

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HELD APRIL 05, 2021**

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

ROLL CALL: Councilor Darin Fisher, Councilor Doug Karper, Councilor Paula Robinson, Councilor Jenny Lovering, Councilor John Piper, Councilor Mike Shepard 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 Robinson motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilor and the motion carried. (Public Hearing for Hull Zone Change and Ordinance pulled at the request of the applicant earlier in the day).

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion made by Councilor Lovering, seconded by Councilor Karper, with council voting as follows.

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

Approval of Claims - April 5, 2021 - \$87,852.07

Approval of Payroll Claims - March 19, 2021 - \$119,865.52

Approval of March 2021 Payroll Quarterlies - \$15,199.64

Approval of Payroll Claims - April 2, 2021 - \$73,698.45

Approval of March 15, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Approval of NW MT Drug Task Force MOU FY 2021 - 2022 and authorize City Manager and Police Chief to execute.

Approval of TA Grant Proposal - Morrison Maierle - \$6,400 and authorize City Manager to execute.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Items not on agenda)

Shirley Folkwein resides at 285 Shooting Star Dr. Mrs. Folkwein wanted to take the opportunity to introduce the Council to The Upper Flathead Neighborhood Association. The property owners east and south of Columbia Falls have formed the association, which is a nonprofit corporation. The goal of The Upper Flathead Neighborhood Association is to become involved in land use planning in the area.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Public Hearing - HB 473 Bridge and Road Safety Accountability Program Funds

City Manager Nicosia said this is an annual event as the City is required to adopt a resolution after March 1st each year in order to spend or reserve the funds. This year's appropriation is \$111,893.96, there is a required 5% matching amount of \$5,594.70 for total funds of \$117,488.66 for FY 20-21, the amount we currently have budgeted in Fund 2821 BaRSAA Special Gas Tax is \$113,991.00 so we have total funds available of \$231,479.66. The bid award for 6th Ave. W. was \$191,433. leaving us with 40,046.66 for chip sealing projects. Staff recommends using \$77,442 of this year's BaRSAA allocation for the 6th Ave. W. project and \$40,046.66 for chip sealing.

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With no public comment, Mayor Barnhart opened and closed the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Public Hearing - CARES Act Funding Budget Amendments

City Manager Nicosia said the City received Cares Act Funds in the amount of \$432,259.63 above the budgeted amount due to the manner that the State of Montana distributed the funds. Nicosia noted that \$65,461.71 received offset direct expenses, such as scanning as-built plans so they are available on line (\$25,682.10), moving Finance/Admin. Black Mountain Software to the Cloud for remote access (\$3,345), replacing large scale plotter/scanner (\$16,304.83), and purchasing personal protective equipment city-wide. Nicosia met with each department to allocate the remaining funds, \$369,971. The recommendation from staff is as follows: Replace the compressor in the Fire Dept. which will be shared cost between the city and rural departments, the city share would be \$10,539, PD replacement vehicle \$61,000 plus \$9,000 vehicle equipment costs, Quiet Zone Study \$30,000, Tax Increment Expansion \$20,000, Hoerner Park Completion \$57,000, Columbus Park fountain/picnic shelter \$20,000 and Public Works streets vehicle replacement \$76,000. The current recommended budget amendment would allocate \$283,600, which would leave \$86,371 for capital or other needs that the Council can consider during the 21-22 FY budget.

With no public comment Mayor Barnhart opened and closed the Public Hearing at 7:17 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

Authorize Declaration of Surplus Property - 2000 Bauer Compressor

City Manager Nicosia said the compressor is twenty years old and does not meet the current needs of our Fire Department but there may be another Fire Department that is interested in it. Mayor Barnhart asked why we are getting rid of the 4 - 4500 lb. cylinders. Nicosia said the new compressor comes with 4 - 6000 psi cylinders. Councilor Fisher motioned to authorize declaration of surplus property – 2000 Bauer Compressor, seconded by Councilor Lovering and the motion carried.

Award Bid - Hoerner Park Tennis Courts - Schlegel Enterprises - \$127,999.40

City Manager Nicosia said we received 7 very competitive bids for the project and staff recommends accepting the apparent low bid of \$127,999.40 from Schlegel Enterprises. Nicosia also noted that the project came in less than the Public Works Director's estimate.

Councilor Karper made motion to award the bid to Schlegel Enterprises in the amount of \$127,999.40, seconded by Councilor Shepard. Mayor Barnhart asked if it would be possible to put in the additional two courts that the High School would like with the funds we saved from our estimated cost. Nicosia said there is not enough savings in the bid award to add two additional courts. Nicosia noted that the City also needs to fund the fencing, irrigation and playground equipment. Ayes: Karper, Lovering, Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Fisher and Barnhart.

Proclamation - June 26, 2021 Lemonade Day

Mayor Barnhart read the Lemonade Day Proclamation and Proclaimed June 26, 2021 as Lemonade Day as requested by the Glacier Country Boys and Girls Club in Columbia Falls.

ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution # 1844 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana Requesting Distribution of Local Government Road Construction and Maintenance Match Program Funds and Amending the Appropriate 2021 FY Budgets

Councilor Shepard made motion to approve Resolution #1844 as discussed during the public hearing, seconded by Councilor Robinson with Council voting as follows. Ayes: Lovering, Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Karper and Barnhart.

REPORTS / BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

Councilor Lovering said citizens have inquired about building of steps and buildings along the river bank and asked City Manager to contact City Planner Mulcahy to check for compliance.

Councilor Shepard asked Chief Peters what was going on with the Emergency Services Center dispatcher short fall. Chief Peters said there have been recent resignations, as well as dispatchers who didn't make it through training or not passing background checks during the hiring process. The Center is down approximately 12 employees.

Karper said there is a Tree Board meeting tomorrow. Can we get the email reminder of the meeting?

Mayor Barnhart said his mother passed away last week, noting that she was a resident at the Vets' home and there is a funeral service this Wednesday. Mayor Barnhart announced that he will run for re-election as he enjoys working with the current Council.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Nicosia reported that the City's health insurance premiums will not increase for FY 21-22, but we are looking at a 5% increase in Property Liability and Work Comp.

Columbia Falls was selected by the U of M to participate in a pilot project to evaluate the community's outdoor recreational opportunities, referred to as CORR (Columbia Falls Community Outdoor Recreation Realization). The UM will put together a group of stakeholders with local organizations and community members to evaluate the recreational opportunities. The UM has partnered this pilot project after the Wildland Planning project completed years ago. Nicosia noted that if a councilmember would like to participate as a stakeholder in the group please let her know. Nicosia noted this will be an excellent project and a great benefit to the City and the greater Columbia Falls community.

Flathead County was awarded a GIS grant and the State agency came back and said if the County adds Columbia Falls to the project they would increase the grant amount. They will add 78 points control points for the City of Columbia Falls. Nicosia noted that the City will have to provide \$2,000 in matching funds which is an extremely good value.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Deputy City Attorney Stephanie Breck reported on the Cahill BOA appeal, noting that the attorney's office has provided all requested documents to the District Court. The District Court could decide the appeal based on the filed documents but also has the discretion to schedule a hearing. The attorney's office is waiting to hear what the District Court decides and will keep Council posted.

MISCELLANEOUS

Correspondence

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ADJOURN

Councilor Lovering motioned to adjourn at 7:43 p.m., seconded by Councilor Piper and the motion carried.

Mayor

City Clerk