

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HELD MAY 03, 2021**

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

ROLL CALL:

Councilor Fisher, Councilor Karper, Councilor Lovering, Councilor Piper, Councilor Robinson, Councilor Shepard (via ZOOM) and Mayor Barnhart.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilor Robinson motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, noting all claims appeared to be in order, seconded by Councilor Lovering with Council voting as follows. Ayes: Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Piper, Robinson, Shepard and Barnhart.

Approval of Claims - May 3, 2021 - \$168,709.01

Approval of Special Payroll - April 26, 2021 - \$3,196.09

Approval of Payroll Claims - April 30, 2021 - \$ 74,568.89

Approval of April 19, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Approval of Encroachment Agreement - Carlyle Properties, LLC, 1123 9th St West, and authorize City Manager to execute.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Items not on agenda)

Tony Edmundson said he was in attendance to update Mayor and Council on ImagineIF Library. Mr. Edmundson said they have decided to make masks a recommendation instead of a requirement. Mr. Edmundson said they have done away with the 30 minute time limit in the Library, which was a good move for Columbia Falls. He reported that the library is back to normal as much as can be and it feels good to be back. The library is focusing on summer events and has scheduled story times at Marantette Park. Mayor Barnhart asked how many new books they have gotten into the library. Edmundson said the Columbia Falls library has 2000 more items this year than last year. He noted that the library has taken a hit in their budget but have hundreds of new titles.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS/PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mayor Barnhart read the Notice of Public Hearings - Rezone - Planning Board May 11th and City Council June 7th:

The Columbia Falls City-County Planning Board will hold a public hearing for the following item at their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 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 Monday June 7, 2021 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 change the zoning from CSAG-10 (Suburban Agricultural) to CSAG-5 (Suburban Agricultural) in the Columbia Falls Zoning Jurisdiction:

The applicant, Twin Peaks Farms, LLC, is requesting a zone change for property at 7030 Highway 2 East, Columbia Falls from the current CSAG-10 (Suburban Agricultural) with a 10 acre minimum lot size to a CSAG-5 (Suburban Agricultural) with a five acre minimum lot size. Permitted and Conditionally permitted uses are almost identical in the two zoning designations. The vacant property is approximately 10 acres in size and is located approximately ¼ mile east of the bridge over the Flathead River. The property is described as Parcel 1 of COS 16981 of Section 16, Township 30 North, Range 20 West, P.M.M., Flathead County.

Mayor Barnhart read the Notice of Public Hearing - May 17th - TA Grant Application- Railroad Street Sidewalk/Path:

The City of Columbia Falls will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 7:00 pm, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, Montana for the purpose of obtaining public comment on a proposed Transportation Alternatives (TA) Grant application. At the public hearing, the proposed application will be explained, including the proposed area of the project, activities, and budget, and all interested persons will be given the opportunity to express their opinions regarding this proposed application.

City Manager Nicosia said she will be sending out requests for letters of support. The City is working with Morrison and Maierle on updating our original Transportation Alternative Grant Application for the sidewalk on Railroad Street. There is more funding available in this year's Transportation Alternative Grant funds which may be our best opportunity to get the sidewalk funded. Nicosia noted that if this sidewalk is funded through the TA program, the City's BUILD grant request, if pursued, could be less than \$10m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Review of Extension of Services Plan Update:

City Manager Nicosia reviewed the connection between the City's Extension of Services Plan and the Growth Policy, along with the Water and Sewer PER's. Nicosia reviewed the map of the City's expanded place of use map in the beneficial water permit for Well #3, adding approximately 37% more water capacity and providing water through the City's estimated 2046 growth.

NEW BUSINESS:

May 28, 2021 Poppy Day Proclamation - American Legion Auxiliary

Mayor Barnhart read the Poppy Day Proclamation and proclaimed the 28th day of May as Poppy Day as requested by the American Legion Auxiliary.

REPORTS / BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

Councilor Lovering would like to help nightly rental owners be aware of the requirements for having an approved short term vacation rental. Lovering thought perhaps the City should bring back the city newsletter to get important information out to the community. Nicosia said we can post a newsletter under news on the city website.

CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES HELD ON MAY 03, 2021

Lovering said she still has concern with trees being cut down along the river bank as well as structures. Mayor Barnhart suggested sending letters to owners notifying them of removal of trees along the river. Karper said there is still a lot of activity on Riparian.

Mayor Barnhart inquired why the City still has porta-potties at Marantette Park. Nicosia said she will investigate.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Nicosia reported that staff is reviewing the final results of the 2021 Legislative Session to determine if minor text amendments are necessary to Title 17 Subdivision Regulations and Title 18 Zoning Regulations which will come through Planning and Council.

Nicosia also reported that the street lights on Nucleus Avenue no longer have the plugs that were used for the Christmas decorations. The Lions Club would like to have them fixed and the state won't pay to wire for decorative lighting. DOT is proposing an encroachment permit with the City. The good news is part of the State's DOT Cares Act Funding will go towards LED bulbs which will save on lighting costs. Nicosia said DOT will get an estimate on re-wiring the plugs and get back with us. Nicosia will keep the Lion's Club apprised of the cost.

The City is in the process of scheduling the planning meeting with EDA to kick off the 12th Ave West project. Nicosia also reported that the City held the required meeting with School District 6 and the Flathead County Commissioner for District 1, Brad Abell, on the URD expansion of the 23 acres owned by Cedar Palace, LLC. Nicosia will be attending the May 10th School Board meeting to present to the School Board.

Nicosia reported that she is working with BNSF and KLJ on the required Quiet Zone engineering agreement; the City Attorney reviewed the contract and made some modifications.

Nicosia reported that City Hall signage has been updated to the updated health department guidelines, recommending masks and taking the necessary precautions as appropriate.

MISCELLANEOUS

Correspondence

ADJOURN

Councilor Lovering motioned to adjourn, second by Councilor and the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk