

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HELD JUNE 15, 2020**

FINANCE COMMITTEE – 6:30 P.M

(Barnhart, Fisher, Karper)

REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Mayor Barnhart, Councilor Fisher, Councilor Karper, Councilor Lovering, Councilor Piper, Councilor Robinson and Councilor Shepard.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor requested a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Fisher motioned to approve the agenda, second by Councilor Lovering and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilor Karper motioned to approve the consent agenda noting that all claims appeared to be in order with the exception of one signature needed, second by Councilor Fisher with council voting as follows. Ayes: Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Karper Lovering and Barnhart.

Approval of Claims - June 15, 2020 - \$272,385.05

Approval of Payroll Claims - June 12, 2020 - \$115,192.27

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes - June 1, 2020

Approval of Employee Assistance Program Agreement Modification No. 2 - Sapphire Resource Connection and authorize City Manager to execute.

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding US Marshals Service Short-Term Joint Operations

Approval of DNRC RRGL Agreement - Well Project - \$122,950 and authorize Mayor/Manager to execute.

Approval of 2020 FY Void Outdated Checks

Approval of Utility Billing Bad Debt Account Write-offs 2020 FY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS/PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mayor read the following Notice of Public Hearings:

Notice of Hearing - July 6th, 2020:

The Columbia Falls City-County Planning Board held a public hearing for the following item at their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 9th, 2020 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 July 6, 2020 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, <https://cityofcolumbiafalls.org>, will contain updated information if there is any change to the planned hearings

Request to establish a Planned Unit Development in the Columbia Falls Zoning Jurisdiction:

Erik Eckert is requesting a Planned Unit Development overlay for the property located on 7th Street East between 1st and 2nd Avenues East. The PUD takes three existing city lots all zoned CR-5 and reorients them creating four townhouse units. The overall effect is a reduction in units from six to four. No other deviations are requested through the PUD. The property is described as Lots 8, 9, & 10, Block 46, Columbia Falls Townsite in Section 8, Township 30 North, Range 20 West, P.M.M., Flathead County.

Persons are allowed to attend the hearing(s), subject to the most recent public gathering restrictions enacted by County and State agencies at or prior to the time of the hearing. Persons are encouraged to submit written comments prior to the meeting. Written comments carry the same weight as public testimony given during the hearing. Written comments may be sent to Columbia Falls City Hall, Attention: Barb Staaland, City Clerk, 130 6th Street West, Room A, Columbia Falls, MT 59912 or via email: staalandb@cityofcolumbiafalls.com. For more information on the proposed conditional use, please call Eric Mulcahy, Columbia Falls City Planner at 755-6481.

Public Hearing - July 6, 2020 - Resort Tax Adoption:

On July 6, 2020, 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 adopting Chapter 3.20 Resort Tax in the Columbia Falls Municipal Code.

The City Council will now complete the formal code adoption for the Columbia Falls Resort Tax as approved with the June 2, 2020 election.

The proposed Chapter 3.20 Resort Tax is available for review at the office of the City Clerk, City of Columbia Falls 130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, MT. Persons may contact the City Clerk or City Manager at 406-892-4391 or 130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, MT for more information about the hearing.

Notice of Budget Hearings - 2020-21 FY beginning July 15, 2020:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, will hold public hearings beginning on July 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Columbia Falls City Hall, 130-6th Street West, Columbia Falls, Montana, for the following purposes:

Preliminary Budget

Presentation and consideration of the preliminary budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021. This hearing will be continued until final adoption of the budget after receiving the certified taxable valuation.

Special Assessments

Consideration of the adoption of the Street Lighting District and Street Maintenance District assessments for FY2020/2021. Council will hear any objections to the final adoption of the resolution levying special assessments for FY 2020/2021. Special Assessments are estimated as follows:

Street Lighting District	\$ 30,049
Street Maintenance District	\$316,000

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Individual property payment schedules are available for inspection ten (10) days from this notice, in the office of the City Clerk, 130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, Montana, during regular hours Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Permissive Medical Levy

Consideration of adoption on the proposed tax levy to fund health insurance premium contributions for group benefits beyond the amount of contributions in effect on June 30, 1999. The actual mills for consideration will be made available upon receipt of the certified tax valuation for the year.

Taxpayers are encouraged to attend the hearings and give written or oral comments on any or all of the budget-related items. Written comments may be mailed to the City Clerk, 130 6th Street West, Room A, Columbia Falls, Montana, 59912. Questions regarding the proposed items can be made by contacting City Manager Susan Nicosia at 892-4391.

NEW BUSINESS:

2021 FY Council Goal Setting – City Council reviewed their 2021 FY goals as part of the budget preparation. Nicosia noted that the Council usually holds this exercise earlier in the spring but due to COVID restrictions, it had not been completed.

Each council member went through their list of priorities for the upcoming fiscal year:

Continue 2020 FY Parks projects and downtown development.

Review annexation/expansion of City Limits. Nicosia noted that Council will be reviewing and updating the City's Extension of Services Plan this year.

Maintain and Increase Affordable Housing.

Pinewood Park BB Court repair/possibly add pickleball at that location.

Complete Pit to Park. Nicosia noted that the Public Works Director has met with Weyerhaeuser to discuss closure.

Update the City video.

Pedestrian Lighting on Nucleus. Nicosia noted that this is the next project for the Columbia Falls Community Foundation and that the City will be asked to assist with the project, through TIF funding, as per the testimony during the TIF budget hearing process in January.

Complete Hwy 2 Lighting at 3rd Ave E. Nicosia reported that the Public Works Director is getting prices for the lighting.

Complete installation of the irrigation system by Hungry Horse News/S. Nucleus for Coming Alive and trees to be planted in place of concrete barrier. Nicosia noted that this project was approved in January with the TIF budget adoption.

Traffic Signal Light at Mike's Conoco. Nicosia said we are about to embark on our first comprehensive transportation plan that may conclude that a traffic light is needed.

Complete Railroad Street Sidewalk. Nicosia said it is included in our recently submitted Build Grant, noting that without grant funding the City does not have the funding for the sidewalk.

Legislative Working Group. Shepard noted that as both the representative and senator for Columbia Falls will be newly elected, city officials will need to work with them.

Depot Park Development – Chamber office/bathroom.

Welcome Park Bathroom.

Complete park signage for all parks.

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Nicosia thanked Council for their input and stated that these priorities will be taken into consideration during the budget process.

ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution # 1820 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Approving an Application for a Conditional Use Permit for a Dog Kennel to be Located at 443 Rogers Road, More Particularly Described as Tract 4 COS 20092, Section 8, Township 30 North, Range 20 West, P.M.M., Flathead County.

Motion made by Councilor Shepard to approve Resolution # 1820, Second by Councilor Robinson, with council voting as follows. Ayes: Mayor Barnhart, Councilor Fisher, Councilor Karper, Councilor Robinson, Councilor Lovering, Councilor Piper and Councilor Shepard.

Resolution # 1821 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Amending Fund 2394 Building Code Enforcement Fund Budget Revenues and Appropriations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30 2020.

City Manager Nicosia said when we set our budget we anticipate building revenue based on prior years and planned projects. The City has sold more permits than anticipated for FY 19-20. Due to the increase in revenue from permits sold, there is a corresponding increase in expenditures for contracted services and operational costs.

Councilor Lovering motioned to approve Resolution # 1821, second by Councilor Shepard with council voting as follows. Ayes: Councilor Shepard, Councilor Fisher, Councilor Karper, Councilor Lovering, Councilor Piper, Councilor Robinson and Mayor Barnhart.

Resolution # 1822 - A Resolution Expressing the Support of the Columbia Falls City Council for the Flathead County Board of Commissioners to Refer the Flathead Communications Center Mill Levy to a Vote Pursuant to the Terms of Title 7, Chapter 11, Part 10 MCA (2019).

City Manager Nicosia said the Flathead County Commissioners requested formal support from the Council regarding the Commission calling for a mill levy election to fund the Flathead Emergency Communication Center. Nicosia noted that the other two cities have already adopted a resolution very similar to #1822. Shepard reported that the Funding Committee recommended the mill levy election after exploring alternatives.

Councilor Shepard motioned to approve Resolution # 1822, second by Councilor Lovering. Mayor Barnhart said after reading through the Resolution, he did not see that the city and county governments would reduce their current levies if this levy was passed. He would like to see savings to the taxpayers. Nicosia noted that the Council would address that issue when they adopt their budget if this election passed and a special levy funded the center instead of the City's General Fund.

Ayes: Councilor Fisher, Councilor Karper, Councilor Lovering, Councilor Piper, Councilor Robinson, Councilor Shepard. Noes: Mayor Barnhart.

REPORTS / BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

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Councilor Piper gave thanks to the community for supporting the veterans with the parade at the Veterans' Home, it meant a lot to the residents. Piper also thanked the Columbia Falls Police Officers that helped out at the Veterans Home a few weeks back.

Councilor Shepard said the weeds and grass complaints need to be enforced. Chief Peters said they have received calls and they are making contact with the residents. Councilor Shepard said he is proud of our Police Department and supports them 100%.

Councilor Lovering thanked the City for the use of the bleachers for the CFHS graduation ceremony. Lovering said the closed park signs are still up at River's Edge Park and thought we should remove them if the park is not closed. Lovering said 1st Ave. E. and 4th Ave. E. is not a controlled intersection, there is a camper and a truck parked in the way and asked if the City officials can look at it. There is a lot of revving of engines in the city throughout the night.

Councilor Fisher also noticed the River's Edge Park closed signs still up but people were at the park. Fisher said he is pleased the resort tax passed. It's nice to see the community stepping up supporting emergency services and education. Fisher thanked the Committee, Council and staff members that did the research on the resort tax.

Mayor Barnhart said he was in contact with Mike Sands to complete the Fire Chief Memorial Board in the Fire Hall but he is no longer in business so we need to get something done online. Barnhart noted that he is very busy and would like to turn the project over to the Fire Chief. Mayor Barnhart said the City missed the timeline to burn the pit to park grounds so requested that the City get it mowed. Mayor Barnhart reported that the contractor that did the water hook up for Swan Mtn. Outfitters left a big hole next to the curb that is dangerous and it needs to be repaired as soon as possible. Mayor Barnhart thanked the community for their support on the resort tax. He said the letter from Kelly Hamilton carried a lot of weight and was well written.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Nicosia said the city pool opened today under phase 2 guidelines, with no more than 50 people, social distancing and thorough cleaning. We may be able to add swim lessons in phase 3 depending on guidelines.

The 3rd Well Project is proceeding as all the parties are getting contract documents and permits in order.

The service line program letters were sent out as well as a letter from the City explaining the program.

Nicosia noted that the finance department will prepare a June 30th claims batch due to year-end. Council will see the claims on the July 6th agenda. Nicosia also reported that she received an email regarding community participation in the census and Columbia Falls is still less than 50%.

Nicosia requested meetings with the Parks and Salary committees. Nicosia noted that the Parks Committee will take a deep-dive into parks projects and the Salary Committee will look at Dept. Head and Manager pay. After discussing dates, Council agreed to set the meetings for Monday June 22, 2020 6:30 pm starting with the Salary Committee followed by the Park Committee.

Nicosia also mentioned that the City did not cancel Heritage Days. The Heritage Days Committee reviewed the current situation and made the decision to cancel based on the response from the various organizations that hold events during that weekend. Nicosia noted that the Chamber had already decided to move the 3 on 3 Basketball tournament to August so it was not on the same weekend as Polson's tournament.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Breck said the City has settled the Badger case at the mediation hearing. He has not received the release of claims from the other party; once we receive it signed in place the attorneys' office can give more details as requested by the Hungry Horse News. While we were not made whole, the City is happy to have the case completed and not spend additional funds going to trial. Breck noted that the case started in 2015 which occurred due to a 2011 project.

OTHER REPORTS

Chief Peters said thanks to the community and council for their support. It has been a long couple days with community members with what is going on around the world.

Mayor Barnhart would like to formally show support of the Police Department and have council approve.

Nicosia recommended a Resolution of Support on the next agenda and council concurred.

MISCELLANEOUS

REPORTS:

Finance - May

Police - May Activity

Correspondence

ADJOURN

Councilor Lovering motioned to adjourn, second by Councilor Fisher and the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk