief Peters reported that the City has two new officers starting soon, one Sept. 28th and the other on October 12th.

Council Shepard asked how many Volunteer Firefighters we have now? Fire Chief Weeks said we have 28, which is more than we have had in a long time. Weeks said the training facility was coming along at the Rural Fire Hall and is near completion, and they will be holding training soon.

MISCELLANEOUS

Finance Report - YTD thru August 2020

August Police Activity Report

ADJOURN

Councilor Lovering motioned to adjourn, second by Councilor Shepard and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk