

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HELD FEBRUARY 03, 2025**

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

ROLL CALL: Councilor King via zoom, Councilor Lovering, Councilor Price, Councilor Robinson, Councilor Shepard and Mayor Barnhart. Absent: Councilor Piper.

Also present: Interim City Manager Shrives, City Clerk Staaland, City Attorney Breck, Fire Chief Weeks and Police Chief Stephens.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Robinson made motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilor Lovering and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilor Lovering motioned to approve the consent agenda noting all claims appeared to be in order, seconded by Councilor Price and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Claims - February 3, 2025 - \$65,550.78

Approval of Payroll Claims - Jan. 31, 2025 - \$192,040.56

Extending Marantette Park Hours from 10:00 p.m. to Midnight, specifically on 07/12/25, 08/09/25 and 09/13/25 for Movie Night in the Park sponsored by Columbia Falls Chamber of Commerce.

Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes - January 21, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS/PUBLIC HEARINGS: Amending the 24-25 Fiscal Year Budget
The City is proposing amending funds budgeted revenue and/or expenditures.

Service Provider Susan Nicosia, CPA, LLC, provided a report on routine amendments due to unanticipated revenues and grants. Discussion included adjustments for Building Code Enforcement Fund, tax Increment District Funds, Resort Tax Fund, TEDD Industrial Park Fund, Columbia Rising Industrial Park Fund, and the ARPA Fund.

With no public comments Mayor Barnhart opened and closed the Public Hearing at 7:21 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Update on Railroad Street Park Housing Project - Habitat for Humanity

Mary Beth Morand with Habitat for Humanity provided an update on Railroad Street Park housing project for Habitat for Humanity. Approval is sought for redesign due to land ownership issues; they are now proposing six single-family homes and a park space. They anticipate starting the building process by mid-summer said Morand.

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Councilor King asked if the Columbia Falls Baseball Association was aware of the project. City Manager Shrives said yes, they are aware and will play there this spring and move after the season.

NEW BUSINESS:

Columbia Falls Fire Department ISO rating

In July of 2024 the Columbia Falls Fire Department received an evaluation from ISO to update our rating. The last time we have been evaluated was in 2017.

Fire Chief Weeks reported on the ISO review, maintaining a solid five rating with improvements in the water system.

ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS:

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE # 831

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, APPROVING THE PETITION OF TOBY AND MINDY GILCHRIST FOR ANNEXATION AND INITIAL ZONING OF 274 MEADOW LAKE BLVD., DESCRIBED AS PARCEL B OF COS NO. 22075 IN THE NE1/4 SW1/4 IN SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 30 NORTH, RANGE 20 WEST, P.M.M., FLATHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA.

Councilor Lovering made motion to approve the final reading of Ordinance # 831, seconded by Councilor Shepard with council voting as follows. Ayes: Robinson, Shepard, King, Lovering, Price and Barnhart.

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE # 832

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, AMENDING THE COLUMBIA FALLS ZONING MAP TO ALLOW THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) OVERLAY AT 274 MEADOW LAKE BLVD DESCRIBED AS PARCEL B OF COS NO. 22075 IN THE NE1/4 SW1/4 IN SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 30 NORTH, RANGE 20 WEST, P.M.M., FLATHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA.

Councilor Lovering motioned to approve the final reading of Ordinance # 832, seconded by Councilor Shepard with council voting as follows. Ayes: Shepard, Lovering, Robinson, and Barnhart. Noes: Price and King.

RESOLUTION # 1936

A RESOLUTION AMENDING SPECIFIED FUND BUDGETS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025.

Councilor Robinson made motion to approve Resolution # 1936, seconded by Councilor Shepard with council voting as follows. Ayes: Price, Robinson, Shepard, King, Lovering and Barnhart.

REPORTS / BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilor Lovering inquired about the prohibition of cloven-hoofed animals in city limits. Mayor Barnhart said it was looked at it as urban area not rural.

Councilor Shepard said he could not get the zoom meeting to work at the last meeting, and later found out he was given the incorrect meeting information.

There is a person giving the city's name out on bear issues. She was portraying that Columbia Falls has bears at all times, which is incorrect said Shepard.

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Councilor Price inquired about a price on the slide replacement at Marantette Park. Public Works Director Bates replied staff is in the process of getting quotes.

Councilor King said the zoom meeting has good audio quality.

Mayor Barnhart asked if folks could hear better with the new sound system place. Some replied they could hear very well.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

The recruitment for the City Manager position is moving along. Semifinalist interviews were held last Friday and Saturday. There were a total of 8 applicants that were interviewed. City Manager Shrives said on February 10th there will be a special executive meeting to go over the interviews to select the top 4-5 candidates to come in person for a final interview with council. Final interviews will be held on March 7, 2025.

Discussion on Senate Bill 382 grant allocation and necessary studies and consultants. Shrives said it looks like the city may get \$391,000. The city will have to do some land use planning with the Growth Policy, a consultant, and get RFP's out.

DEQ violation letter was resolved with no violations.

Announcement of RAISE grant open house will be February 19, 2025 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS

Correspondence

ADJOURN: Councilor Lovering made motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Robinson and the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk