

**CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HELD OCTOBER 04, 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, Councilor Piper, Councilor Robinson, Councilor Shepard and Mayor Barnhart. Absent: Councilor Lovering.

Also Present: City Manager Nicosia, City Clerk Staaland, City Attorney Breck and Lieutenant Denham.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Councilor Robinson motioned to approve the Agenda, seconded by Councilor Piper and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Councilor Fisher made motion to approve the Consent Agenda noting that all claims appeared to be in order, seconded by Councilor Piper and the motion carried.

Approval of Claims - October 4, 2021 - \$85,948.91

Approval of Regular Payroll Claims - October 1, 2021 - \$98,489.56

Approval of September 20, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor Barnhart read the following Notice of Public Hearings.

Notice of Hearing - October 18, 2021 - Alley Abandonment:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all persons that a petition has been filed with the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, requesting the abandonment, discontinuance and vacating of a certain public way in the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, more particularly described as follows:

The 12' undeveloped alleyway in Block 4 of the Hoerner Addition Subdivision. Abandonment of this alleyway will allow the property owner who owns all of the adjacent lots to develop the property without the alleyway encumbrance and will place the property on the tax role.

The benefiting property owner will pay all surveying and recording costs. The abandonment request was reviewed and the existing public utilities, a sewer service line and electrical poles, will be relocated at the expense of the property owner.

The City Council of Columbia Falls is scheduled to act on said petition at the regular meeting of the City Council at 7:00 p.m., on October 18, 2021 in the Council Chambers, 130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, Montana, at which time and place all persons desiring to be heard on said petition may appear and offer comments on the proposed abandonment. Written comments may be addressed to the City Clerk, 130 6th Street West, Room A, Columbia Falls, Montana 59912 prior to the October 18, 2021 hearing.

Notice of Hearing - October 18, 2021 - Public Comment on Comprehensive Transportation Plan:

On October 18, 2021, 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 taking public comment on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

The City is preparing the Columbia Falls Comprehensive Transportation Plan with the MT Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Flathead County for the Columbia Falls Urban Transportation Area. The Transportation Plan must meet specific criteria established by MDOT. The City held open houses and work sessions on Monday, September 27th to provide the public with detailed information and the opportunity to review the draft plan. The draft plan and the work

CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES HELD ON OCTOBER 04, 2021

session power point are available at: columbiafalls.transportationplan.net. The City Council will formally adopt the Columbia Falls Transportation Plan at their regular meeting on Monday, November 1, 2021.

Public comment may be in writing addressed to the City Clerk at 130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, MT 59912, email: staalandb@cityofcolumbiafalls.com or delivered in person to the City Council during the hearing.

Notice of Public Hearing - October 18, 2021 - Parking and Park Municipal Code Text Amendments:

On October 18, 2021, during the 7:00 p.m. regular council meeting, the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, shall conduct a public hearing for purpose of adopting changes to the Columbia Falls Municipal Code Title 10 Vehicles and Traffic and Title 12 Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places.

City Council will consider text amendments to Title 12 Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places addressing right of way maintenance and encroachments, and an amendment to the City park rules and Title 10 Vehicles and Traffic to address parking issues.

The proposed changes are 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.

Responses to the public hearing may be in writing addressed to the City Clerk at 130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, MT 59912 or delivered in person to the City Council during the hearing.

ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS:

Notice of Planning Board and City Council Public Hearings - Text Amendments:

The Columbia Falls City-County Planning Board will hold their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. The Planning Board will hold a public hearing for the following items and forward recommendations to the Columbia Falls City Council. The Columbia Falls City Council will also hold a public hearing on these items at their regular meeting of Monday, October 18, 2021 beginning at 7 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, Montana.

ZONING REGULATIONS TEXT AMENDMENTS: The City proposes to incorporate text amendments to the Columbia Falls Area Zoning Ordinance, Municipal Code Title 18 in regards to adding the definitions and statutory provisions applicable to the regulation of recreational marijuana. The Planning Board and City Council may also consider the implementation of a map amendment with an appropriate overlay zone also related to these provisions.

The Planning Board and City Council will also review Title 17 Subdivision Regulations and Title 18 Zoning Regulations for any required text amendments related to updated statutory regulations in place after the 2021 legislative session.

Persons may testify at the hearing or submit written comments prior to the hearings. For more information contact Susan Nicosia, City Manager, at 892-4384 or email: nicosias@cityofcolumbiafalls.com.

Resolution # 1864 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana Authorizing Submission of a CDBG-CV Application

City Manager Nicosia said this application is for the Pickleball Courts at Columbus Park. Nicosia said the City has a contract with the excavator to remove the old tennis courts that is not part of the proposed grant project. Nicosia said Council discussed installing a bathroom and a splash pad but in order to submit our application by the deadline, the application is for the pickleball courts only. Staff is gathering additional pricing information on the installation of the splash pad and bathroom for future consideration.

Councilor Fisher motioned to approve Resolution # 1864, seconded by Councilor Shepard with Council voting as follows. Ayes: Piper, Robinson, Shepard, Fisher, Karper and Barnhart.

REPORTS / BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

Councilor Karper said he will not be present in person for the next three council meetings but will attend by ZOOM.

Councilor Shepard said he attended all three sessions of the Transportation meetings on the 27th and it was interesting to hear the topics citizens brought forward.

Councilor Fisher said the Resort Tax went into effect on October 1st and he was surprised by false information that is being discussed on social media. Fisher said he was most frustrated by a post on September 30th by former State Senator stating they will no longer buy gasoline in Columbia Falls. Fisher said we all know gasoline is not taxed but was surprised that people think it is.

Councilor Karper said he was approached by a business owner that said he voted for the Resort Tax and thanked him and Council for doing such a great job.

Mayor Barnhart commented on the concrete test for the new concrete at the Fire Hall. Nicosia replied it was not in the contractors contract to test, the City was responsible for the cost of the testing.

Mayor Barnhart also commented on the additional Training Center at the Rural Fire Station. With the addition of the Roof Training prop, Columbia Falls will have the most complete training center around here, Mayor Barnhart said.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager said the questions received for the Resort Tax have been interesting as well as informational. City staff has started a Q & A on the city website. Nicosia agrees with Fisher that there is a lot of misinformation and the City needs to keep giving the community accurate information. All communities that use the Resort Tax have had overwhelming support upon renewal or expansion.

Nicosia reported the Flathead County Commissioners approved the Health Board Interlocal Agreement.

MISCELLANEOUS

Fire Department YTD Activity
Correspondence

ADJOURN

Councilor Piper motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Fisher and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk