

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HELD NOVEMBER 15, 2021**

REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 P.M.

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

ROLL CALL: Councilor Fisher, Councilor Karper (via Zoom), Councilor Lovering, Councilor Piper, Councilor Robinson, Councilor Shepard (via Zoom) and Mayor Barnhart.

Also Present: City Manager Nicosia, City Clerk Staaland, City Attorney Breck, Fire Chief Weeks and Police Chief Peters.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Councilor Lovering made a motion to approve the Agenda, seconded by Councilor Robinson and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Councilor Piper motioned to approve the Consent Agenda noting typographical errors corrections on page 4 and 5 of the the November 1 Council Minutes; also noting claims appeared to be in order, seconded by Councilor Robinson with Council voting as follows. Ayes: Lovering, Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Karper and Barnhart.

Approval of Claims - November 15, 2021 - \$115,107.79

Approval of Payroll Claims - November 12, 2021 - \$83,261.49

Approval of November 1, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Approval of Updated Job Description - Building, Planning and Public Works Clerk

Authorize City Manager to execute the Memorandum of Understanding - 2021 Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Authorize City Manager to Execute the ARPA Water & Sewer Grant Agreement - Biosolids Management Plan

Approve City Manager's Execution of the EDA Project Engineering Contract with Morrison Maierle

Approval of Homeland Security Operation Stonegarden 2019-2022 Grant – Pass-Thru Flathead County and authorize City Manager to sign.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Items not on agenda)

Wally Beck, 234 2nd Ave. E., said he is curious on what the plan is at the park where the tennis courts were removed. Mr. Beck said they love seeing the kids playing basketball and asked if the City was going to add more basketball courts. Mr. Beck said he is also concerned about drug activity near the park.

Beck said with all the growth in Columbia Falls he is interested in the City's infrastructure plans.

City Manager Nicosia said the Parks Committee will be meeting in the Council Chambers on November 29, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the development of Columbus Park. Nicosia reported that the City has submitted a grant application through the Department of Commerce for pickleball courts at Columbus Park. She also noted that it was less expensive to rebuild the tennis courts at Hoerner Park by the High School than in the current location. Nicosia said the City also received comments for a splash pad at Columbus Park, which the Parks Committee agreed to research pricing and installation. The City recently resurfaced the basketball court and put lines in for one pickleball court. Nicosia said the City will continue to look for funding opportunities for City Parks.

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Nicosia said the City does a 20 year Growth Policy and it is updated every 5 years. The City does have plans to update water and sewer infrastructure in accordance with the adopted preliminary engineering reports. The City is currently completing an extensive leak detection survey to begin the process of addressing the City's water loss.

Police Chief Peters communicated to Mr. Beck if he calls and gives a description on where the activity is taking place, the Police Department is happy to respond. Chief said community participation is key to keeping neighborhoods safe. Nicosia noted that the City plans on adding lights to the park as well.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:

5 Year Pin – Clint Peters, Chief of Police

Mayor Barnhart presented Police Chief Peters his 5 years of service pin. Mayor Barnhart thanked Peters for his dedicated service to the City of Columbia Falls.

OATH OF OFFICE:

Appointment of Volunteer Firefighter - Shawn Hogan

Fire Chief Weeks said Shawn Hogan has passed the department interview process, a background check and a physical examination. Weeks noted that Mr. Hogan has shown great interest since submitting his application and has attended several trainings as an observer. Mr. Hogan is retired military and has several years of experience on a volunteer fire department in Texas. Weeks and Nicosia recommend bringing Mr. Hogan on as a Probationary Volunteer Firefighter.

Councilor Lovering motioned to approve the appointment of Shawn Hogan as Probationary Volunteer Firefighter, seconded Councilor Piper and the motion carried. City Clerk Staaland administered Oath of Office to Mr. Hogan.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of Greater Valley Health Center Letter of Support - HRSA-22-007 Federal Funding

City Manager Nicosia said last year Council signed a letter for the Flathead Community Health Center; they are now called the Greater Valley Health Center, a non-profit now split from the County. They are eligible for a three-year grant and asked Council for a letter of support.

Councilor Fisher made motion to approve the letter of support for the Flathead Community Health Center, seconded by Councilor Robinson and the motion carried.

ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS:

Second and Final Reading - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, Amending the Columbia Falls Zoning Map to Add the Marijuana Business Overlay Zone

City Manager Nicosia said there has been no change to the map of the Marijuana Business Overlay Zone and staff recommends approval.

Councilor Fisher motioned to approve Ordinance # 814, seconded by Councilor Lovering with Council voting as follows. Ayes: Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Karper, Lovering and Barnhart.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Nicosia noted that the Consent Agenda included the execution of the EDA Project Engineering Contract with Morrison Maierle. They have started surveying on the 12th Ave. W. project.

The City is close to calling for bids on the generator for the well.

Nicosia reported that she recently met with officials from Glencore. There is some concern that the letter from the City will delay the EPA's decision. Nicosia reported that she stated the City's concern is keeping our public water system clean. DEQ and EPA will make a public recommendation of what they are accepting and open it up for Public Comment in the near future.

The City is advertising for a Building, Planning Zoning and Public Works Clerk as our current employee is moving to Bozeman.

The Fire Chief and City Manager want to meet with the Public Safety Committee to discuss paid Firefighter positions. It was agreed to meet after the first of the year.

MISCELLANEOUS

Fire Chief Weeks said it has been busy in the Fire Department with more than normal calls. Fire Chief Weeks said there was a good response on the house fire on Sunday evening, November 14th.

Police Chief Peters reported the department is moving away from the Tip 411 app as there was only one tip received and the cost is \$2,400 per year.

ADJOURN

Councilor Lovering motioned to adjourn at 7:36 p.m., seconded by Councilor Robinson.

Mayor

City Clerk