



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

Columbia Falls Study Commission Workshop Minutes February 12, 2025

Roll Call – Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm. Present: Study Commissioners Hopkins, Konopatzke, Nicosia and Piper. Also present: Interim City Manager Shrives

Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve by Hopkins, second by Nicosia. Motion passed.

Public Comment (for Items not on the agenda)

– Scott Worchester commented that he is a member of the Whitefish Study Commission, and he was attending tonight to watch the Columbia Falls process and also wanted to make a recommendation that the Whitefish and Columbia Falls Study Commission might be able to collaborate.

Unfinished Business –

1. **Adopt Study Commission Bylaws** – Motion to pass bylaws as presented made by Nicosia second by Hopkins. During discussion it was noted that a correction needed to be made to the Procedures Section. It should be numbered as III. Motion passed noting correction to be made.
2. **Adopt Study Commission Timeline** – Motion to approve timeline made by Nicosia. Second by Knopatzke. Motion passed
3. **Review Historical Documents** – Documents from last Study Commissions were provided to the Commissioners. There was discussion regarding either minutes or the Final report from the 1976 Study Commission. City staff was unable to find those documents. Staff will conduct another search before the next meeting. No further discussion regarding the historical documents.

New Business –

1. **Schedule Public Hearing for the March 12, 2025, meeting to receive public input** – Public Hearing was scheduled for March 12, 2025. Notice will be published in the newspaper and posted on the City Website. Prior to the Public Hearing, City Staff was requested to provide a report explaining the forms of government available for municipalities in Montana. Interim City Manager Mark Shrives noted he will provide that report at the next meeting.
2. **Review 2014 Survey Questions** – Commission reviewed the 2014 survey questions and made some modifications to the questions. Commissioners asked that a survey be prepared

and distributed for citizen input. Deadline for the survey to be returned to the City was set at March 3, 2025. Survey results to be provided and reviewed at the March 12, 2025, meeting. It was also asked that a separate survey using the same questions be provided to city employees and to also have those results available for review at the March 12, 2025 meeting.

Next Agenda –

1. Hold Public Hearing for Citizen Input
2. Review Survey Results
3. Discuss possible collaboration with the Whitefish Study Commission.

Meeting duly adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Chairman