

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HELD NOVEMBER 20, 2023**

FINANCE COMMITTEE – 6:30 P.M

(Barnhart, King, Piper)

Virtual Meeting Information: Contact City Clerk Barb Staland before 6:00 PM on the day of the meeting to obtain virtual meeting information by calling (406) 892-4391 or by email: staalandb@cityofcolumbiafalls.com

REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of Claims - November 20, 2023 - \$86,999.16
2. Approval of Payroll Claims - November 9, 2023 - \$100,248.98
3. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes - November 6, 2023
4. Approve Amended Agreement Railroad Street TA Project and authorize City Manager to execute.
5. Approval of Scope of Services - WGM Group - River's Edge Park Fishing Pier and Authorize City Manager to Execute Contract

APPOINTMENTS/OATH OF OFFICE:

Wayne R. Stufflebeem - Promotion to Sergeant/Oath of Office

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Items not on agenda)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS/PUBLIC HEARINGS:

6. Notice of Public Hearing - December 4, 2023 - Amend Municipal Code Title 5 Business License Regulations

On Monday December 4, 2023, during the 7:00 p.m. regular council meeting, the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls shall conduct a public hearing for the purpose of amending Municipal Code Title 5 Business License Regulations.

The 2023 Montana Legislative Session adopted law changes that now require the City of Columbia Falls to amend the City's Business Licensing Program into a Business Registration Program.

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The reviewed Business Registration Program is not intended to require additional licensing when the state is the original issuer of a license but rather is intended to promote public health, safety, and welfare through the provisions of the Business Registration Program.

7. Notice of Public Hearing - December 4, 2023 - SB 355 Proposed Projects

On Monday December 4, 2023, during the 7:00 p.m. regular council meeting, the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls shall conduct a public hearing for the purpose of accepting public comment on the City's proposed Senate Bill (SB) 355 Projects.

Whereas the 2023 Montana Legislative Session adopted SB355 that established a statutory appropriation, known as the State Local Infrastructure Partnership Act, to the City of Columbia Falls in the amount of \$359,193 as well as requiring a 25% local cash match.

The MT Department of Commerce rolled out the SB 355 provisions on November 6, 2023, which include establishing a priority list of projects and conducting a public hearing to accept public comment on the proposed projects. The specific provisions of SB 355 will be reviewed during the public hearing.

8. Notice of Public Hearing - Zone Change within Columbia Falls Jurisdiction - Planning Board December 12, 2023 & City Council January 2, 2024

Request change the zoning from CR-3 (One-Family Residential) to CB-2 (General Business) in the Columbia Falls Zoning Jurisdiction:

The owner/applicant, Boys and Girls Club of Glacier Country, Inc., is requesting a zone change at 165 Veterans Drive in the Columbia Falls area from the current CR-3 (One-Family Residential) to a CB-2 (General Business) designation. The property has a Commercial designation in the Columbia Falls Growth Policy and will be the future home of the Boys and Girls Club in Columbia Falls. The property is described as Lot 2, of Saint Richards Subdivision in Section 18, Township 30 North, Range 20 West, P.M.M., Flathead County.

NEW BUSINESS:

9. Board Appointments:

City Clerk Staland has prepared a report on the City Board positions expiring December 31, 2023. City Council will take final action, appointments, at the December 18, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting. Council will review and approve the process for approving appointments on Monday, December 18, 2023.

City Manager Nicosia Final appointments on December 18, 2023. The question has come up on if council wanted to entertain applications from others. Council will appoint opening it up. Mayor and council will keep it as is. Sn

10. Review and Approve SB 355 Priority List

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City Manager Nicosia said as required by the provisions in SV 355 as presented by the program officials from the MT Department of Commerce on November 6, 2023, the City officials met and prepared the following list of priority projects meeting the requirements of SB 355:

List

Nicosia said council has funding set aside in the resort tax. The requirement is to establish a priority list, staff put together a list.

Robinson can city staff prioritize the list before presenting to council. Nicosia replied yes, that can be done.

REPORTS / BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

Mayor said at the January 2, meeting we will revisit the city board lists.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Grant/Project Updates

RTP Project - 6th Ave West Sidewalk/Bikepath Connection to 4th Ave West

Updated property tax information

The Raise Grant is before the last person for signature.

The ARPA was sent to the commission at DNRC.

The TA amendment

The bid opening on Thursday on the sidewalk, curb and gutter and the low bid was \$732,000. Will come before council on December 4, 2023.

Mayor asked for location. SN said one block off Nucleus it will replace sidewalk and non functioning sidewalks. It will add additional parking on 1st. Ave W. with diagonal parking.

The state kicked out the recreational trail Council had RPA engineer the sidewalk behind Glacier Gateway the sidewalk comes around the corner and stops. The estimated cost to put in the sidewalk and bike path was est\$189,000. SN would like to submit a grant application. max grant is 100K with a match requirement. sidewalk from 7th to the school, then bike path. Mayor is this project we talked about thru Ruis property.

Does council think this is a good project. Mayor asked if the grant will be awarded to us would they go into the next FY. Nicosia said their timeline is by March and you could start.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Chief Peters said his department is very busy. Chief DUI holiday season and we have a young motivated police department with their hair on fire. Keeping the city safe. We have no detectives and was impressed with the response and evidence.

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SN

Mayor said Kalispell posts their activity

Shirley Kalispell submits a written report for other departments.

Other question SB382 is that a meeting with interaction with the public. Mayor said their will be public input. Shirley said Fisher requested a summary of HB 382. SN said they are working on a road map on SB382.

MISCELLANEOUS

11. Police Department - October Activity

ADJOURN

Next Scheduled Meetings:

City Council – Regular Meeting, **December 4, 2023** – 7:00 PM

Planning Board – December 12, 2023

City Council Workshops - SB382 - December TBD, Short Term Vacation Rentals - January TBD

Chairman

Council Clerk