

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HELD JANUARY 04, 2021**

FINANCE COMMITTEE – 6:30 P.M

(Barnhart, Karper, Lovering)

REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL: Mayor Don Barnhart, Councilor Darin Fisher, Councilor Doug Karper-via zoom, Councilor Paula Robinson, Councilor Jenny Lovering, Councilor John Piper and Councilor Mike Shepard.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

Approval of Claims - January 4, 2021 - \$21,562.04

Approval of Payroll Claims - December 24, 2020 - \$119,767.03

Approval of Payroll Quarterlies - December 31, 2020 - \$23,385.96

Approval of December 21, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

NEW BUSINESS:

Authorize Letter of Support - Gateway to Glacier Trails MT Trail Stewardship Grant Program

City Manager Nicosia said the Gateway to Glacier Trails Group requested a letter of support for the 2021 Montana Trail Stewardship Grant Program through MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Nicosia has drafted the letter of support for approval as it was consistent with City support for the Crystal Cedar Project. Councilor Fisher said the Gateway to Glacier Trails organization recently hired executive Director AnnMarie Bowlus, noting that she brings a wealth of trail knowledge and experience to the organization.

Councilor Fisher motioned to authorize the letter of support for the Gateway to Glacier Trails MT Trail Stewardship Grant Program, second by Councilor Lovering and the motion carried.

Recommend Chief Clint Peters - Operations Board Representative

Nicosia recommended Council send the request in writing to the Flathead County Commissioners appointing Chief Peters as the Columbia Falls representative on the FECC Operations Board as the Interlocal Agreement

CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES HELD ON JANUARY 04, 2021

expired on December 31, 2020 with the creation of the special district. Chief Peters said his position on the Operations Board gives Columbia Falls a voice in the operations of the center under the new special district.

Councilor Lovering motioned to recommend the appointment Police Chief Peters to the Operations Board, second by Councilor Piper and the motion carried. The formal letter will be signed by Mayor Barnhart and sent to the Flathead County Board of Commissioners.

ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 1840 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls Formally Adopting Use of Force Policy and Requesting POST Certification

City Manager Nicosia said as of June 2020 the Presidential Executive Order on Safe Policing for Safe Communities (executive Order No. 13929) was signed into law. The Executive Order required an update to all law enforcement agencies Use of Force Policies with specific language; particularly with respect to force including choke holds. The City's Use of Force Policy must be updated to be eligible for federal grants. The deadline is January 31, 2021 to have our policy updated and certified by POST. Staff recommends approval.

Councilor Shepard made motion to approve Resolution #1840, seconded by Councilor Robinson with Council voting as follows. Ayes: Shepard, Fisher, Karper, Lovering, Piper, Robinson and Barnhart.

REPORTS / BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

Councilor Shepard said the 911 Board has dissolved and the City's input will be through Chief Peters on the Operations Board.

Councilor Fisher said he believes the mask mandate will be lifted in January. Fisher thinks it would be beneficial to use masks as CDC says it is the right thing to do. He would like to continue to wear masks and would like the City to ask patrons and city employees to continue the guidelines within City Hall.

Mayor Barnhart said he believes it is the right thing to do as well and will continue wearing his mask.

Nicosia said there is speculation on when the mask mandate will be removed and she noted that the Governor said masks are required at the Governor's office. Nicosia noted that the City is under the Health Department guidelines and we are waiting to see what that might look like. Councilor Piper believes we can promote the use of masks at City Hall.

Fisher said if it happens it will be soon and he would like to be proactive to protect our staff, citizens and Council Members. Nicosia said the City can mandate masks in our facilities.

Mayor Barnhart said the sidewalks on the highway look much better after the recent storm.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Nicosia reported that the River's Edge Park Bathroom should be up and running this week.

Nicosia updated Council on the new Well project, noting that the contractor started work back up today as the pump finally arrived.

The County Health Department has reached out for help in locating a 40x80 building for vaccinations in or near Columbia Falls. Nicosia said we currently do not have empty buildings to help them out but will keep looking for a site.

Nicosia noted that the City is advertising for a City Planning Board opening. Nicosia asked council if they want to interview candidates. Shepard said he would like to if there are more than one candidate.

MISCELLANEOUS

Correspondence

ADJOURN

At 7:30 P.m. Councilor Lovering motioned to adjourn, second by Councilor Shepard and the motion carried.

Mayor

City Clerk