

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD MARCH 16, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Barnhart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with roll call as follows:

PRESENT

Mayor Don Barnhart
Councilor Darin Fisher
Councilor Doug Karper
Councilor Jenny Lovering
Councilor John Piper
Councilor Mike Shepard

ABSENT

Councilor Paula Robinson

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Councilor Shepard, Seconded by Councilor Lovering.

YES: Mayor Barnhart, Councilor Fisher, Councilor Karper, Councilor Lovering, Councilor Piper, and Councilor Shepard.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion made by Councilor Shepard, noting that all claims appear to be in order. Seconded by Councilor Fisher.

YES: Mayor Barnhart, Councilor Fisher, Councilor Karper, Councilor Lovering, Councilor Piper, and Councilor Shepard.

Approval of Claims - \$152,930.70 March 16, 2020

Claims Approval - March 2, 2020 - \$35,700.14

Claims - Special Run \$800.00 BNSF

Payroll - March 13, 2020 - \$9,525.92 Final

Payroll - Regular March 6, 2020 - \$125,254.08

Payroll - Regular February 21, 2020 - \$75,596.34

Minutes - February 18, 2020 Regular Council Meeting

Approval of Updated Job Description - Grounds Maintenance Laborer

Approval of 2020 Urban & Community Forestry Subaward Agreement, UCF-20-11, and authorize City Manager to sign

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Approval of Community Pond Project Agreement, MT F,W & P, Fisheries Division and authorize City Manager to sign

Approval of NW Montana Drug Task Force Local Drug Task Force Memorandum of Understanding for 2020-2021

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Items not on agenda)

Presentation - Flathead City-County Health Department - Coronavirus Update

Kerry Nuckles, with the Flathead City-County Health Department said there has been a lot of discussion today along with a heavy call volume. They have been in communication with healthcare providers, KRMHC, schools, churches and daycares etc. Ms. Nuckles said on the Health Department side all programs are still open at this time. As of 5:30 pm today there have been no cases of COVID-19 in the Flathead Valley. We are trying to provide outreach to as many as we can to keep large groups from meeting. Ms. Nuckles said they will do updates on a daily basis.

APPOINTMENTS:

Police Commissioner – Larry Wilson, 3 year term. City Manager said Larry Wilson has served as a Police Commissioner for over 30 years. Mr. Wilson would like to be re-appointed for a three year term ending May 2023.

Motion made by Councilor Lovering, Seconded by Councilor Shepard.

YES: Mayor Barnhart, Councilor Fisher, Councilor Karper, Councilor Lovering, Councilor Piper, Councilor Shepard.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS/PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mayor Barnhart read the Notice of Public Hearing: Planned Unit Development, Ruis Holdings 540 Nucleus Ave LLC, Planning Board March 10th and City Council April 6th.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of Park Use Hours - 2020 Movie night events

Nicosia reported that the Columbia Falls Chamber has submitted a special use permit for three Outdoor Movie Nights at Marantette Park this summer. The events will be held Saturday June 20th, July 18th and August 22nd, from 7 pm - 11 pm. Staff has reviewed the application for use and recommends approval for extending the hours.

Motion made by Councilor Piper to approve the extended hours for the 2020 movie nights, Seconded by Councilor Karper.

YES: Mayor Barnhart, Councilor Fisher, Councilor Karper, Councilor Lovering, Councilor Piper, Councilor Shepard.

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REPORTS / BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Mayor inquired about the fire hydrant that was hit at the end of Nucleus Ave. Nicosia said the City Public Works department had received a call regarding the hydrant.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

City Manager Nicosia discussed the building permit history year to date through February. The City has issued 37 permits through February, which was the same number as last year for the same time period. The commercial value of the permits was \$9,641,133 and includes the 3 new apartment buildings on Bills Lane and residential permit value was \$2,465,174. Nicosia said Planning/Zoning activity is relatively quiet at this time with smaller projects.

City Hall remains open and we have been sanitizing on a regular basis. Meetings have been cancelled as well as training/travel. We will continue taking precautions and if necessary close the building to the public. Staff will continue to work regularly scheduled hours to answer phone calls and provide required services. Mayor Barnhart asked if the city had hand sanitizer to put at the window for citizens to use. Nicosia said we are trying to get bottled sanitizer for the counter.

Nicosia said we have hired a Cashier/Deputy City Clerk and are currently advertising for summer employment opportunities at the pool and grounds maintenance (Parks).

MISCELLANEOUS:

Reports and Correspondence:

February 2020 Financial Report

February 2020 Police Department Activity

Correspondence

ADJOURN:

Councilor Lovering motioned to adjourn at 7:27 p.m., second by Councilor Piper.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk