ROOM A | 130 6TH STREET WEST
COLUMBIA FALLS, MT 59912

PHONE (406) 892-4391
FAX (406) 892-4413

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
AGENDA
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025
COUNCIL CHAMBERS CITY HALL

FINANCE COMMITTEE – 6:30 P.M

(Barnhart, Shepard and Lovering)

The Regular Council Meeting is held in the Council Chambers as well as by virtual meeting. Please contact City Clerk Barb Staaland no later than 5:00 P.M. on the night of the meeting to obtain ZOOM access by calling (406) 892-4388 or 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 - December 15, 2025 - $143,623.34
2. Approval of Payroll Claims - Dec. 5, 2025 - $138,062.57
3. Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes - December 1, 2025
4. Contract with Montana League of Cities and Towns - FY 2025 Annual Financial Report
5. Contract for Professional Services - River's Edge Park Fishing Pier Construction
   Engineering oversight for the River's Edge Park Fishing Pier Project in accordance with the scope of work provided by WGM Group
6. Wastewater Treatment Plant Project - HDR Contract Amendment 4

   City staff requests Council authorization to approve Agreement 4 of Wastewater Treatment Plant Engineering Services contract with HDR Engineering for the completion of an Arc Flash Study and extended engineering construction services.
7. Pinewood Aquatic Center Boiler Replacement Contract

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Items not on agenda)

8. Appointments - Probationary Volunteer Firefighters Kelsey Styler and Nolan Johnson

   Motion to appoint - Kelsey Styler and Nolan Johnson

   Administer Oath of Office

9. OATH OF OFFICE - Administered by City Clerk

   Judge Kristi Curtis January 1 2026- December 31, 2029

   Heidi Reynolds - New Hire Police Officer

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Items not on agenda)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

10. Proclamation - Arbor Day

11. Gateway to Glacier Safety & Mobility Project

    City has received federally obligated construction funds. Request Council authorization to proceed with bid advertisement

12. Wastewater Capacity Allocation

    Information briefing report regarding the recent history of wastewater treatment plant capacity calculations and how those results affect the City's ability to serve current and future development.

ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS:

13. Resolution #1957 - Amending Fund 5310 Sewer Enterprise Budget Appropriations for FY 2026

14. SECOND READING - Ordinance #835 - Exposing Minor Children to Domestic Violence
    Columbia Falls Police Department, desires to amend Chapter 9 Part 20 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code by adding a Section 030 making it a criminal offense to expose a child or children to domestic violence.

15. SECOND READING - Ordinance #836- Definitions pertaining to the use and operation of bicycles and electrically assisted bicycles and other electrically and motor assisted vehicles and other wheeled devices on public sidewalks, public roadways and public paths and within public parks.

16. SECOND READING - Ordinance #837 - Requiring obedience with traffic control devices by bicycles and electrically assisted bicycles and other electrically and motor assisted vehicles on public sidewalks, roadways and paths.

17. SECOND READING - Ordinance #838 - Providing penalties that may be imposed by law enforcement for violations of the ordinances contained within chapter 1- part 72.

18. **SECOND READING - Ordinance #839** - Regulating the use of bicycles and electrically assisted bicycles and other electrically and motor assisted vehicles on public sidewalks and paths.

19. SECOND READING - Ordinance #840 - Regulating the use of bicycles and electrically assisted bicycles and other electrically and motor assisted vehicles on public roadways, public sidewalks, and public paths.

REPORTS / BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

CITY MANAGER REPORT

20. City Manager Report

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

MISCELLANEOUS

21. Correspondence

22. Police Department November Report

23. Fire Department November Reports

ADJOURN

Next Scheduled Meetings:
City Council Regular Meeting - **Monday, January 5, 2026 -** 7:00 PM
Planning Board - TBD
Study Commission Meeting - **Tuesday, December 16, 2025 -** 5:00 PM

* ... Over spent expenditure

Claim/	Check	Vendor #/Name/ Invoice #/Inv Date/Description	Document $/ Line $	Disc $	PO #	Fund	Org	Acct	Object	Proj	Cash Account
48265		2899 ALPINE FAMILY MEDICINE	125.00								
	112025	11/20/25 SWR-DOT PHYSICAL	125.00			5310		430600	399		101000
		Total for Vendor:	125.00								
48235		1700 BRECK LAW OFFICE, PC	9,057.56								
JAN FEES											
	JAN 26	11/03/25 LGL-FEES JAN	2,219.53			1000		411100	350		101000
	JAN 26	11/03/25 CRT-FEES JAN	4,524.08			1000		410365	350		101000
	JAN 26	11/03/25 WTR-FEES JAN	729.33			5210		430500	350		101000
	JAN 26	11/03/25 SWR-FEES JAN	729.33			5310		430600	350		101000
	JAN 26	11/03/25 P&Z-FEES JAN	364.66			1000		411000	350		101000
	JAN 26	11/03/25 PD-FEES JAN	147.42			1000		420100	399		101000
	JAN 26	11/03/25 WTR-FEES JAN	32.76			5210		430500	357		101000
	JAN 26	11/03/25 SWR-FEES JAN	48.43			5310		430600	357		101000
	JAN 26	11/03/25 STR-FEES JAN	65.51			2500		430200	399		101000
	JAN 26	11/03/25 ADDITIONAL LABOR	196.51			1000		411100	350		101000
		Total for Vendor:	9,057.56								
48234		2708 BULLITT COMMUNICATIONS	608.00								
	81406	11/25/25 WTR-RADIO PWD VEHICLE	152.00			5210		430500	390		101000
	81406	11/25/25 SWR-RADIO PWD VEHICLE	152.00			5310		430600	390		101000
	81406	11/25/25 STR-RADIO PWD VEHICLE	152.00			2500		430200	390		101000
	81406	11/25/25 PRK-RADIO PWD VEHICLE	152.00			1000		460400	390		101000
		Total for Vendor:	608.00								
48267	E	3028 CENTURYLINK - LUMEN - ELECTRONIC	410.55								
FIBER AND DATA ONLINE DUE DEC 16 2025											
	760609950	11/16/25 COMP-10/16/25-11/16/25	410.51			1000		410580	345		101000
	760755073	11/20/25 LONG DISTANCE	0.04			1000		410580	345		101000
		Total for Vendor:	410.55								
48281		1145 CITY OF WHITEFISH BUILDING	12,785.50								
Permits issued for NOV 2025											
	110925	11/09/25 BUILDING PERMITS 11/25	11,985.35			2394		420500	398		101000
	110925	11/09/25 MECHANICAL PERMITS 11/25	563.55			2394		420500	398		101000
	110925	11/09/25 PLUMBING PERMITS 11/25	52.00			2394		420500	398		101000

* ... Over spent expenditure

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	110925 11/09/25	ELECTRICAL PERMITS 11/25	184.60			2394		420500	398		101000
		Total for Vendor:	12,785.50								
48264		1711 COMFORT SYSTEMS USA	144.50								
	92022846 10/30/25	SWR-INSPECT HEATING ISSUE	144.50			5310		430600	366		101000
		Total for Vendor:	144.50								
48278		3026 DAILY INTER LAKE	982.38								
Study Commision Gov't, Audit Reports, Budget Ammendment											
	43120 11/09/25	L.S.- STUDY COMMISSION NOPH	273.96			2350		410130	390		101000
	43456 11/23/25	FIN-AUDIT FY24	126.02			1000		410500	331		101000
	43456 11/23/25	WTR-AUDIT FY24	21.00			5210		430500	331		101000
	43456 11/23/25	SWR- AUDIT FY 24	21.00			5310		430600	331		101000
	43339 11/23/25	WTR-AMEND 25/26 FY BUDGET	27.29			5210		430500	331		101000
	43339 11/23/25	SWR-AMEND 25/26 FY BUDGET	27.29			5310		430600	331		101000
	43339 11/23/25	FIN-AMEND 25/26 FY BUDGET	163.72			1000		410500	331		101000
	43073 11/09/25	BOILER REPLACEMENT FOR POOL	322.10			4010		460445	940		101000
		Total for Vendor:	982.38								
48245		1627 DPHHS-FCSS	225.00								
	112125 11/21/25	POOL-#10437 LIC RENEW 2026	225.00*			1000		460445	335		101000
		Total for Vendor:	225.00								
48255	E	1879 EVERGREEN WASTE CONNECTIONS	547.00								
	5123620 12/01/25	FAC-11/1/25-11/30/25	99.23			1000		411200	340		101000
	5123621 12/01/25	STRS-11/1/25-11/30/25	199.80			2500		430200	340		101000
	5123622 12/01/25	WTR-11/1/25-11/30/25	99.23			5210		430500	340		101000
	5123730 12/01/25	SWR-11/1/25-11/30/25	82.60			5310		430600	340		101000
	5123732 12/01/25	PRKS-11/1/25-11/30/25	66.14			1000		460400	340		101000
		Total for Vendor:	547.00								
48276		438 FERGUSON WATERWORKS	406.90								
	0943190 11/25/25	WTR-TAP SADDLE	386.90			5210		430500	230		101000
	0943412 11/25/25	WTR-HYDRANT ADAPTER	20.00			5210		430500	230		101000
		Total for Vendor:	406.90								

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Claim/	Check	Vendor #/Name/ Invoice #/Inv Date/Description	Document $/ Line $	Disc $	PO #	Fund	Org	Acct	Object	Proj	Cash Account
48262	E	2961 FIRST BANKCARD-ELECTRONIC PYMT	6,425.67								
	9906629	10/22/25 FIN-SURGE PROTECTOR(2)+TAPE 6	15.32			1000		410500	210		101000
	9906629	10/22/25 WTR-SURGE PROTECTOR(2)+TAPE6R	15.32			5210		430500	210		101000
	9906629	10/22/25 SWR-SURGE PROTECTOR(2)+TAPE 6	15.33			5310		430600	210		101000
	102325	10/23/25 WTR-CDL HOLDERS	4.16			5210		430500	399		101000
	102325	10/23/25 SWR-CDL HOLDERS	4.17			5310		430600	399		101000
	102325	10/23/25 STR-CDL HOLDERS	4.17			2500		430200	399		101000
	102325	10/23/25 FD-NAMEPLATE	67.76			1000		420400	220		101000
	2378623	10/23/25 SWR-BAND SAW BLADE (3)	36.64			5310		430600	220		101000
	4551441	10/21/25 FAC-SURFACE WIPES	35.94			1000		411200	224		101000
	7593025	10/23/25 SWR-PORTABLE BLADE SAW	29.99			5310		430600	220		101000
	3563430	10/24/25 FIN-ETHERNET SPLITTER	6.31			1000		410500	220		101000
	3563430	10/24/25 WTR-ETHERNET SPLITTER	6.31			5210		430500	220		101000
	3563430	10/24/25 SWR-ETHERNET SPLITTER	6.32			5310		430600	220		101000
	101425	10/14/25 PD-DOCKING STATION	358.59			1000		420100	220		101000
	3981055	10/24/25 WTR-OTTERBOX CASE (2)	129.98			5210		430500	220		101000
	5085830	10/28/25 PRK-LAWN SWEEPER	279.99			1000		460400	212		101000
	0489828	10/28/25 STR-PROPANE REGULATOR	74.99			2500		430200	212		101000
	41403	10/30/25 PD-TAMPER INDICATIONG DEVICE	109.25			1000		420100	220		101000
	110125	11/01/25 FIN-WEB SERVICES	175.82			1000		410580	355		101000
	2025100057	10/31/25 FD-BACKGROUND CHECKS	502.11			1000		420400	390		101000
	5152251	10/31/25 FD-SCOOP / TABLET MOUNT / CAB	46.81			1000		420400	220		101000
	5620228	11/04/25 L.S.-WHITEBOARD EASEL	219.93			1000		410100	212		101000
	9273808	11/03/25 PD-SPEAKER / MOUSE / SPLITTER	135.11			1000		420100	210		101000
	1367467	11/03/25 PD-MEASURING TOOL 6PK	6.99			1000		420100	210		101000
	8201817	11/14/25 L.S.-ROLLING TV STAND	94.99			1000		410100	212		101000
	7137066	11/12/25 STR-GRIPSTUDS	650.00			2500		430200	232		101000
	9240258	11/12/25 P&Z-TONER	379.98*			1000		411000	210		101000
	111725	11/17/25 CRT-TONER	66.99			1000		410360	210		101000
	111725	11/17/25 CRT-PRINTER	329.99			1000		410360	212		101000
	1041039	11/17/25 L.S.-SOC MED PLAYBOOK COUNCIL	103.92			1000		410100	380		101000
	111925	11/19/25 L.S.-T.V.	379.99			1000		410100	212		101000
	111925	11/19/25 L.S.-T.V.(2)	759.98			1000		410100	212		101000
	1653032	11/20/25 L.S. EXTENSION CORD	30.39			1000		410100	212		101000
	R279278816	11/20/25 PD TRAINING C. McConnell	1,000.00			1000		420100	380		101000
	6375443	11/20/25 L.S.-CORDS / SPLITTERS / CABL	312.47			1000		410100	220		101000

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	6375443 11/20/25 FIN-WEB CAM	29.66			1000		410500	212		101000
	Total for Vendor:	6,425.67								
48260	3104 FIRST CALL COMPUTER SOLUTIONS,	2,024.76								
	109411 11/30/25 FIN-MONTHLY BILING NOV	224.76			1000		410580	355		101000
	109056 12/01/25 FIN-MONTHLY BILLING DEC	1,800.00			1000		410580	355		101000
	Total for Vendor:	2,024.76								
48251	1892 FLATHEAD COUNTY	75.00								
	6647 12/01/25 P&Z-OWNERSHIP LIST-M.GETTS	75.00			1000		411000	390		101000
	Total for Vendor:	75.00								
48236	663 FLATHEAD COUNTY SOLID WASTE	1,914.04								
11/01/25-11/30/25										
	19751 11/30/25 SWR-SLUDGE WASTE 11/1-11/30/25	1,914.04			5310		430600	395		101000
	Total for Vendor:	1,914.04								
48243	24 FLATHEAD COUNTY TREASURER	861.00								
FOR THE MONTH OF NOV										
	120125 12/01/25 CRT-TECH SURCHARGE	385.00			1000		212201			101000
	120125 12/01/25 CRT-LAW SURCHARGE	476.00			1000		212201			101000
	Total for Vendor:	861.00								
48282	21 FLATHEAD ELECTRIC COOP INC	14,810.04								
	113025 11/30/25 FAC10/25/25-11/25/25	447.53			1000		411200	341		101000
	113025 11/30/25 PD-10/25/25-11/25/25	42.06			1000		420100	341		101000
	113025 11/30/25 FD-10/25/25-11/25/25	426.67			1000		420400	341		101000
	113025 11/30/25 PRKS-10/25/25-11/25/25	438.38			1000		460400	341		101000
	113025 11/30/25 POOL-10/25/25-11/25/25	59.54			1000		460445	341		101000
	113025 11/30/25 LIGHTING-10/25/25-11/25/25	2,563.29			2400		430200	341		101000
	113025 11/30/25 STRS-10/25/25-11/25/25	205.64			2500		430200	341		101000
	113025 11/30/25 WTR-10/25/25-11/25/25	4,584.51			5210		430500	341		101000
	113025 11/30/25 SWR-10/25/25-11/25/25	6,042.42			5310		430600	341		101000
	Total for Vendor:	14,810.04								

* ... Over spent expenditure

Claim/ Check / Invoice	Vendor #/Name/ Inv Date/Description	Document $/ Line $	Disc $	PO #	Fund	Org	Acct	Object	Proj	Cash Account
48273	3019 FLATHEAD PUBLISHING GROUP	780.00								
43260	11/30/25 WTR-WATER OPERATOR JOB AD	780.00			5210	430500		390		101000
	Total for Vendor:	780.00								
48239	3113 GLOBAL ARCHIVES INC	166.32								
NOVEMBER ENGINEERING DRAWINGS										
2024255	11/25/25 WTR-MONTHLY STORAGE AS BUILTS	83.16			5210	430500		363		101000
2024255	11/25/25 SWR-MONTHLY STORAGE AS BUILTS	83.16			5310	430600		363		101000
	Total for Vendor:	166.32								
48272	2806 HANSON'S HARDWARE	485.35								
617735	10/21/25 SWR-ELBOW / ADPTR / COUPLING	4.73			5310	430600		240		101000
617768	10/24/25 STR-3 STEP STOOL	67.99			2500	430200		220		101000
618039	11/19/25 PRK-MISC SCREWS	34.20			1000	460400		220		101000
618040	11/19/25 SWR-FILTER CARTRIDGE	43.96			5310	430600		240		101000
618058	11/20/25 STR-SAND DISK / DRILL MNT	151.77			2500	430200		220		101000
618065	11/21/25 SWR-FOAM SEALANT	11.99			5310	430600		240		101000
618109	11/26/25 FAC-DRAIN DISSOLVER	16.99			1000	411200		224		101000
621717	11/30/25 STR-FINANCE CHARGE	1.43			2500	430200		220		101000
617122	09/03/25 PD-OVERPAYMENT / RTRN	-1.32			1000	420100		360		101000
618039	11/19/25 PRK-MISC SCREWS	34.20			1000	460400		220		101000
618157	12/02/25 PD-MISC SCREWS / DRILL BIT	13.95			1000	420100		360		101000
618173	12/04/25 PD-GRANITE SHELF	5.49			1000	420100		360		101000
618134	12/01/25 SWR-20X30 TARP / BUGEE CORD	99.97			5310	430600		220		101000
	Total for Vendor:	485.35								
48252	1659 HIGH COUNTRY LINEN SUPPLY	273.30								
0656220	12/01/25 FAC-CITY HALL, PD, CRT, FIN	236.56			1000	411200		224		101000
0656221	12/01/25 FAC-FIRE HALL	36.74			1000	411200		224		101000
	Total for Vendor:	273.30								
48237	3057 HUNGRY HORSE NEWS	62.00								
122425	12/24/25 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 52 WEEKS	62.00			1000	410500		330		101000
	Total for Vendor:	62.00								

* ... Over spent expenditure

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48244	3292 JACOBS ENGINEERING GROUP INC	45,561.53								
COLUMBIA FALLS GATEWAY TO GLACIER SAFETY AND MOBILITY RAISE GRANT #13										
	W3Y2720013 11/24/25 STR-RAISE GRANT INV #13 65	29,614.99			2995		430230	930		101000
	W3Y2720013 11/24/25 WTR-RAISE GRANT INV #13 35	15,946.54			2995		430550	930		101000
	Total for Vendor:	45,561.53								
48277	1690 LASALLE SAND & GRAVEL CORP	85.73								
3/4 CRUSH MINUS 1400 WWTE										
	212900 11/20/25 SWR-3/4 CRUSH MINUS	85.73			5310		430600	240		101000
	Total for Vendor:	85.73								
48240	1080 LES SCHWAB TIRE CENTER	1,604.76								
	9050065416 11/26/25 FD-#461 WINTER CHANGEOVER	115.96			1000		420400	361		101000
	9050065495 12/02/25 FD-#401 WINTER CHANGEOVER	1,372.84			1000		420400	361		101000
	9050065557 12/06/25 PD-#24 WINTER CHANGEOVER	115.96			1000		420100	361		101000
	Total for Vendor:	1,604.76								
48269	162 LOGAN HEALTH - WHITEFISH	21.00								
	810247969 11/21/25 PD-EVIDENCE	21.00			1000		420100	399		101000
	Total for Vendor:	21.00								
48242	1652 MONTANA STATE FIRE CHIEFS	75.00								
	02010 12/01/25 FD-MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 26	75.00			1000		420400	335		101000
	Total for Vendor:	75.00								
48283	722 MORRISON-MAIERLE, INC.	28,585.35								
	258950 12/08/25 SIDEWALK & PARKING PHASE 2	3,606.50			2310		470300	931		101000
	258953 12/08/25 SWR-WASTEWTR PER THRU 11/28/25	24,282.85			5310		430600	354		101000
	258958 12/08/25 SWR-ON CALL SERV THRU 11/28/25	348.00			5310		430600	354		101000
	258958 12/08/25 WTR-ON CALL SERV THRU 11/28/25	348.00			5210		430500	354		101000
	Total for Vendor:	28,585.35								
48266	1247 MURDOCH'S RANCH & HOME	149.98								
	254269 11/29/25 SWR-SPREADER / SCRAPPER	149.98			5310		430600	220		101000
	Total for Vendor:	149.98								

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Claim/ Check / Invoice #/Inv Date/Description	Vendor #/Name/	Document $/ Line $	Disc $	PO #	Fund	Org	Acct	Object	Proj	Cash Account
48279	52 NAPA AUTO PARTS	102.40								
130031 10/21/25	STR-BRAKE ROTOR	24.06			2500		430200	240		101000
131373 11/05/25	SWR-ANTIFREEZE	28.98			5310		430600	240		101000
132797 11/24/25	STR-OIL FILTER	30.07			2500		430200	240		101000
133891 12/08/25	STR-MOTOR OIL	19.29			2500		430200	232		101000
	Total for Vendor:	102.40								
48246	90 NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION	225.00								
ID # 3512113										
2477614 11/19/25	FD-MBRSHIP RENEWAL TO 11/22/2	225.00			1000		420400	330		101000
	Total for Vendor:	225.00								
48247	520 NORCO, INC.	26.23								
45024254 10/31/25	STR-CYLINDR RENT 10/1-10/31/	13.33			2500		430200	220		101000
45280115 11/30/25	STR-CYLINDR RENT 11/1-11/31/	12.90			2500		430200	220		101000
	Total for Vendor:	26.23								
48271	1437 NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	1,314.24								
NATURAL GAS SERVICE										
112425 11/24/25	FAC-10/21/25-11/19/25	257.30			1000		411200	344		101000
112425 11/24/25	PD-10/21/25-11/19/25	66.04			1000		420100	344		101000
112425 11/24/25	FD-10/21/25-11/19/25	248.00			1000		420400	344		101000
112425 11/24/25	STRS-10/21/25-11/19/25	167.97			2500		430200	344		101000
112425 11/24/25	WTR-10/21/25-11/19/25	42.88			5210		430500	344		101000
112425 11/24/25	SWR-10/21/25-11/19/25	532.05			5310		430600	344		101000
	Total for Vendor:	1,314.24								
48280	2678 O'NEIL PRINTERS, INC	614.00								
2695 12/08/25	CRT-5000 WINDOW ENVELOPES	614.00			1000		410360	210		101000
	Total for Vendor:	614.00								
48258	2816 O'REILLY AUTO PARTS	383.21								
143946 11/26/25	PD-SNOW BRUSH (2)	39.98			1000		420100	212		101000
144269 11/30/25	PD-BATTERY TRAVEL TRUCK	223.99			1000		420100	361		101000
143744 11/25/25	STR-CLOCK SPRING	97.26			2500		430200	232		101000
144337 12/01/25	STR-MOTOR OIL	21.98			2500		430200	231		101000
	Total for Vendor:	383.21								

* ... Over spent expenditure

Claim/ Check	Vendor #/Name/ Invoice #/Inv Date/Description	Document $/ Line $	Disc $	PO #	Fund	Org	Acct	Object	Proj	Cash Account
48241	1042 SANDS SURVEYING, INC.	2,940.00								
40486	11/19/25 P/Z-ROUTINE SRV 10/20-11/18/25	2,940.00			1000		411000	399		101000
	Total for Vendor:	2,940.00								
48253	2858 SMITH'S PHARMACY #168	325.98								
10022025	11/20/25 FD-ON SITE FLU SHOTS (3)	325.98			1000		420400	390		101000
	Total for Vendor:	325.98								
48284 E	2852 SPECTRUM ENTERPRISE - CHARTER - AUTO PAY	324.99								
120625	12/06/25 SWR-INTERNET 12/06/25-1/05/26	165.00			5310		430600	345		101000
120125	12/01/25 PD-INTERNET 12/01/25-12/31/25	159.99			1000		420100	345		101000
	Total for Vendor:	324.99								
48259	3297 Staples, Inc	321.67								
6048282944	11/19/25 PRK-BROWN PAPER TOWELS	120.88			1000		460400	224		101000
6048282945	11/19/25 FD-SPIRAL NOTEBOOK	1.87*			1000		420400	210		101000
6048751497	11/25/25 P&Z- TONER	98.22*			1000		411000	210		101000
6049004818	11/26/25 FIN-COPY PAPER	33.56			1000		410500	210		101000
6049004818	11/26/25 WTR-COPY PAPER	33.57			5210		430500	210		101000
6049004818	11/26/25 SWR-COPY PAPER	33.57			5310		430600	210		101000
	Total for Vendor:	321.67								
48256	2699 THE MAIL ROOM, INC	402.09								
INVOICE #D127204	11/18/25-11/26/25									
D127204	11/30/25 PD-MAIL SRVS 11/18-11/26/25	15.08			1000		420100	310		101000
D127204	11/30/25 FIN-MAIL 11/18-11/26/25	22.83			1000		410500	310		101000
D127204	11/30/25 WTR-MAIL SRV 11/18-11/26/25	37.30			5210		430500	310		101000
D127204	11/30/25 SWR-MAIL SRV 11/18-11/26/25	37.30			5310		430600	310		101000
D127204	11/30/25 CRT-MAIL SRVS 11/18-11/26/25	230.87			1000		410360	310		101000
D127204	11/30/25 P&Z-MAIL SRVS 11/18-11/26/25	58.71			1000		411000	310		101000
	Total for Vendor:	402.09								

* ... Over spent expenditure

Claim/ Check	Vendor #/Name/ Invoice #/Inv Date/Description	Document $/ Line $	Disc $	PO #	Fund	Org	Acct	Object	Proj	Cash Account
48275	2923 TORGERSON'S LLC	190.16								
	WE DIDN'T PAY FOR THIS BUSHING ON CHECK #56107 BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T RECIEVE THE PART AND HAD TO REORDER. TALKED WITH ANNA 406-407-7230 ON 12/05/25 SHE SAID									
	IGNORE ANY LATE CHARGES THAT MIGHT COME ON THIS									
	19194 11/17/25 STR-#PART 87613427	190.16			2500		430200	232		101000
	Total for Vendor:	190.16								
48249	3016 TRANSUNION RISK AND ALTERNATIVE	190.00								
	202511 12/01/25 PD-CONTRACT 11/1-11/30/25	190.00			1000		420100	399		101000
	Total for Vendor:	190.00								
48268	3063 UTILITIES UNDERGROUND LOCATION	36.75								
	FEE FOR TICKETS FOR NOV 2025 (21)									
	5115074 11/30/25 WTR-NOV 2025 UDIGS	12.25			5210		430500	318		101000
	5115074 11/30/25 SWR-NOV 2025 UDIGS	12.25			5310		430600	318		101000
	5115074 11/30/25 STR-NOV 2025 UDIGS	12.25			2500		430200	318		101000
	Total for Vendor:	36.75								
48248	1134 VICTIM-WITNESS ADVOCATE PROGRAM	326.59								
	NOV 25 10/01/25 CRT-NOV 2025	326.59			2917		410360	356		101000
	Total for Vendor:	326.59								
48257	84 WESTERN BUILDING CENTER	160.58								
	1689031 11/21/25 SWR-SASH COTTON 50FT	6.49			5310		430600	240		101000
	1699303 12/01/25 FAC-OUTSIDE LIGHTS	107.94			1000		411200	220		101000
	1699303 12/01/25 FD-OUTSIDE LIGHTS	28.98			1000		420400	220		101000
	1699543 12/01/25 FAC-DECLOGGING SOLUTIONS	17.17			1000		411200	240		101000
	Total for Vendor:	160.58								
48238	E 2733 WEX Fleet Universal - Electronic	4,180.06								
	BILL CLOSING DATE 11/30/25									
	109020928 11/30/25 PD-NOV FUEL	2,049.38			1000		420100	231		101000
	109020928 11/30/25 FD-NOV FUEL	814.66			1000		420400	231		101000
	109020928 11/30/25 PRK-NOV FUEL	127.22			1000		460400	231		101000
	109020928 11/30/25 WTR-NOV FUEL	274.69			5210		430500	231		101000
	109020928 11/30/25 SWR-NOV FUEL	273.64			5310		430600	231		101000

* ... Over spent expenditure

Claim/ Check	Vendor #/Name/ Invoice #/Inv Date/Description	Document $/ Line $	Disc $	PO #	Fund	Org	Acct	Object	Proj	Cash Account
109020928	11/30/25 STR-NOV FUEL	631.96			2500		430200	231		101000
109020928	11/30/25 FAC-NOV FUEL	8.51			1000		411200	231		101000
	Total for Vendor:	4,180.06								
48261	1286 WICKLANDER-ZULAWSKI AND	891.00								
INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES 1/27/26-1/29/26										
39020	10/28/25 PD-INVESTIGATIVE A.GREEN	891.00			1000		420100	380		101000
	Total for Vendor:	891.00								
48254	3201 WILD HEART PSYCHOLOGY	800.00								
112625	11/26/25 PD-EVALUATION T.HENRY	800.00			1000		420100	390		101000
	Total for Vendor:	800.00								
48250	3235 Z&M ENTERPRISE, LLC	615.17								
WRONG PARTS SHIPPED										
1824	11/26/25 SWR-UV QUART SLEEVE NPLS	615.17			5310		430600	240		101000
	Total for Vendor:	615.17								
	# of Claims 48	Total:	143,623.34	# of Vendors 43						
	Total Electronic Claims		11,888.27							
	Total Non-Electronic Claims		131735.07							

Fund/Account	Amount
1000 GENERAL FUND	
101000 CASH/CASH EQUIVALENTS	31,374.82
2310 TAX INCREMENT DISTRICT FUND	
101000 CASH/CASH EQUIVALENTS	3,606.50
2350 Local Government Review	
101000 CASH/CASH EQUIVALENTS	273.96
2394 BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT FUND	
101000 CASH/CASH EQUIVALENTS	12,785.50
2400 SPECIAL LIGHTING DISTRICT FUND	
101000 CASH/CASH EQUIVALENTS	2,563.29
2500 SPECIAL STREET MAINTENANCE DISTRICT FUND	
101000 CASH/CASH EQUIVALENTS	2,794.53
2917 CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND	
101000 CASH/CASH EQUIVALENTS	326.59
2995 RAISE Grant	
101000 CASH/CASH EQUIVALENTS	45,561.53
4010 CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND - Parks	
101000 CASH/CASH EQUIVALENTS	322.10
5210 WATER ENTERPRISE FUND	
101000 CASH/CASH EQUIVALENTS	7,820.64
5310 SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND	
101000 CASH/CASH EQUIVALENTS	36,193.88
Total:	143,623.34

Council Meeting Date: December 15, 2025

Claims Submitted to Council:$ $143,623.34

Claims Denied/Withheld by Council Finance Committee:$_____ Claim #'s:_____

Prepared By: Jessica Rice, Finance Director

Jessica Rice

Approved by Eric Hanks, City Manager

Eric Hanks

City Council to Approve by motion on consent agenda

The claims noted below are non-routine or material in nature:

1. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc: $45,561.53 - CF Gateway to Glacier Safety & Mobility RAISE Grant preliminary engineering payment. (Fund 2995)
2. Morrison-Maierle, Inc.: $28,585.35 - Sidewalk & Parking phase 2, Sewer PER and Sewer on-call services. (Funds 2310 and 5310)

The remaining claims are routine in nature. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,
Jessica Rice
(406) 892-4327

Total for Payroll Checks

	Employee	Employer	Amount
ADDL HOURS (Additional)	0.00		12.00
COMP HOURS (Comp Time Used)	16.50		503.65
HOL HOURS (Holiday Pay)	647.10		22,305.75
HOLC HOURS (Holiday Worked @ 2.5x)	5.00		351.60
HOLW HOURS (Holiday Worked @ 2.5x)	73.50		5,818.01
J003 HOURS (PD HOL WK)	96.00		4,728.24
J008 HOURS (PD HOL WK OT)	24.00		2,107.44
J011 HOURS (OT COURT)	3.00		129.11
OVER HOURS (Overtime)	49.00		2,281.89
PERS HOURS (Personal Time Used)	12.00		481.56
REG HOURS (Regular Time)	2,211.25		74,527.81
SHFN HOURS (Shift B)	324.00		648.00
SHFQ HOURS (OVT B)	13.00		39.00
SHFU HOURS (Hol wk B)	72.00		360.00
SICK HOURS (Sick Time)	125.00		4,103.71
VACA HOURS (Vacation Time Used)	115.28		4,309.83

GROSS PAY	122,707.60	0.00
NET PAY	86,404.02	0.00
AFLAC-POSTTAX	86.97	0.00
AFLAC-PRETAX	249.32	0.00
CITY OF COLUMBI	20.00	0.00
FIT	10,595.88	0.00
FLEX ALLEGIANCE	1,012.50	25.00
FOP	450.00	0.00
HEALTHINS/PRE	4,079.30	31,516.90
MEDICARE	1,735.37	1,735.37
MT ST FIRE ASSO	115.68	0.00
MUTUAL OF OMAHA	286.90	0.00
NATIONWIDE/CITY	0.00	2,315.12
NATIONWIDE/EMP	200.00	0.00
P.E.R.S.	4,768.05	5,474.21
PERS/FURS	1,237.76	1,661.14
PERS/POLICE	3,165.43	5,068.20
SIT	3,980.00	0.00
SOCIAL SECURITY	4,049.42	4,049.42
TEAMSTERS DUES	271.00	0.00
UNEMPL. INSUR.	0.00	674.90
WORKERS' COMP	0.00	3,918.23
CHARLES SCHWAB	1,925.44	0.00
FIRST INTERSTAT	1,336.34	0.00
FREEDOM BANK	4,702.89	0.00
GLACIER BANK KA	8,306.89	0.00
GLACIER BANK MS	3,259.19	0.00
GLACIER BANK/CF	23,996.32	0.00
GLACIER BANK/WF	2,250.42	0.00
MORGAN STANLEY	4,406.79	0.00
NAVY FEDERAL CR	3,055.36	0.00
PARKSIDE CR U	14,587.17	0.00

Dec. 5, 2025
Payroll
$ 138,062.57
Dawn Haaland

STOCKMAN BANK	2,017.04	0.00
USAA FEDERAL	1,499.85	0.00
WELLS FARGO	2,992.71	0.00
WELLS FARGO, TX	3,065.76	0.00
WFISH CR UNION	9,001.85	0.00
FIT/SIT BASE	107,995.24	0.00
MEDICARE BASE	119,681.60	0.00
PERS BASE	107,094.20	0.00
SOC SEC BASE	65,313.42	0.00
UN BASE	122,707.60	0.00
WC BASE	118,922.90	0.00

Total 56,438.49
Total Payroll Expense (Gross Pay + Employer Contributions): 179,146.09

Check Summary

Payroll Checks Prev. Out.	$1,007.21
Payroll Checks Issued	$2,650.80
Payroll Checks Redeemed	$113.52
Payroll Checks Outstanding	$3,544.49
Electronic Checks	$135,411.77

Deductions Accrued		Carried Forward From Previous Month	Deduction Checks Issued	Difference	Liab Account
Social Security	8,098.84		8,098.84		212260
Medicare	3,470.74		3,470.74		212260
P.E.R.S.	10,242.26		10,242.26		212270
Unempl. Insur.	674.90	3,111.49		3,786.39	212210
Workers' Comp	3,918.23	18,039.25		21,957.48	212220
FIT	10,595.88		10,595.88		212260
SIT	3,980.00		3,980.00		212260
AFLAC-PRETAX	249.32	249.32		498.64	212230
NATIONWIDE/EMP	200.00		200.00		212280
Teamsters dues	271.00	271.00		542.00	212310
PERS/Police	8,233.63		8,233.63		212240
NATIONWIDE/CITY	2,315.12		2,315.12		212280
AFLAC-POSTTAX	86.97	86.97		173.94	212230
PERS/FURS	2,898.90		2,898.90		212275
MT ST FIRE ASSO	115.68		115.68		212315
HEALTHINS/PRE	35,596.20	35,596.20		71,192.40	212400
CITY OF COLUMBI	20.00		20.00		212450
FLEX ALLEGIANCE	1,037.50		1,037.50		212285
FOP	450.00		450.00		212335
MUTUAL OF OMAHA	286.90	286.90		573.80	212400
Total Ded.	92,742.07	57,641.13	51,658.55	98,724.65	

**** Carried Forward column only correct if report run for current period.

CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HELD DECEMBER 01, 2025

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

ROLL CALL: Councilor King, Councilor Lovering, Councilor Piper, Councilor Price, Councilor Robinson, Councilor Shepard and Mayor Barnhart.

Also present: City Manager Hanks, City Clerk Staaland, City Attorney Breck, Finance Director Rice, Public Works Director Bates and Police Chief Stephens.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Councilor Piper motioned to amend the agenda to include the Notice of Public Hearing amending the 25-26 FY Budget right after Visitor/Public Comment, seconded by Councilor Robinson and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Councilor Lovering made motion to approve the consent agenda noting all claims appeared to be in order, seconded by Councilor Shepard and the motion carried unanimously.
Approval of Claims - Dec. 1, 2025 - $155,421.90
Approval of Payroll Claims - Nov. 21, 2025 - $198,607.97
Approval of November 17, 2025, Council Minutes

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Items not on agenda)
Gary Hall thanked City Manager Hanks for his Manager's Report included in the council packet.

Kyle Tradoffer, 626 7th Ave W., said the alley behind his house is 8th Avenue. He stated he had heard the City would be reviewing it for maintenance and was checking on the status of that information.

Notice of Public Hearing: Amending the 25-26 Fiscal Year Budget
Mayor Barnhart read the Notice of Public Hearing.
Finance Director Rice explained that the proposed budget adjustment relates to unforeseen issues with a dump truck at the wastewater treatment plant. Staff recommend transferring funds from the operating account to the capital account to be prepared if a replacement is needed. The notice was published for the required two consecutive weeks. Rice stated the resolution will come before council on December 15th.

The City Manager reported staff has been working on the dump truck and believes it can remain operable for the next several months. Although a purchase may not be necessary, staff recommend proceeding with the amendment as a precaution.

With no public comment Mayor Barnhart opened and closed the public hearing at 7:06 p.m.

Councilor King motioned to approve the Budget Amendment, seconded by Councilor Price with council voting as follows. Ayes: Robinson, Shepard, King, Lovering, Piper, Price and Barnhart.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Nexus CPA Group has completed the independent audit of the City of Columbia Falls' financial statements for Fiscal Year 2024, ending June 30, 2024. The audit was conducted in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS) and the requirements of the Montana Department of Administration.

Finance Director Rice stated the City had findings related to timeliness but has resolved the issue and is now back in compliance. Nexus will also begin work on the FY 2025 audit.

Councilor Price asked about the 51-year promissory note with Teakettle Vista. Rice explained that an external firm conducts their required annual audit and submits it to the City. Price also asked about building permit fee calculations; Attorney Breck said the city follows the uniform code.

Councilor Robinson made motion to approve the Nexus CPA Group Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Audit Report, seconded by Councilor Lovering with council voting as follows. Ayes: Shepard, King, Lovering, Piper, Price, Robinson and Barnhart.

Downtown Sidewalk and Parking Project Phase II

Requesting authorization to sign a contract with Knife River for construction of the Downtown Sidewalk and Parking Phase II project in 2026.

City Manager Hanks reported that three bids were received. The low bid from Knife River was $699,699, well below the engineer's estimate of $967,000. Other bids included LHC at $871,000 and J.D. Thinning at $904,000. Staff recommend awarding the contract to Knife River. Hanks noted staff will continue increased public outreach in the affected areas.

Councilor Piper made motion to authorize the City Manager to sign a contract with Knife River for construction of the Downtown Sidewalk and Parking Phase II project in 2026, seconded by Councilor Lovering with Council voting as follows. Ayes: King, Lovering, Piper, Price, Robinson, Shepard and Barnhart.

NEW BUSINESS:

River's Edge Fishing Pier Grant Award Memorandum of Understanding

Requesting authorization to accept a $70,000 matching grant award from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) William Kamps Fund for a public fishing pond accessibility upgrade at River's Edge Park.

City Manager Hanks reported he has been working closely with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) on the fishing pond. From the original construction, the intent was always to add accessibility features. Staff presented the project as part of the City's FY26 Parks and Recreation priorities, and FWP was supportive. FWP secured a $70,000 matching grant from the William Camps Fund for construction of an accessible fishing pier.

Mayor Barnhart asked about asphalt access to the site, noting only one side currently has asphalt. The project includes the fishing pier, concrete slabs that function as steps into the pond, and ADA-accessible fishing stations. These items will be reviewed further at the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting scheduled for December 8, where all River's Edge projects for 2026 will be discussed said Hanks.

Mayor Barnhart also asked about long-term maintenance responsibilities and whether resort tax funds would be used. City Manager Hanks recommended using the general fund for ongoing maintenance and reserving

resort tax revenue for targeted capital projects. He noted similar FWP projects in Region 1 have required very little maintenance.

Hanks added that the city will use the same engineering firm for construction engineering oversight, as was done for the skate park and other projects.

Mayor Barnhart asked if any significant environmental permitting costs were anticipated, such as through the Army Corps of Engineers or DEQ. Public Works Director Bates stated he does not expect any major costs associated with required permits.

Councilor Lovering motioned to authorize the City Manager to sign a MOU with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to accept a grant award for $70,000 for the River's Edge Fishing Pond Accessibility Project, seconded by Councilor Robinson with council voting as follows. Ayes: Lovering, Piper, Price, Robinson, Shepard, King and Barnhart.

Road Condition Structural Assessment and Street Project Updates

City Manager Hanks reported that he and Public Works Director Bates will be providing informational updates on road and street conditions twice annually, once during the budget cycle and once at this time of year to review upcoming fiscal year projects and current street assessments. The City uses the iWorks pavement management software to evaluate road conditions and plan future projects.

Based on current assessments, the City has approximately 1.75 miles of critical roadway (shown in red on the map), mostly short one-block segments; 1.25 miles of deficient roadway (shown in yellow); and one unpaved roadway, 4th Avenue East, which was originally designed as an alley. Staff will explore options over the next year to plan a capital improvement project to construct that roadway. Two areas of critical drainage deficiency were also identified: Talbot/4th Avenue and the south portion of Meadowlake Boulevard.

Hanks reviewed several major projects:

- Safety and Mobility Project: A $10.5 million project (with $10 million in federal funding and $500,000 from the city), including 1.3 miles of roadway, 1.7 miles of sidewalks, and one mile of multi-use pathways. The project also replaces critical water mains and improves parking and stormwater drainage.
- Downtown Sidewalk & Parking Project Phase II**:** A $700,000 project previously discussed, improving sidewalks, parking, and stormwater drainage around Nucleus Avenue.
- Railroad Street Multi-Use Path (MDT-Led)**:** A $1.6 million project extending the multi-use path from 4th Avenue/Truck Route north along Railroad Street to the viaduct. Construction is anticipated in 2026, with more information forthcoming from MDT.
- Chip Seal Program: $235,000 budgeted from the gas tax fund for chip seal work in several areas highlighted in blue on the map.

Hanks also presented financial considerations showing the limits of the street maintenance fund relative to the high cost of full street reconstruction.

Mayor Barnhart asked Public Works Director Bates to address the earlier inquiry from Kyle Tradoffer regarding the alley behind his property. Bates stated he does not believe it is classified as a street but will take a closer look and meet with Mr. Tradoffer at a later date.

ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS:

Tabled - SECOND READING - Ordinance #835 - Columbia Falls Police Department, desires to amend Chapter 9 Part 20 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code by adding Section 030 making it a criminal offense to expose a child or children to domestic violence.

City Manager Hanks explained that the proposed ordinance defining exposure of a child or children to domestic violence as a criminal offense would be open for public comment, but staff recommended that Council delay the second reading. Additional information was identified over the past week that requires further research to ensure alignment with state law. He noted that he, the City Attorney, and Police Chief Stephens will continue reviewing the matter over the next two weeks and bring it back for a second reading at a later date.

Police Chief Stephens reviewed Ordinances 836 through 840. Ordinance 836 outlines definitions of bicycles, motor scooters, e-bikes, mopeds, sidewalks, and wheeled devices under the Montana Code Annotated. Ordinance 837 requires compliance with speed limits on sidewalks and public pathways. Ordinance 838 establishes penalties for violations. Ordinance 839 clarifies that any vehicle operated on a sidewalk or pathway must be propelled by pedal power and may not rely solely on an electronic drive, except for personal mobility devices such as electric wheelchairs. Ordinance 840 requires all riders of bicycles or similar vehicles to obey the rules of the road and requires riders under 18 years of age to wear a helmet.

Ed Albright, 1010 Nucleus Avenue spoke regarding the e-bike ordinances. He described his long involvement with e-bikes and noted that issues on trails are often caused by user behavior rather than the bikes themselves. He stated that e-bikes can cause less trail damage than traditional bicycles, depending on how they are ridden. He expressed concern that a few bad actors are driving policy decisions and urged the Council not to restrict responsible users. He described the difficulty in visually distinguishing e-bikes by class or speed capability and questioned the feasibility of enforcement. He suggested training and certification for riders under age 16, as well as voluntary inspections or identification stickers to help address improper use. He emphasized the potential impact on seniors and people with disabilities, on local bike shops and e-bike rental businesses, and on tax revenue. He also noted differing federal policies between the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service and mentioned ongoing ADA considerations related to e-bike access.

Councilor Shepard asked for clarification about the recent incident involving a youth rider. Police Chief Stephens confirmed it involved an e-motorcycle traveling approximately 40 miles per hour on a sidewalk. Shepard also asked about the ADA implications raised by Mr. Albright. City Attorney Breck explained that ADA protections for mobility devices apply only to individuals with qualifying disabilities, though exceptions exist for safety concerns. He added that ADA protections do not extend to general high-speed recreational use.

Mayor Barnhart stated that the intent of the ordinances is to reinforce existing traffic laws and to enhance safety, including requiring helmets for anyone under age 18. He noted that the goal is not only to prevent accidents but to protect both riders and pedestrians.

After further council discussion Mayor Barnhart made a motion to table ordinances 835-840 until further research is completed, seconded by Councilor Price with council voting as follows. Ayes: Piper, Price, Robinson, King, Lovering and Barnhart. Noes: Shepard.

Tabled - SECOND READING - Ordinance #836 - Adding a Section 070 providing definitions pertaining to the use operation of bicycles, electrically assisted bicycles and other electrically assisted and motor assisted vehicles and wheeled devices on public sidewalks, public paths, and within public parks.

Tabled - SECOND READING - Ordinance #837 - To amend Chapter 10 Part 72 Section 040 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code requiring obedience with traffic control devices by bicycles, electrically assisted bicycles and other electrically assisted and motor assisted vehicles and other wheeled devices on public sidewalks, roadways, and paths.

Tabled - SECOND READING - Ordinance #838 - To amend Chapter 10 Part 72 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code by adding a Section 080 providing penalties that may be imposed by law enforcement for violations of the ordinances contained with Chapter 10 part 72.

Tabled - SECOND READING - Ordinance #839 - To amend Chapter 10 Part 72 Section 050 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code regulating the operation of bicycles, electrically assisted bicycles and other electrically assisted and motor assisted vehicles and wheeled devices on public sidewalks, public paths, and within public parks.

Tabled - SECOND READING - Ordinance #840 - Regulating the use of bicycles and electrically assisted bicycles and other electrically and motor assisted vehicles on public roadways, public sidewalks and public paths.

REPORTS / BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

Councilor King reported she will be absent from the December 15th council meeting.

Councilor Price said this Friday is the Night of Lights Parade at 6:00 p.m.

Councilor Shepard noted he drove along Highway 2 today and was impressed by the number of businesses clearing snow from their sidewalks.

Councilor Lovering expressed concern about children entering the street during the upcoming parade to collect candy, especially with icy conditions. She asked the Chief Stephens about safety measures. Chief Stephens stated the department will monitor the parade route and work to keep people back, though it is challenging over such a long area. Attempts to use rope and delineators last year were ineffective, and he hopes parents will help monitor their children.

Mayor Barnhart emphasized the importance of having the State remove the snow berm down the center of Nucleus Avenue.

Mayor Barnhart also noted that while some businesses are diligently shoveling their sidewalks, others have not made any attempt.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

The City Manager provided an update on several ongoing projects and upcoming meetings:

- November 20th public utility infrastructure meeting was well attended, with over 30 participants. The engineers provided a helpful overview of current infrastructure conditions and addressed numerous questions.
- December 8, 5:00 p.m. - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting**:** Discussion will focus on the River's Edge Master Plan projects, along with the e-bike topic.
- December 11 - Planning Commission**:** The commission will review utility infrastructure capacity allocation in relation to current development needs.
- December 15 – City Council Meeting Agenda Items**:**
- Continued discussion on utility infrastructure capacity.
- Swearing-in of the judge for the next year.
- Swearing-in of two new firefighters, bringing staffing to 29 of 30 positions.
- Swearing-in of one new police officer, with another officer scheduled for January. Both police candidates have passed all required testing.
- Study Commission**:** The next scheduled meeting for final adoption of the Local Government Study Commission report is January 21. There is discussion about adding another meeting before January 21; information will be posted on the city website once confirmed.
- Engineering / PER Progress: Staff continues to work with both engineering teams on their Preliminary Engineering Reports. Clarification of existing- and current conditions data is underway, with follow-up meetings planned over the next one to two weeks.
- Meadowlake District Meeting: City staff will meet with the Meadowlake Sewer & Water District Board on December 12 to discuss wastewater service and review current engineering study findings.
- Public Works & Planning: Interviews for the Water Operator position will be conducted tomorrow. One applicant applied and appears to be a qualified candidate.
- Highway 2 Sidewalks: The Streets Crew cleared snow from several areas along Highway 2 where businesses had not yet cleared their sidewalks. Staff also did excellent work clearing roads after the recent heavy snowfall.
- Land Use Planning Act – Plan of Action & Milestones: An updated POA&M was provided in the City Manager's report.
  The Planning Commission will join the City Council's second January meeting to review survey results and the existing-conditions report for the Montana Land Use Planning Act. A debrief will also be provided.
- Community Survey: The community survey closes December 11. Additional promotions will continue through social media this week. Current response levels (165–170) remain below the preferred target of 250–300 for a city of this size.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Mayor Barnhart noted that the recent interview posted on the City's Facebook page was well-received by the community. He also highlighted the popularity of Officer McConnell's reading to elementary students, which garnered approximately 14,000 views.

Finance Director Rice clarified the HOME grant. The city sponsored Tea Kettle through a 1% HOME program loan, with repayment not guaranteed. Payments received are used to support other low-income housing projects, including Mitchell Way and 3rd Avenue East. Revenue is recognized only when the loan reaches its balloon payment, and payments are required only if the borrower can afford them. The funds involved are entirely federal grant dollars, not local taxpayer money.

ADJOURN:

Councilor Lovering motioned to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. seconded by Councilor King.

_____

Mayor

_____

City Clerk

COLUMBIA FALLS
MONTANA

City Council
Agenda Item Summary

Title: Contract with Montana League of Cities and Towns – FY 2025 Annual Financial Report (AFR)

Date: December 11, 2025

Staff Contact: Jessica Rice

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY:
Contract with the Montana League of Cities and Towns for Preparation of the FY 2025 Annual Financial Report (AFR).

BACKGROUND:
For the past several years, the City's Annual Financial Report (AFR) has been prepared by independent contractors. For the FY 2025 AFR, the City is proposing to contract with the Montana League of Cities and Towns to prepare the report, which is due to the State of Montana by December 31st of each year. In addition to completing the AFR, the League can work directly with City staff throughout the process, providing training and guidance so the City can build the internal capacity to prepare future AFRs in-house.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:
The League charges an hourly rate of $70 per hour and estimates that completing the AFR will require 40–60 hours ($2,800-$4,200), depending on complexity and year-end conditions.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:
Approve entering into a contract with the Montana League of Cities and Towns to prepare the FY 2025 Annual Financial Report at an hourly rate of $70, with an estimated total of 40–60 hours.

SUGGESTED MOTION:
I move to approve the contract with the Montana League of Cities and Towns for preparation of the FY 2025 Annual Financial Report and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.

ATTACHMENTS:
- Montana League of Cities and Towns – Agreement for Municipal Financial Services – FY 2025 AFR

AGREEMENT FOR MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into by and between the **MONTANA LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS**, a 501(c)(4) non-profit association located at 700 West Custer Avenue, Helena, MT 59602, hereinafter referred to as "MLCT," and **CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS**, a municipal corporation located at 130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, MT 59912, hereinafter referred to as "Municipality," collectively referred to as "Parties."

1. **Purpose**. Provide municipal financial services to Municipality.

2. **Effective Date and Term**. This Agreement is effective December 15, 2025 and will terminate on June 30, 2026. Any extension of the term of this Agreement must be set forth in writing and executed by both Parties.

3. **Scope of Services**. MLCT will perform and complete municipal financial services as follows:
   A. Financial Report Preparation. Prepare annual finance report along with yearly closing entries including all GASB adjustments, documenting and accounting for all assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenditures.

4. **Payment**.
   A. Municipality agrees to pay MLCT a rate of $70 per hour for the performance of Section 3. Scope of Services for the duration of this Agreement.
   B. MLCT will send a monthly invoice at the beginning of each month, payable to MLCT within 30 days of receipt. The monthly invoice will be sent to the Municipality liaison. Municipality understands and agrees that the monthly invoice does not necessarily reflect the number of hours worked or services performed by MLCT during any given month.
   C. In addition to the monthly invoiced amount, Municipality also agrees to pay for travel costs, which may include state rate mileage and actual costs for lodging and meals related to any performance or completion of Section 3. Scope of Services. MLCT will bill the Municipality upon occurrence and include travel charges in the monthly invoice.
   D. Any alteration or deviation from Section 3. Scope of Services, must be requested by the Municipality in writing to MLCT and agreed upon by the Parties through execution of a written amendment to this Agreement prior to the performance of these services. Such alterations or deviations will be charged at $70 per hour over and above the original contract amount.
   E. If the Municipality provides a notice of termination pursuant to Section 12. Termination, all work completed and services performed to date must be paid in full at the rate of $70 per hour plus travel costs. At the end of the termination notice period, MLCT will invoice such hourly charges and travel costs in excess of monthly payments received to date, and the Municipality agrees to pay the final invoice within 30 days of receipt.

5. **Warranty and Limitations of Services**.
   A. MLCT warrants that the services provided conform to the contract requirements, including all descriptions, specifications, and amendments made part of this Agreement

and that MLCT will perform the services in accordance with generally accepted standards currently in use with similar type projects with other municipalities in Montana.

B. Municipality warrants the governing body will review, finalize, and attest to all financial statements, budgets, reports, and other activities generated or recommended by MLCT. MLCT is acting solely in an advisory capacity under this Agreement, assisting with the Scope of Services.

C. This Agreement cannot be relied upon by the Municipality to disclose fraud or other illegal acts that may exist. However, MLCT will inform Municipality's liaison for the Agreement of any material errors or inconsistencies that are discovered in the normal course of performing the Scope of Services.

D. The Parties agree that MLCT has the authority and right to provide updates to the governing body of the Municipality of any and all financial services provided and of any material errors or inconsistencies discovered in the normal course of performing the Scope of Services. Failure of the Municipality to provide such access to the governing body is grounds for immediate termination of this Agreement.

6. **Independent MLCT Status**. The Parties agree that MLCT is an independent contractor for purposes of this Agreement and is not to be considered an employee of the Municipality for any purpose. MLCT is not subject to the terms and provisions of the Municipality's personnel policies handbook and may not be considered a Municipality employee for workers' compensation or any other purpose. MLCT is not authorized to represent the Municipality or otherwise bind the Municipality in any dealings between MLCT and any third parties.

7. **Hold Harmless and Indemnification**. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Parties shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless each other, their appointed officials, officers, agents, directors, and employees, from and against all claims, damages, losses and expenses, including the cost of defense thereof, to the extent caused by or arising out of either Parties' negligent or allegedly negligent acts, errors, or omissions in work or services performed under this Agreement.

8. **Compliance with Laws**. The parties agree to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations.

9. **Records Access and Retention**. The Parties agree to create and retain records supporting the services rendered or goods delivered in connection with this Agreement. Each Party agrees, to the extent permitted by law, to provide the other Party access to any such records at the its request. Either Party may terminate this Agreement if the other Party refuses to allow access to records as provided in this section. The Municipality understands and agrees it is required to retain any records concerning the services rendered under this Agreement in accordance with State of Montana records retention requirements.

10. **Notice**. Any notice or demand required or permitted to be given under the terms of this Agreement must be in writing to the Party's Liaison as established in this Agreement. Written

notice shall be deemed given when hand-delivered, when mailed by first class mail to the addresses specified in this section, or by electronic correspondence, such as e-mail.

11. Liaison.

A. The Municipality's liaison for purposes associated with this Agreement is:

Name: Eric Hanks, City Manager
Address: 130 6th Street W, Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Phone: 406.892.4384
E-Mail: citymanager@cityofcolumbiafalls.com

B. The MLCT's liaison for purposes associated with this Agreement is:

Name: Jodi Rogers, Municipal Finance Program Director
Address: PO Box 7388 Helena, MT 59604-7388
Phone: 406-431-3638
E-Mail: jodi.rogers@mtleague.org

C. If either Party changes address or contact person, it must notify the other Party in writing and sent to the address or e-mail provided in this section.

12. Termination. Either party may terminate this Agreement with 30 business days' notice made in accordance with the provision in the "Notice" section of this Agreement unless terminated as otherwise set forth herein. All work completed and service performed after the last invoice and before the end of the termination notice must be paid in full within 30 days of the end of the termination notice period.

13. Failure to Enforce Not a Waiver. Either Party's failure, at any time, to enforce or to seek strict compliance with any provision of this Agreement or to exercise any right or remedy arising from the breach thereof does not constitute a waiver of that provision or remedy or of any other provision of this Agreement or available remedy.

14. Amendment. All amendments, extensions, alterations, or deviations to this Agreement must be in writing and executed by the Parties to this Agreement prior to the performance of any services authorized in the Amendment.

15. Governing Law and Venue. This Agreement and any amendments hereof shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Montana. If a dispute arises, the proper venue for the hearing of the case is the District Court of the First Judicial District of the State of Montana, in and for the County of Lewis and Clark.

16. Severability. If any term or provision of this Agreement is held to be illegal, void or in conflict with any Montana law, the validity of the remaining terms and conditions shall not be affected. The rights and obligations of the Parties shall be construed and enforced as if this Agreement did not contain the particular term, condition, or provision held to be invalid.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the dates stated below.

FOR THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS

Signed: _____
Dated:_____
By: Eric Hanks, City Manager

FOR THE MLCT

Signed: _____
Dated: _____
By: Kelly A. Lynch, Executive Director

COLUMBIA FALLS
MONTANA

City Council
Agenda Item Summary

Title: River's Edge Park Fishing Pier Construction Oversite

Date: 12/11/2025

Staff Contact: Shawn Bates, PWD

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY: Engineering oversight for the River's Edge Park Fishing Pier Project in accordance with the scope of work provided by WGM Group.

BACKGROUND: The city frequently relies on engineering firms to provide oversight and ensure proper management of construction projects.

ANALYSIS: WGM Group would deliver oversight for the bidding and contract documents, along with construction administration, inspections, and construction staking.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS: The cost of WGM Groups scope of service is $22,560

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: I recommend that the city enter into a contract with WGM Group to provide construction oversight for the River's Edge Park Fishing Pier Project.

ATTACHMENTS: WGM Group Inc., Rivers Edge Park Fishing Pier Construction – Scope of services. (5 pages)

WGMGROUP
Community Values. Inspired Futures.

December 5, 2025

Client: **Eric Hanks, City Manager**
City of Columbia Falls
130 6th St. West
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

RE: Contract for Professional Services at Standard Fee Rates
Project Description: River's Edge Park Fishing Pier - Construction Services

Dear Eric:

WGM Group, Inc. (WGM) agrees to provide services for the above-referenced project as described in the attached scope of services with estimate provided to Shawn Bates on December 5, 2025. Our standard fee rates are also included in the attached Exhibit A. All work will be performed in accordance with generally accepted standards of professional care.

Invoices will be prepared monthly from actual time worked by personnel assigned to the project plus direct expenses using our standard rates, as indicated in the attached Exhibit A, which are subject to change annually. Client agrees to pay invoices in full within 30 days of the invoice date, or contact us if our services are not satisfactory. Interest at the rate of 0.833% per month (10% per annum) will be added to unpaid invoices after 30 days and WGM may, without liability, terminate service. Payments will be credited first to interest and then to principal.

WGM and Client agree that the project scope of services may change due to unforeseen circumstances or at the Client's direction. WGM will keep Client apprised of anticipated project cost changes and prepare updated estimates for Client approval as requested. WGM reserves the right to terminate this contract after a seven-day notice if Client insists upon a course of action with which WGM has a fundamental disagreement or if performance of services is rendered unreasonably difficult due to actions of the Client. Client may terminate or suspend services after a five-day notice and WGM will be paid for all work satisfactorily performed through the date of termination or suspension.

WGM looks forward to continuing to work with you on this project. If the terms of this agreement are acceptable, please sign this letter in the space provided below and return a copy to us.

Sincerely,
WGM Group, Inc.

Stephanie A. Reynolds

Stephanie A. Reynolds, PE
Senior Project Engineer

Client: City of Columbia Falls

_____ _____
(sign) (date)

_____ _____
(printed name) (title)

1111 East Broadway, Missoula, MT 59802 | **OFFICE** 406.728.4611 | **EMAIL** wgm@wgmgroup.com

December 5, 2025

Shawn Bates
Public Works Director
City of Columbia Falls
130 6th St West
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Sent via email to: batess@cityofcolumbiafalls.com

Re: River's Edge Park Fishing Pier Construction – Scope of Services

Dear Shawn:

WGM Group, Inc. (WGM) is pleased to present this proposal for the professional services affiliated with bidding and construction of the River's Edge Park pond improvements to include a fishing pier, ADA accessible path, slabs, and stands, in accordance with the design plans completed earlier this year. This proposal defines the services for preparing bid documents, facilitating a public bid process, submittal review, contractor coordination, and project closeout.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

WGM will provide the following services now that the design phases 01 through 05 are complete:

Phase 06: Contract Documents and Bidding

WGM will prepare contract documents for project construction and publicly advertise the project for bid. The following tasks are included:

- Prepare contract documents and specifications
- Prepare bid advertisement
- Answer contractor bid questions
- Conduct a pre-bid meeting
- Complete contract addenda (if necessary)
- Open bids, provide a certified bid tab, and prepare an award recommendation
- Provide QA/QC by a Professional Engineer

Deliverables: Contract documents, bid tabulation, award recommendation

Phase 07: Construction Administration and Observation Services

Once the project moves into construction, WGM will administer the project in accordance with the contract documents, specifications, and approved plans. WGM will also provide final documentation to the City to complete the closeout process. The following tasks are included:

- Review contractor bonds and insurance, prepare executed project manual
- Review and process contractor pay requests and submittals
- Conduct three (3) construction site visits at pre-determined construction milestones
- Review materials testing reports provided by contractor

- Coordinate with subconsultants Alpine Geotech and Cushing Terrell (formerly Eclipse Engineering) on any geotechnical or structural questions or submittals during construction.
- Prepare contract change orders (if necessary)
- Complete post-construction walk-through with contractor and City
- Prepare construction punch list and observe completion
- Prepare record drawings
- Provide closeout documents to City
- Provide QA/QC by a Professional Engineer

Deliverables: Executed project manual, construction site visit reports (if requested), change orders (if requested), record drawings, post-construction submittals, documentation (as required).

Phase 08: Construction Staking
WGM will provide construction staking and coordinate with the contractor on the timing of setting stakes and offsets. The following tasks are included:

- Prepare construction staking plan
- Re-establish onsite survey control points (if required)
- Provide construction staking for location of new features

Deliverables: Onsite staking

ADDITIONAL SERVICES
Services not specifically described in the phases above are not included in this scope of work.

FEE ESTIMATE
Our fees will be billed on a time and materials basis with a budget estimate of **$22,560**. Please note that Phase 07 includes an estimate of $3,850 for subconsultant services during construction. Fees are valid through August 2026 (see Exhibit A) and may need to be adjusted if the project extends beyond this date. Fees may need to be adjusted based on any changes to the information provided in this proposal.

COST SUMMARY	
06 – Contract Documents and Bidding	$ 5,058
07 – Construction Administration and Observation	$ 14,841
08 – Construction Staking	$2,661
TOTAL	**$ 22,560**

SCHEDULE
We are prepared to begin work immediately upon receipt of a signed contract.

We trust that our proposal meets your expectations. However, if our understanding of the project is inaccurate, please contact us for a revised proposal. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this project. If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to give me a call at (406) 241-7712 or email me at sreynolds@wgmgroup.com.

Sincerely,
WGM Group, Inc.

Stephanie A. Reynolds, P.E.
Senior Project Engineer

Enclosure: Exhibit A – WGM Standard Rates

W:\Projects\190314\00 Project Management\Scope-Fee\Fishing Pond Pier\Bidding\WGM Scope of Services - River's Edge Fishing Pier Construction (12-5-25).docx

Exhibit A
Standard Rates - 2026

Staff Type			Rate
210	Senior Principal Engineer	Hr	$ 265.00
215	Senior Consultant	Hr	$ 235.00
220	Principal Engineer	Hr	$ 247.00
235	Senior Project Engineer 2	Hr	$ 225.00
230	Senior Project Engineer	Hr	$ 210.00
240	Project Engineer 2	Hr	$ 192.00
245	Project Engineer 1	Hr	$ 180.00
250	Senior Traffic Engineer	Hr	$ 225.00
263	Senior Transportation Consultant	Hr	$ 280.00
265	Senior Transportation Engineer 2	Hr	$ 240.00
279	Staff Engineer/EI 4	Hr	$ 164.00
280	Staff Engineer/EI 3	Hr	$ 158.00
281	Staff Engineer/EI 2	Hr	$ 130.00
282	Staff Engineer/EI 1	Hr	$ 122.00
283	Engineer Technician 3	Hr	$ 156.00
284	Engineer Technician 2	Hr	$ 130.00
285	Engineer Technician 1	Hr	$ 122.00
290	Seasonal Intern	Hr	$ 86.00
508	Senior Construction Project Manager	Hr	$ 220.00
507	QA/QC Representative	Hr	$ 206.00
512	Construction Project Manager	Hr	$ 198.00
514	Construction Representative	Hr	$ 174.00
315	Sanitarian	Hr	$ 180.00
310	Principal Planner	Hr	$ 265.00
312	Senior Land Planner	Hr	$ 196.00
314	Land Planner 2	Hr	$ 180.00
308	Land Planner 1	Hr	$ 139.00
316	Planning Technician	Hr	$ 125.00
320	Senior Landscape Architect/Planner	Hr	$ 210.00
330	Senior Landscape Architect	Hr	$ 240.00
340	Landscape Architect 2	Hr	$ 174.00
350	Landscape Architect 1	Hr	$ 142.00
355	Landscape Designer	Hr	$ 116.00
354	Landscape Intern	Hr	$ 84.00
353	Graphic Designer	Hr	$ 153.00
450	Senior Hydrologist	Hr	$ 252.00
445	Hydrologist 2	Hr	$ 157.00
451	Hydrologist 1	Hr	$ 142.00
454	Senior Scientist	Hr	$ 221.00
448	Scientist 2	Hr	$ 157.00
444	Scientist 1	Hr	$ 146.00
447	Senior Environmental Engineer	Hr	$ 221.00
452	Environmental Engineer	Hr	$ 192.00
446	Environmental Field Technician	Hr	$ 125.00
453	Senior Geologist	Hr	$ 225.00
456	Geologist	Hr	$ 175.00
455	Senior Project Manager	Hr	$ 235.00
460	Water Resource Specialist 3	Hr	$ 200.00
465	Water Resource Specialist 2	Hr	$ 194.00
466	Water Resource Specialist 1	Hr	$ 170.00
469	Water Right Technician 3	Hr	$ 161.00
470	Water Right Technician 2	Hr	$ 136.00
471	Water Right Technician 1	Hr	$ 130.00
475	GIS Specialist	Hr	$ 139.00
520	Senior Land Surveyor	Hr	$ 228.00
525	Land Surveyor 3	Hr	$ 206.00
527	Land Surveyor 2	Hr	$ 187.00
530	Land Surveyor 1	Hr	$ 182.00
540	Staff Surveyor/ LSI	Hr	$ 165.00

WGMGROUP

Staff Type			Rate
560	Survey Crew Chief	Hr	$ 161.00
550	Survey Technician	Hr	$ 147.00
580	Two-Person Crew	Hr	$ 230.00
590	Three-Person Crew	Hr	$ 260.00
610	Senior CAD Designer	Hr	$ 158.00
605	CAD Designer	Hr	$ 137.00
600	CAD Technician	Hr	$ 120.00
700	Project Coordinator 2	Hr	$ 139.00
705	Project Coordinator 1	Hr	$ 132.00
710	Project Assistant 2	Hr	$ 132.00
715	Project Assistant 1	Hr	$ 120.00
730	Administrative Assistant	Hr	$ 103.00

WGMGROUP

Project Expenses

Consultants, Contractors	Cost +10%
Direct Expenses (Submittal fees, etc.)	Cost
Postage/Shipping	Cost

Copies & Prints

Sheet (no color)	Each	$ 0.30
Sheet (color, letter or legal)	Each	$ 1.20
Sheet (color, 11x17)	Each	$ 1.75
Paper Roll Stock (black/white)	Sq. Ft.	$ 0.45
Paper Roll Stock (color)	Sq.Ft.	$ 0.75
Mylar Roll Stock	Sq.Ft.	$ 4.00

Software

-	Software Tech Fee	Hr	$ 5.00
950C	Adobe Creative Cloud		
950G	ArcGIS		
950A	AutoCAD		
950L	Lumion 3D Rendering		
950M	MicroStation		
950S	SIDRA		
950U	SketchUp		
950V	Groundwater Vistas		
-	Software Tech Fee	Hr	$ 5.50
950T	AutoTURN		
950F	Land F/X		
950H	GeoHECRAS		
950I	InfoSWMM	Hr	$ 8.00
955	VG4D Smart LiDAR	Hr	$ 35.00
950P	Pix4D	Pjct	$ 275.00

Travel & Per Diem

Mileage - All Vehicles	Mile	Federal Rate
Meals Full Day	Day	Federal Rate
Meals First & Last Day of Travel	Day	Federal Rate
Lodging		Cost

Survey

GNSS Rover	Day	$ 155.00
GNSS Base & Rover	Day	$ 280.00
Robotic Total Station	Day	$ 240.00
Depth Sounder Only	Day	$ 165.00
Depth Sounder with Boat	Day	$ 385.00
HyDrone	Day	$ 750.00

Other

USB Drive	Each	$ 10.00
Garmin Handheld GPS	Day	$ 15.00
Construction Camera	Day	$ 100.00
Aerial Drone	Day	$ 525.00
Trimble GPS R1	Day	$ 80.00
Trimble GPS R1	Week	$ 225.00
Traffic Counting Device	Day	$ 35.00
Wildlife Camera	Month	$ 110.00
Tubing	Ln Ft	$ 0.70
Drum Filters	Each	$ 20.00
Decontamination Kit	Kit	$ 45.00
Stream Gauge	Each	$ 50.00
Water Level Meter	Day	$ 40.00
Multi-Parameter Water Meter	Day	$ 55.00
Micro-manometer	Day	$ 55.00
Interface Probe	Day	$ 75.00
Masonry Drill	Day	$ 40.00
Open Channel Flow Meter	Day	$ 80.00
Combo Meter	Day	$ 85.00
Ultrasonic Flow Meter	Day	$ 300.00
Double Ring Infiltrometer	Day	$ 150.00
Shallow Groundwater Sampling Pump	Day	$ 65.00
Deep Groundwater Sampling Pump	Day	$ 105.00
Disposable Bailers	Unit	$ 20.00
Water Level Data Logger/Cables/Accessories	Day	$ 125.00
	Week	$ 500.00
	Month	$ 1,500.00

COLUMBIA FALLS
MONTANA

City Council
Agenda Item Summary

Title: Wastewater Treatment Plant Bioreactor Expansion Project – Arc Flash Study
Date: December 10, 2025
Staff Contact: Eric Hanks, City Manager

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY:
City staff requests Council authorization to approve Agreement 4 of Wastewater Treatment Plant Engineering Services contract with HDR Engineering for the completion of an Arc Flash Study and extended engineering construction services.

BACKGROUND:
- In September 2025, the City was credited $18,129.88 by Prospect Construction for removal of a project requirement to conduct an Arc Flash / Coordination Study. The decision to remove the project requirement concluded months of coordination between engineers, construction contractors, and the City. When extended project cost projections were to exceed $60,000, contract extension and other extended overhead costs, the City determined the best course of action was to negotiate a credit and to contract the study directly.
- In August 2025, the City requested additional work to install additional diffuser membranes and haul sludge from the bioreactor to be disposed of offsite. The additional work was performed under Work Change Directive 07 and extended the contract time by 14 days as part of Change Order 4. HDR had additional construction services costs associated with this work and extended project timeline which are included in this amendment as well.
- This final project will likely be the final additional expense to close out an on-budget and successful wastewater facility expansion project.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:
- Current Contingency Balance: $209,812 (Total Contingency Budget: $303,667)
- Arc Flash Study Credit: ($18,130)
- Amendment 4 Costs: $36,825

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:
In the Consent Agenda, staff recommends the City Council authorize the City Manager to sign Agreement 4 and proceed with the Arc Flash Study and funding the extended engineering services.

AMENDMENT 04 TO AGREEMENT
FOR
ENGINEERING SERVICES

WHEREAS:

HDR ENGINEERING, INC. ("HDR") entered into an Agreement on June 19, 2017 to perform engineering services for the Columbia Falls Wastewater Facility Plan Update ("Project");

The City of Columbia Falls desires to amend this Agreement in order for HDR to perform services beyond those previously contemplated;

HDR is willing to amend the agreement and perform the additional engineering services.

NOW, THEREFORE, HDR and the City of Columbia Falls do hereby agree:

The Agreement and the terms and conditions therein shall remain unchanged other than those sections and exhibits listed below;

Section I. Scope of Services

HDR will provide Services for the Project, which consist of the Scope of Services as outlined in the attached Exhibit A.

Section IV. Compensation

Compensation for HDR's services under this Agreement for the Scope of Services described in Exhibit A shall be for the services of HDR's personnel engaged on the Project, plus Reimbursable Expenses, estimated to be $36,825 as described in the attached Exhibit B.

Section V. Period of Service

Upon written receipt of written authorization to proceed, HDR shall perform the services described in Exhibit A by February 20, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Amendment as of the day and year written below:

HDR ENGINEERING, INC. ("HDR") City of Columbia Fall ("City")

By:_____ By:_____

Name: Tim Erickson Name: Eric Hanks

Title: Vice President Title: City Manager

Date:_____ Date:_____

Exhibit A – Scope of Services

City of Columbia Falls WWTP Improvements

The City of Columbia Falls has requested engineering services from HDR to perform a Coordination and Arc Flash Study at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in compliance with National Fire Protection Association 70E - Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace - Effective Date: 5/13/2023.

HDR will perform a study using SKM Power Tools for Windows software. The software has a computational model compliant with IEEE 1584 – 2018 Arc Flash Analysis standard and will calculate incident energy at each applicable piece of electrical equipment.

Additionally, at the City's request the Contractor installed Owner furnished diffuser membranes in Zones 1 and 2 of the bioreactor and hauled sludge from the bioreactor to be disposed of offsite. The additional work was performed under Work Change Directive 07 and extended the Contract Time by 14 days as part of Change Order 4, which is included separately here for reference. HDR had additional construction services costs associated with this work and extended project timeline which are included in this amendment as well.

Task 500. Construction Services

Subtasks:

501 Construction Administration/Observation.

Arc Flash Study and Report

Objectives: Provide Columbia Falls with an arc flash study, protective device coordination, and arc flash labels at the 480 Volt level for a 63-node existing electrical system. Based off Reference (a) below, we plan to evaluate 1 service, 1 generator, 7 motor control centers (MCCs), 10 control and power panels, and 33 motor disconnect locations. Systems 240 Volts and below will not be evaluated for Arc Flash.

Approach

In order to perform an accurate arc flash study, HDR will require accurate as-built information. We believe that a bulk of this information is contained in our Record Drawing onelines referenced below. Additional information will be gathered during the site investigation. Included in this proposal is a desktop review that captures information from available documents for inclusion in the software model.

As part of the services, HDR will perform a multi-day (budget of 40 hours) site visit to walk down the site for protective device manufacturer/model/ratings, conductor size/insulation/lengths, transformer sizes, motors over 50HP, and check the one-lines against installed conditions. During this visit, engineers and electricians will use a tabular format to capture key information about the electrical system to allow for an accurate software model. Due to the size of the facility, we believe this can be accomplished in 5-days if equipment

can be shutdown temporarily while information is gathered on a per-circuit basis. Some validations of drawings and equipment will occur during this visit, and we ask that the City have an electrician available to open panels for observations.

Following the site visit, HDR will prepare a software model of the system, coordinate short-circuit currents with the utility and run an analysis that will yield the protective device settings, arc flash hazard report, available short circuit currents, and generate arc flash labels. The report will include an executive summary of the findings of the study, recommended actions (if any), the one-line diagram developed in the software model as the basis for analysis, and the detailed tables showing the software calculations.

Time current curves based on recommended settings and a device settings table for both recommended and existing will be included in the report.

Once the study has been reviewed and accepted by the City, HDR will purchase and install the arc flash labels that satisfy the requirements of UL 969, NFPA 70E, ANSI Z535.4 and the NEC.

Reference Documents for Arc Flash Study

HDR currently has the following documents for reference to this project.

- (a) Drawing 16-E06 – Plant Oneline Diagram
- (b) Drawing 03-E02 – RAS/WAS Pumping Station Oneline Diagram
- (c) Drawing 02-E04 – Bioreactor Basin Oneline Diagram
- (d) Drawing 05-E02 – Digester Building Oneline Diagram
- (e) Drawing 03-E05 – Carbon and Thickener Oneline Diagram

Assumptions

The following assumptions have been made to develop the above scope of work:

- HDR will have access to all documents necessary to perform the scope of work. This will include O&M information and submittals from previous projects for electrical equipment manufacturers and model information.
- The analysis will include two scenarios, Normal and Generator.
- During site observation, equipment can be shut down temporarily to allow opening panels, or panels can be opened by an authorized electrician.
- Electrician is available for the entire duration of the site visit.
- The electronic model will only include information required to perform the power system analysis included in this study.

Exclusions

The following tasks are not included in this scope of work:

- Updating the Plant one-line diagrams with as-found information.
- HDR will not perform breaker settings, adjustments, or testing. The City is responsible for applying the recommended breaker settings to validate the arc flash labels.

Period of Service

Pending NTP no later than December 16, 2025, HDR is expecting to deliver a preliminary electrical study report by January 30, 2026 and final electrical study report by February 20, 2026.

Exhibit B – Compensation

City of Columbia Falls WWTP Improvements

Task		HDR Hours	Fee
500	Construction Services		
	Construction Administration/Observation	36	$7,225
	Arc Flash Study – Labor	185	$27,600
	Arc Flash Study – Direct Expenses		$2,000
	Total	**221**	**$36,825**

COLUMBIA FALLS
MONTANA

City Council
Agenda Item Summary

Title: Pinewood Aquatic Center Boiler Replacement Contract

Date: 12/12/2025

Staff Contact: Shawn Bates, PWD

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY: Pinewood Aquatic Center – Pool Boiler Replacement
Award of Contract to Patriot Plumbing, LLC

Background:
The pool boiler serving the Pinewood Aquatic Center is at the end of its useful life and has experienced declining performance and reliability. Continued operation increases the likelihood of service disruptions and higher maintenance demands. To address these issues, the City proposes replacing the existing unit with a Lochinvar AQUAS condensing pool boiler. The project includes removal of the old boiler and installation of the new system, along with all required mechanical, electrical, and control work to deliver a fully functional pool heating system.

Analysis:
The boiler replacement represents a planned capital investment that supports continued operation of the Aquatic Center and reduces operational risk. Upgrading to a modern, high-efficiency boiler is expected to improve energy performance, lower long-term operating and maintenance costs, and provide a more dependable heating system for the facility.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS: The City received five (5) bids for the Pinewood Aquatic Center Pool Boiler Replacement project, with bid amounts ranging from $106,126 to $148,500. After review, Patriot Plumbing, LLC submitted the lowest responsive and responsible bid in the amount of $106,126.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommend awarding the Pinewood Aquatic Center Pool Boiler Replacement contract to Patriot Plumbing, LLC, and authorizing the City Manager to execute the contract and related documents. Approval of this action will allow the project to proceed in a timely manner to ensure the Aquatic Center is prepared for upcoming operational needs.

COLUMBIA FALLS
MONTANA

City Council
Agenda Item Summary

Title: Confirmation of Probationary Volunteer Firefighter Kelsey Styler

Date: 12/9/2025

Staff Contact: Karl Weeks

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY: Recommendation for Kelsey Styler to be appointed as a probationary volunteer firefighter.

BACKGROUND: N/A

ANALYSIS: The membership of the Columbia Falls Fire Department has voted to accept Kelsey Styler as a probationary volunteer firefighter. Kelsey has extensive experience as a firefighter with Evergreen Fire and is a license paramedic.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: I recommend accepting Kelsey Styler as a probationary volunteer firefighter for the Columbia Falls Fire Department

SUGGESTED MOTION: Motion made to accept Kelsey Styler as a probationary volunteer firefighter.

ATTACHMENTS: N/A

COLUMBIA FALLS
MONTANA

City Council
Agenda Item Summary

Title: Confirmation of Probationary Volunteer Firefighter Nolan Johnson

Date: 12/9/2025

Staff Contact: Karl Weeks

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY: Recommendation for Nolan Johnson to be appointed as a probationary volunteer firefighter.

BACKGROUND: N/A

ANALYSIS: The membership of the Columbia Falls Fire Department has voted to accept Nolan Johnson as a probationary volunteer firefighter. Nolan has completed all pre-hire requirements, attended several of our trainings, and has shown great interest in becoming a firefighter.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: I recommend accepting Nolan Johnson as a probationary volunteer firefighter for the Columbia Falls Fire Department

SUGGESTED MOTION: Motion made to accept Nolan Johnson as a probationary volunteer firefighter.

ATTACHMENTS: N/A

SUPREME COURT OF MONTANA
COMMISSION ON COURTS OF LIMITED JURISDICTION

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NOTIFICATION AND CERTIFICATON OF ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT OF A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, CITY JUDGE, OR MUNICIPAL JUDGE

In accordance with Section 13-15-405, and 3-1-1502, MCA, the board certifies that an [ ] election [XX] appointment has taken place and that the person named herein was [ ] elected [XX] appointed as a:

[ ] Justice of the Peace [XX] City Judge [ ] Municipal Judge

JUDGE'S NAME: Kristi L. Curtis
HOME ADDRESS: 12 Mountainside Dr., Whitefish, MT 59937

OFFICE ADDRESS: 130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

TELEPHONE – OFFICE: (406) 892-4340 CELL: (406) 249-7019

DATE OF ELECTION/APPOINTMENT: January 1, 2026
DATE TERM OF OFFICE BEGINS: ~~December 16, 2025~~ January 1, 2026
DATE TERM OF OFFICE ENDS: December 31, 2029

SIGNATURE OF CITY/COUNTY CLERK: _____

--- OR ---

SIGNATURE OF CITY/COUNTY GOVERNING BODY:

_____
_____
_____
_____

Return form to: Judicial Education Coordinator, Court Administrator's Office
PO Box 203005, Helena, MT 59620-3005
FAX: (406) 841-2955

Form: Attachment 1A
Rev: Nov 2010

13-15-405. Declaration or certification of results. (1) The board shall declare nominated or elected the individuals having the highest number of votes cast for each county and precinct office, except as provided in 13-10-204.

(2) The board shall proclaim the adoption or rejection of a county ballot issue.

(3) The board shall certify the results of the canvass of votes cast for individuals for political subdivision offices and for and against political subdivision ballot issues to the governing body of each political subdivision participating in the election.

(4) If there is a tie vote for a county office, an office of a political subdivision wholly within the county, a precinct office, or a ballot issue voted on only in that county or portion of that county, the board shall certify the vote to the election administrator.

(5) The board shall certify the results of the canvass of votes cast for justice of the peace, city judge, and municipal court judge to the supreme court in order to ensure compliance with 3-1-1502 or 3-1-1503.

3-1-1502. Training and certification of judges. Except as provided in 3-1-§1503, **no judge selected for a term of office may assume the functions of his office unless he has filed with the county clerk and recorder in his jurisdiction a certificate of completion of a course of education and training prescribed by the commission.**

3-1-1503. Exception -- temporary certificate. (1) Section 3-1-1502 does not apply to a judge who has received a temporary certificate issued by the commission as provided for in subsection (2).

(2) The commission may issue a temporary certificate enabling a judge to assume the functions of his office pending completion of a course as required by 3-1-1502. The temporary certificate must be in a form and subject to the terms and conditions prescribed by the commission.

(3) The commission may issue a temporary certificate only if:

(a) the judge is appointed or elected after the course is offered; or

(b) the commission grants an excuse because of a personal illness, a death in the family, or other good cause.

(4) The appointing authority for an appointed judge shall notify the commission of the person appointed, and the person appointed must be certified as provided in 3-1-1502 or this section prior to assuming office.

COLUMBIA FALLS
MONTANA

City Council
Agenda Item Summary

Title: Appointment of Heidi Reynolds as Probationary Police Officer

Date: December 10, 2025

Staff Contact: Chief of Police, Chad Stephens

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY: Swearing in of new Probationary Police Officer Heidi Reynolds.

BACKGROUND: In October 2025 the Columbia Falls Police Department conducted applicant testing for the position of Probationary Police Officer. After an extensive testing, interview and background process Heidi Reynolds was selected and hired effective December 4, 2025. She is an experienced police officer working for the Suffolk, VA Police Department for three years.

ANALYSIS: All testing and background are completed, reviewed, and approved by the City Manager. Reynolds will fill a currently vacant position from a previous resignation.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Accounted for in current budget.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Chief will introduce Heidi Reynolds to the City Council and the City Clerk shall administer the oath of office. Badge pinning to follow.

SUGGESTED MOTION: No Motion Necessary.

ATTACHMENTS: Oath of Office

celebrate Arbor Day℠

Whereas, In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

Whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

Whereas, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife, and

Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

Whereas, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

Now, Therefore, I, Donald Barnhart, Mayor of the City of Columbia Falls, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2026 as

Arbor Day

In the City of Columbia Falls, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Dated this 15th day of December, 2025

Mayor _____

COLUMBIA FALLS
MONTANA

City Council
Agenda Item Summary

Title: Gateway to Glacier Safety & Mobility Project
Date: December 10, 2025
Staff Contact: Eric Hanks, City Manager

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY:
City has received federally obligated construction funds. Request Council authorization to proceed with bid advertisement.

BACKGROUND:

- The Gateway to Glacier Safety and Mobility Improvement Project will utilize the $10 million RAISE grant funds awarded to the City of Columbia Falls in 2022. The project consists of reconstructing 1.3 miles of roadway, installing 1.7 miles of sidewalks, and adding 1 mile of multi-use pathways in the City of Columbia Falls. Multiple intersections will be improved, as well as parking improvements and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility in the downtown area. The project includes installing a new water main under the roadway to improve efficiency and reduce water loss. The project will also improve stormwater drainage along the route.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

CONSTRUCTION RELATED ACTIVTIES	***City Contribution***	***RAISE Grant Funds***	***TOTAL***
Phase 1:			***$0.00***
			$0.00
Preliminary Engineering Design thru bidding	$500,000.00	$786,298.00	***$1,286,298.00***
			$0.00
Phase 2:			***$0.00***
Construction Inspection Eng.		$286,298.00	***$286,298.00***
Construction		$8,535,403.00	***$8,535,403.00***
Contingency		$413,689.00	***$413,689.00***
TOTAL ACTIVITY	***$500,000.00***	***$10,021,688.00***	***$10,521,688.00***
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	***$500,000.00***	***$10,021,688.00***	***$10,521,688.00***

SUGGESTED MOTION: Move to authorize the City staff to advertise for bids to complete Phase 2 of the Gateway to Glacier Safety & Mobility Project.

COLUMBIA FALLS
MONTANA

Agenda Item Summary

Title: Wastewater System Capacity Allocation

Date: December 11, 2025

Staff Contact: City Manager Hanks; Wastewater Supervisor Grady Jenkins

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Information briefing report regarding the recent history of wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) capacity modeling and how those results affect the City's ability to serve current and future development. It is framed around ongoing coordination among City staff, consulting engineers, and DEQ regulators, and how this work supports the Montana Land Use Planning Act (MLUPA) requirements for 20-year population and infrastructure planning.

WWTP Capacity Calculation History

- Feb 2023: As part of the WWTP plant expansion design and ongoing discharge permit renewal, HDR Engineering calculated existing and post-project treatment capacity and reported the findings to DEQ. HDR analyzed WWTP performance data through December 31, 2022.
  - 2023 Bioreactor Capacity = 0.63 MGD; a reduction from 0.85 MGD in the 2017 facility plan model. The model calculated a capacity reduction primarily due to a significant increase in Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD). Increased BOD is a national-level observation due to improved water conservation efforts of low-flow toilets, efficient appliances, plumbing codes, and reduced inflow & infiltration (I&I). BOD is a key water quality indicator measuring oxygen microbes used to break down organic waste.
  - 2025 Bioreactor Expansion Project Capacity projection = 0.71 MGD.

- Sep 2023: HDR released a Basis of Design for the Bioreactor Expansion Project
  - Table 4: Projected populations and flows for 20 years with an **equivalent service population** (includes Meadow Lake Water and Sewer District) **of 8,174 with a Max Month Flow of 0.71 MGD.**
    - Baseline Calculations/Assumptions: 2022 Service Population = 6,576; Max Month Flow = 0.57; Growth Rate = 2.3%
    - Note: Actual Max Month Flow (30-day rolling average) was 0.63 due to the June 2022 record setting rainfall event and associated flooding. The June 2022 flooding event was excluded from the Basis of Design calculations for capacity and population projections due to its unusually high influent flow.

2023 Wastewater Treatment Basis of Design:
Table 4: Projected Population and Flows

Year	Estimated Population [1]	Cumulative Growth	Average Flow (MGD)	Maximum Month Flow [2] (MGD)	Maximum Day Flow [3] (MGD)	Peak Hour Flow [4] (MGD)
2022	**6,576[5]**	**-**	**0.44**	**0.57**	**1.01**	**1.37**
2023	6,733	157	0.45	0.58	1.05	1.40
2024	6,892	316	0.46	0.60	1.07	1.42
2025	7,055	479	0.47	0.61	1.10	1.45
2026	7,205	629	0.48	0.62	1.12	1.48
2027	7,358	782	0.49	0.64	1.15	1.51
2028	7,514	938	0.50	0.65	1.17	1.53
2029	7,674	1,098	0.51	0.66	1.20	1.56
2030	7,837	1,261	0.52	0.68	1.22	1.59
2031	8,004	1,428	0.53	0.69	1.25	1.62
2032	8,174	1,598	0.54	0.71	1.27	1.65
2033	8,348	1,772	0.55	0.72	1.30	1.68
2034	8,526	1,950	0.57	0.74	1.33	1.71
2035	8,708	2,132	0.58	0.75	1.36	1.74
2036	8,893	2,317	0.59	0.77	1.39	1.77
2037	9,083	2,507	0.60	0.79	1.42	1.81
2038	9,266	2,690	0.61	0.80	1.44	1.84

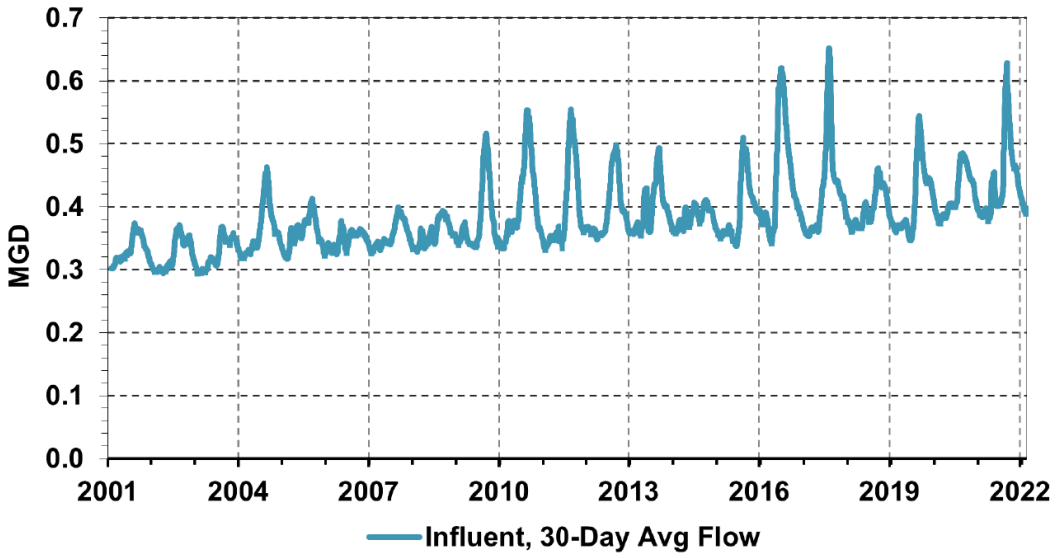

Figure 1: 30-Day Average Influent Flow from 2001 to 2022

- 2025 Wastewater PER: Morrison-Maierle Engineering was contracted to complete a Preliminary Engineering Report for the Wastewater System in support of MLUPA. The City prioritized the wastewater PER scope of work to study the conveyance system, including building a conveyance model. For the WWTP facility, the PER was not scoped to build a WWTP facility model because of the recent 2023 Basis of Design model and another planned study of the facility performance in Fall 2026, which will analyze the Bioreactor Expansion project's first year of performance.
  - Based on the currently available data, Morrison-Maierle initially reported at the Nov 20th Open House and in the current draft reporting that the Max Month Flows is 0.63, which is inclusive of the June 2022 rain event. Assuming a current service population of 6,280, this calculation will **reduce the 2023 projected WWTP's service population of 8,174 to 7,392 (782 person decrease).**
- The City Staff continues to work with Morrison-Maierle, HDR, and DEQ to determine the most appropriate capacity calculation based on available performance data while assessing the probability and severity of unusually high summer flows associated with rainfall events similar to what occurred in June 2017 and June 2022.
- The recently complete Bioreactor Expansion Project is performing well above modeled projections. If the current performance efficiency continues to be realized throughout the 2026 winter season and through high peak summer flows, the Fall 2026 Facility Design Modeling Update may contribute to increased WWTP capacity allowing increased flows and supported population capacity.

Wastewater Capacity Allocation Ledger & Current Development Applications

- Assuming a current service population of **6,280**:
  - If June 2022 rain event remains a contributing factor: **816** available population growth
  - If June 2022 rain event is considered an anomaly: **1,894** available population growth
- Current Approved Reserved Allocation: **540 people**
  - 30 people = 12 Townhomes @ 2.5/unit (812 4th Ave W)
  - 50 people = 20 Townhomes @ 2.5/unit (274 Meadowlake Blvd)
  - 255 people = 26 SFH and 76 attached @ 2.5/unit (Garnier Heights – Meadowlake Blvd)
  - 258 people = 103 SFH @ 2.5/unit (Tamarack Meadows – MLWS)
  - (-53 people) = Recovered capacity from Lazy Days Court Trailer Park
- Current/Near-Term Development Applications: **1,560 people**
  - 844 people = 421 units - 240 Apts / 56 Townhomes / 125 SFH) (Teakettle Heights)
  - 438 people = 175 SFHs (River Highlands)
  - 68 people = 40 apartments @ 1.7/unit (302 Meadowlake Blvd)
  - 160 people = 107 hotel rooms @ 1.5/unit (Lazy Days Court)
  - 20 people = Commercial (Lazy Days Court)
  - 30 people = undisclosed multi-family
- Total for all Committed and Future Applications: **2,100 people**
  - Deficit of **1,284** people of capacity (w/ June 2022 event)
  - Deficit of **206** people of capacity (w/o June 2022 event)

MLUPA MCA Requirements

- ***MCA: 76-25-203. Existing Conditions and Population Projections***
    1. *The land use plan must include, at a minimum, inventories and descriptions of existing conditions of housing, local services and facilities, economic development, natural resources, environment, and hazards, and land use within the jurisdictional boundaries of the land use plan.*
    2. *As set forth in 76-25-206 through 76-25-209 and 76-25-213 through 76-25-216, the land use plan must include, at minimum, a description, map, and* ***analysis of how the jurisdiction will accommodate its projected population over the next 20 years*** *and* ***the expected impacts of the development*** *in the areas of housing, local services and facilities, economic development, natural resources, environment, and hazards.*
    3. *The inventories and descriptions in the plan must be based on up-to-date surveys, maps, diagrams, charts, descriptive material, studies, and reports necessary to explain and supplement the analysis of each section of the land use plan.*
    4.
        a. *A jurisdiction shall use demographics provided by:*
            i. *the most recent decennial census or census estimate of the United States census bureau; and*
            ii. *population projections for a 20-year period based on permanent and seasonal population estimates:*
                A. *provided by demographics published by the department of commerce;*
                B. *generated by the local government; or*
                C. *produced by a professional firm specializing in projections.*
        b. *When a population projection is not available, population projections for the jurisdiction must be reflective of the area's proportional share of the total county population and the total county population growth.*

- ***MCA: 76-25-206. Housing***
    1. ***A local governing body shall identify and analyze existing and projected housing needs for the projected population of the jurisdiction and provide regulations that allow for the rehabilitation, improvement, or development of the number of housing units needed,*** *as identified in the land use plan and future land use map, including:*
        a. *a quantification of the jurisdiction's existing and projected needed housing types, including location, age, condition, and occupancy required to accommodate existing and estimated population projections;*
        b. *an inventory of sites, including zoned, unzoned, vacant, underutilized, and potential redevelopment sites, available to meet the jurisdiction's needed housing types;*
        c. *an analysis of any constraints to housing development, such as zoning, development standards, and infrastructure needs and capacity, and the identification of market-based incentives that may affect or encourage the development of needed housing types; and*

d. a detailed description of what actions the jurisdiction may take to accommodate the projected needed housing types identified in subsection (1)(a).

2. *The housing section of the land use plan and future land use map may incorporate by reference any information or policies identified in other housing needs assessments adopted by the governing body.*
3. ***If, after performing the analysis required in subsection (1), the local government determines that the total needed housing types may not be met due to lack of resources, development sites, infrastructure capacity, or other documented constraints, the local government shall establish the minimum number of housing units that may be rehabilitated, improved, or developed within the jurisdiction over the 20-year planning period and the actions the local government may take to remove constraints to the development of those units over that period.***
4. *Progress toward the construction of the housing units identified as needed to meet projected housing needs during the 20-year planning period of the land use plan must be documented at each fifth year review of the land use plan as required in 76-25-202.*
5. *The amount of detail provided in the analysis beyond the minimum criteria established in this section is at the discretion of the local governing body.*

Way Ahead

1. Policy Guidance Needed:
   - Planning Commission and City Council's priority for desired housing types and other prioritization criteria.

2. Create a City Wastewater Allocation policy that establishes clear, defensible procedures for allocating wastewater treatment capacity to new development as the WWTP capacity is nearing capacity.
   - Align allocation decisions with DEQ Circular 2, DEQ Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permits, and industry-standard flow and loading criteria.
   - Ensure that growth does not exceed system capability, maintains regulatory compliance, and supports predictable decision-making for developers and the public.
   - Meadow Lake Water & Sewer District's (MLWS) capacity allocation is near the contracted capacity. Upon further analysis, notify MLWS of any remaining capacity or issue a notification that further subdivision of existing lots or expansion of the service area beyond previously committed allocation will not be approved for service.

3. WWTP Facility Design Capacity Modeling in Fall 2026 to reassess bioreactor expansion performance.

4. Apply for DEQ Development Plan (2023 SB 237)
   - New program to support municipalities experiencing growth with limited excess capacity.
   - Allows water and wastewater utilities to phase system expansions in step with actual growth, without compromising health, safety, or regulatory compliance. This approach helps avoid overbuilding by letting utilities allocate limited capacity transparently while committed to completing the upgrades needed to serve that growth responsibly.

5. Capital Improvements identified in PER Future Projects
   - Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) Projects (specifically Meadow Lake Water & Sewer District)
     - Meadow Lake's I&I is nearly equal to all of City of Columbia Falls despite significantly less manhole covers, transmission lines, and acreage.
     - Dec 10, 2025:
       - Meadowlake I&I = 78,000 gals compared to non-rain average flows of 23,000 gals
       - City I&I = 81,000 gals compared to non-rain average flows of 385,000 gals
   - Capacity Expansion Projects
     - Will be identified in the PER.

6. Meadow Lake Water & Sewer District 48-year service contract expires in 2032. Begin negotiations in 2026 to ensure sufficient time for City and/or MLWS capital improvement planning.

7. Utility Rate Study – Spring 2026

COLUMBIA FALLS
MONTANA

City Council
Agenda Item Summary

Title: Budget Amendment – Sewer Enterprise Fund 5310

Date: December 2, 2025

Staff Contact: Jessica Rice

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY:
Budget amendment to transfer funds from the Sewer Enterprise Operating account to Object 940: New Machinery & Equipment for the purchase of a dump truck.

BACKGROUND:
The Public Works Department has identified the need to purchase a dump truck to support ongoing operations, maintenance activities, and infrastructure work within the City's wastewater system. A dump truck is a critical asset for hauling materials, debris removal, and general sewer system support. The department's existing 2008 dump truck has recently experienced significant mechanical issues, and an evaluation by a mechanic estimated repair costs at approximately $40,000. Given the age of the vehicle and the extent of needed repairs, the City is exploring the purchase of a new or used dump truck as a more cost-effective and reliable replacement option.

This acquisition qualifies as a capital improvement and is appropriately budgeted under Object 940: New Machinery & Equipment in the Sewer Enterprise Fund. Sufficient funds are available in the Sewer Enterprise Operating account to accommodate this transfer without negatively affecting day-to-day operations.

Pursuant to §7-6-4006, MCA, municipalities may amend their budgets and reallocate funds when necessary to meet operational and capital needs. The proposed budget amendment will transfer funds from the operating account into Object 940 to allow for the purchase of the dump truck.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:
Staff recommends approval of Resolution 1957 authorizing the transfer of $125,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Operating account to Object 940: New Machinery & Equipment for the purchase of a dump truck.

SUGGESTED MOTION:
I move to approve Resolution 1957 authorizing a budget amendment to transfer funds from the Sewer Enterprise Operating account to Object 940: New Machinery & Equipment for the purchase of a dump truck.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution 1957

RESOLUTION NO. 1957

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, AMENDING FUND 5310 SEWER ENTERPRISE BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026 TO ACCOUNT FOR UNANTICIPATED AND ADDITIONAL EXPENSES OF A DUMP TRUCK

WHEREAS, the City has identified unanticipated budget needs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department has identified the immediate need to purchase a dump truck to support sewer system operations; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of this dump truck is a capital improvement and is appropriately budgeted within 5310-430600-940: New Machinery & Equipment; and

WHEREAS, city staff have determined that sufficient cash funds exist within the Sewer Enterprise Fund to support the increased capital outlay expense without impacting ongoing operational needs; and

WHEREAS, Section 7-6-4006, MCA permits the City Council to amend municipal budgets and amend appropriations when required for the proper operation and maintenance of municipal services; and

WHEREAS, the City Council gave notice of its intent to amend the Fiscal Year (FY) 26 budget and held a public hearing to receive comment on the proposed amendment at its regular meeting on December 1, 2025. There was no opposition to the budget amendment at the public hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA:

Section One – Authorization: The City Council hereby authorizes the increased budget authority in the Sewer Enterprise Fund specifically for the purchase of a dump truck in an amount not to exceed the $125,000 appropriation request.

Section Two – Budget Amendment: The FY 26 budget is hereby amended to reflect the increased spending authorization:

	Original Budget	Amendment	Final Budget
Sewer Fund 5310-430600-940	$ 0	$125,000	$125,000

Section Three – The Finance Director is authorized and directed to make all necessary accounting entries to record and report this budget amendment in compliance with municipal accounting standards and state law.

Section Four – Effective Date: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon passage and approval.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA THIS 15th DAY OF DECEMBER 2025, THE COUNCIL VOTING AS FOLLOWS:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

_____
City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA THIS 15TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025.

_____
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
City Clerk

FINAL READING

ORDINANCE NO. 835

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, ADDING A SECTION TO CHAPTER 9 PART 20 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF COLUMBIA FALLS PROVIDING PENALTIES THAT MAY BE IMPOSED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ORDINANCES CONTAINED WITHIN CHAPTER 9 PART 20.

WHEREAS, the City Council, pursuant to the recommendation of the Columbia Falls Police Department, desires to amend Chapter 9 Part 20 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code by adding a Section 030 making it a criminal offense to expose a child or children to domestic violence;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that said amendment to the Columbia Falls Municipal Code is in the best interest of the City;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned amendment to the Columbia Falls City Code is within the powers granted to local authorities to promote public peace, morals and welfare of its residents, as provided in Article XI, Section 4 of the Montana State Constitution;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the aforementioned amendment furthers the City's objective of protecting and promoting the safety, health, morals, and welfare of its residents; and,

WHEREAS, said amendment was considered by the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, at its regular meeting on Monday, December 1, 2025, and at said meeting on said date, the City Council considered any, and all comments filed or voiced with respect to said changes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, THE COLUMBIA FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Section One. Addition of City Code 9.20-030: Columbia Falls City Code Section 9.20.030 is hereby added to Chapter 9 Part 20:

9.20.030 – Exposing a Minor Child(ren) to Domestic Violence

A. A person commits the crime of exposing minor child(ren) to domestic violence when he or she:

1. Commits a crime against a family or household member, or a partner, as defined in MCA 45-5-206 & 231 as currently enacted or hereafter amended or recodified; and
2. The crime is committed in the immediate presence of, or is witnessed or heard by, the person's or the victim's minor child, minor stepchild, or any minor child present.
3. For purposes of this section, "minor" shall mean under eighteen years of age on the date of the violation.

B. A violation of this section is a misdemeanor. Any person convicted of this crime shall be punished by imprisonment of not less than two days and up to 15 days in jail and a $500.00 dollar fine.

Section Two. The Council finds that the proposal complies with the City's objective of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare.

Section Three. Inconsistent Provisions: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section Four. Severability: The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision.

Section Five. Effective Date: This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its final passage and approval by the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana.

THE FIRST READING WAS APPROVED ON THE 17TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025. THE SECOND READING, HELD ON THE 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER 2025, WAS TABLED FOR DISCUSSION AND FURTHER INPUT. THIS ORDINANCE WAS PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA THIS 15th DAY OF DECEMBER 2025, THE COUNCIL VOTING AS FOLLOWS:

_____
City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA THIS 15th DAY OF DECEMBER 2025

_____
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
City Clerk

SECOND READING

ORDINANCE NO. 836

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, ADDING A SECTION TO CHAPTER 10 PART 72 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF COLUMBIA FALLS PROVIDING DEFINITIONS PERTAINING TO THE USE AND OPERATION OF BICYCLES AND ELECTRICALLY ASSISTED BICYCLES AND OTHER ELECTRICALLY AND MOTOR ASSISTED VEHICLES AND OTHER WHEELED DEVICES ON PUBLIC SIDEWALKS, PUBLIC ROADWAYS, PUBLIC PATHS, AND WITHIN PUBLIC PARKS.

WHEREAS, the City Council, pursuant to the recommendation of the City's Public Safety Committee, desires to amend Chapter 10 Part 72 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code by adding a Section 070 providing definitions pertaining to the use operation of bicycles, electrically assisted bicycles and other electrically assisted and motor assisted vehicles and wheeled devices on public sidewalks, public paths, and within public parks;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that said amendment to the Columbia Falls Municipal Code is in the best interests of the City;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned amendment to the Columbia Falls City Code is within the powers granted to local authorities to regulate traffic, as set forth in Montana Code Annotated §61-12-101;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the aforementioned amendment furthers the City's objective of protecting the safety, health, and welfare of its residents; and,

WHEREAS, said amendment was considered by the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, at its regular meeting on Monday, December 1, 2025, and at said meeting on said date, the City Council considered any, and all comments filed or voiced with respect to said changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, THE COLUMBIA FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Section One. Addition of City Code 10.72.070: Columbia Falls City Code Section 10.72.070 is hereby added to Chapter 10 Part 72:

10.72.070 – Definitions

The following definitions apply to Chapter 10 Part 72:

A. "Bicycle" means a vehicle as defined in Montana Code Annotated §61-8-102(2)(b).

B. “Motorized Scooter” means a vehicle as defined in Montana Code Annotated §61-1-101(48) and §61-8-102(2)(o)(i).
C. “Electrically Assisted Bicycle” means a vehicle as defined in Montana Code Annotated §61-8-102(2)(g).
D. “Moped” means a vehicle as defined in Montana Code Annotated §61-8-102(2)(n).
E. “Sidewalk” has the meaning provided in Montana Code Annotated §61-8-102(2)(y).
F. “Wheeled Device” means a vehicle propelled by either human power or by an independent power source on which any person may ride that has one or more wheels.

Section Two. The Council finds that the proposal complies with the City’s objective of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare.

Section Three. Inconsistent Provisions: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section Four. Severability: The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision.

Section Five. Effective Date: This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its final passage and approval by the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana.

THE FIRST READING WAS APPROVED ON THE 17TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025. THE SECOND READING, HELD ON THE 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER 2025, WAS TABLED FOR DISCUSSION AND FURTHER INPUT. THIS ORDINANCE WAS PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA THIS 15th DAY OF DECEMBER 2025, THE COUNCIL VOTING AS FOLLOWS:

_____
City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA THIS 15TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025.

_____
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
City Clerk

SECOND READING

ORDINANCE NO. 837

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, AMENDING A SECTION OF CHAPTER 10 PART 72 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF COLUMBIA FALLS REQUIRING OBEDIENCE WITH TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES BY BICYCLES AND ELECTRICALLY ASSISTED BICYCLES AND OTHER ELECTRICALLY AND MOTOR ASSISTED VEHICLES ON PUBLIC SIDEWALKS, ROADWAYS, AND PATHS.

WHEREAS, the City Council, pursuant to the recommendation of the City's Public Safety Committee, desires to amend Chapter 10 Part 72 Section 040 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code requiring obedience with traffic control devices by bicycles, electrically assisted bicycles and other electrically assisted and motor assisted vehicles and other wheeled devices on public sidewalks, roadways, and paths;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that said amendment to the Columbia Falls Municipal Code is in the best interests of the City;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned amendment to the Columbia Falls City Code is within the powers granted to local authorities to regulate traffic, as set forth in Montana Code Annotated §61-12-101;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the aforementioned amendment furthers the City's objective of protecting the safety, health, and welfare of its residents; and,

WHEREAS, said amendment was considered by the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, at its regular meeting on Monday, December 1, 2025, and at said meeting on said date, the City Council considered any, and all comments filed or voiced with respect to said changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, THE COLUMBIA FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Section One. Amendment to City Code 10.72.040: Columbia Falls City Code Section 10.72.040 is amended by adding the following subsection C:

10.72.040 – Obedience to Traffic Control Devices

C. Any person riding or operating a bicycle - as defined in Montana Code Annotated §51-8-102, skateboard – whether electrically assisted or not, scooter – whether electrically assisted or not, or other wheeled device on any public sidewalk, public path, or within a public park shall obey all posted speed limits applicable to such operation.

Section Two. The Council finds that the proposal complies with the City's objective of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare.

Section Three. Inconsistent Provisions: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section Four. Severability: The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision.

Section Five. Effective Date: This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its final passage and approval by the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana.

THE FIRST READING WAS APPROVED ON THE 17TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025. THE SECOND READING, HELD ON THE 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER 2025, WAS TABLED FOR DISCUSSION AND FURTHER INPUT. THIS ORDINANCE WAS PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA THIS 15th DAY OF DECEMBER 2025, THE COUNCIL VOTING AS FOLLOWS:

_____
City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA THIS 15TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025.

_____
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
City Clerk

SECOND READING

ORDINANCE NO. 838

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, ADDING A SECTION TO CHAPTER 10 PART 72 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF COLUMBIA FALLS PROVIDING PENALTIES THAT MAY BE IMPOSED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ORDINANCES CONTAINED WITHIN CHAPTER 10 PART 72.

WHEREAS, the City Council, pursuant to the recommendation of the City's Public Safety Committee, desires to amend Chapter 10 Part 72 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code by adding a Section 080 providing penalties that may be imposed by law enforcement for violations of the ordinances contained with Chapter 10 part 72;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that said amendment to the Columbia Falls Municipal Code is in the best interests of the City;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned amendment to the Columbia Falls City Code is within the powers granted to local authorities to regulate traffic, as set forth in Montana Code Annotated §61-12-101;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the aforementioned amendment furthers the City's objective of protecting the safety, health, and welfare of its residents; and,

WHEREAS, said amendment was considered by the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, at its regular meeting on Monday, December 1, 2025, and at said meeting on said date, the City Council considered any, and all comments filed or voiced with respect to said changes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, THE COLUMBIA FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Section One. Addition of City Code 10.72.080: Columbia Falls City Code Section 10.72.080 is hereby added to Chapter 10 Part 72:

10.72.080 – Violations

In addition to the General Penalty applicable to violations of City Ordinances, the following penalties may be imposed upon any person found to be in violation of the Sections contained within this Chapter 10 Part 72 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code:

A. A first violation by any person shall warrant a fine of $50.00, a mandatory and applicable course of education, and, if the person is younger than 18 years of age, parental notification.
B. A second violation by any person shall warrant a fine of $100.00, a mandatory and applicable course of education, and, if the person is younger than 18 years of age, parental notification.
C. A third violation by any person shall warrant a fine of $175.00, impoundment of vehicle upon which the violation occurred for a period not less than 60 days or more than 90 days, and community service, and, if the person is younger than 18 years of age, parental notification.

Section Two. The Council finds that the proposal complies with the City's objective of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare.

Section Three. Inconsistent Provisions: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section Four. Severability: The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision.

Section Five. Effective Date: This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its final passage and approval by the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana.

THE FIRST READING WAS APPROVED ON THE 17TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025. THE SECOND READING, HELD ON THE 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER 2025, WAS TABLED FOR DISCUSSION AND FURTHER INPUT. THIS ORDINANCE WAS PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA THIS 15th DAY OF DECEMBER 2025, THE COUNCIL VOTING AS FOLLOWS:

_____
City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA THIS 15TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025.

_____
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
City Clerk

FINAL READING

ORDINANCE NO. 839

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, AMENDING A SECTION OF CHAPTER 10 PART 72 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF COLUMBIA FALLS REGULATING THE USE OF BICYCLES AND ELECTRICALLY ASSISTED BICYCLES AND OTHER ELECTRICALLY AND MOTOR ASSISTED VEHICLES ON PUBLIC SIDEWALKS AND PATHS.

WHEREAS, the City Council, pursuant to the recommendation of the City's Public Safety Committee, desires to amend Chapter 10 Part 72 Section 050 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code regulating the operation of bicycles, electrically assisted bicycles and other electrically assisted and motor assisted vehicles and wheeled devices on public sidewalks, public paths, and within public parks;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that said amendment to the Columbia Falls Municipal Code is in the best interests of the City;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned amendment to the Columbia Falls City Code is within the powers granted to local authorities to regulate traffic, as set forth in Montana Code Annotated §61-12-101;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the aforementioned amendment furthers the City's objective of protecting the safety, health, and welfare of its residents; and,

WHEREAS, said amendment was considered by the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, at its regular meeting on Monday, November 17, 2025, and at said meeting on said date, the City Council considered any and all comments filed or voiced with respect to said changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, THE COLUMBIA FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Section One. Amendment to City Code 10.72.050: Columbia Falls City Code Section 10.72.030 is amended by amending the title and adding the following subsections D and E:

10.72.050 – Use of Roadway, Public Sidewalk, Public Path and Public Parks

D. A bicycle, as defined in Montana Code Annotated §61-8-102, a moped, motorized scooter, skateboard, or any other wheeled device, whether electrically or motor assisted or not, may be operated or ridden

on and along a public sidewalk, public path, or within a public park only under human propulsion and may not be operated on or along such sidewalks, paths, or within such parks if the bicycle, scooter, skateboard or other wheeled device is solely under power from an independent power source.

E. "Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices" as defined in Montana Code Annotated §61-1-101(23) are specifically exempted from the requirements of this Section.

Section Two. The Council finds that the proposal complies with the City's objective of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare.

Section Three. Inconsistent Provisions: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section Four. Severability: The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision.

Section Five. Effective Date: This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its final passage and approval by the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana.

THE FIRST READING WAS APPROVED ON THE 17TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025. THE SECOND READING, HELD ON THE 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER 2025, WAS TABLED FOR DISCUSSION AND FURTHER INPUT. THIS ORDINANCE WAS PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA THIS 15th DAY OF DECEMBER 2025, THE COUNCIL VOTING AS FOLLOWS:

_____
City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA THIS 15th DAY OF DECEMBER 2025.

_____
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
City Clerk

SECOND READING

ORDINANCE NO. 840

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, AMENDING A SECTION OF CHAPTER 10 PART 72 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF COLUMBIA FALLS REGULATING THE USE OF BICYCLES AND ELECTRICALLY ASSISTED BICYCLES AND OTHER ELECTRICALLY AND MOTOR ASSISTED VEHICLES ON PUBLIC ROADWAYS, PUBLIC SIDEWALKS, AND PUBLIC PATHS.

WHEREAS, the City Council, pursuant to the recommendation of the City's Public Safety Committee, desires to amend Chapter 10 Part 72 Section 030 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code applying Montana State traffic laws to bicycles and electrically powered vehicles;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that said amendment to the Columbia Falls Municipal Code is in the best interests of the City;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned amendment to the Columbia Falls City Code is within the powers granted to local authorities to regulate traffic, as set forth in Montana Code Annotated §61-12-101;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the aforementioned amendment furthers the City's objective of protecting the safety, health, and welfare of its residents; and,

WHEREAS, said amendment was considered by the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana, at its regular meeting on Monday, December 1, 2025, and at said meeting on said date, the City Council considered any and all comments filed or voiced with respect to said changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, THE COLUMBIA FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Section One. Amendment to City Code 10.72.030: Columbia Falls City Code Section 10.72.030 is amended to read as follows:

10.72.030 - Application of Montana State Traffic Laws to Riders

A. Every person riding a bicycle, as defined by MCA §61-8-102(2)(b), or any electrically or motor assisted bicycle, scooter, motorcycle, or moped upon a public roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a motor vehicle by the laws of the State of Montana declaring rules of the road applicable to the operation of a motor vehicle, except as to special regulations in

this chapter and except as to those provisions of laws and ordinances which by their nature can have no application.

B. Every person under the age of 18 shall wear protective headgear on their head that meets the standards established by the Montana Department of Justice while riding or operating a bicycle, as defined by MCA §61-8-102(2)(b), or any electrically assisted scooter, electrically assisted cycle, motorcycle, or moped on a public roadway, sidewalk, or public path.

Section Two. The Council finds that the proposal complies with the City's objective of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare.

Section Three. Inconsistent Provisions: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section Four. Severability: The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision.

Section Five. Effective Date: This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its final passage and approval by the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana.

THE FIRST READING WAS APPROVED ON THE 17TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025. THE SECOND READING, HELD ON THE 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER 2025, WAS TABLED FOR DISCUSSION AND FURTHER INPUT. THIS ORDINANCE WAS PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA THIS 15th DAY OF DECEMBER 2025, THE COUNCIL VOTING AS FOLLOWS:

_____
City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA THIS 15TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025.

_____
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
City Clerk

COLUMBIA FALLS

City Manager's Report

City Calendar

1 Dec: City Council Regular Mtg
- Street Project Prioritization
- Fishing Pier Grant

8 Dec/5 PM: Parks & Recreation Committee
- River's Edge Master Plan Projects

11 Dec: Planning Commission
- Utility Infrastructure Capacity Allocation

15 Dec: City Council Regular Mtg
- Utility Infrastructure Capacity Allocation
- E-Bike and Domestic Violence Ordinances

16 Dec/5PM: Local Govt Study Commission

24 Dec: City Hall closes at 12PM

25 Dec: City Hall closed

1 Jan: City Hall closed

5 Jan: City Council Regular Mtg
- Councilor Swearing In

Staff Highlights

City Manager
- Utility Infrastructure PERs
- Land Use Plan
- Developers – Pre-applications
- Website Transition – Feb Live

Public Works & Planning
- Street Flooding
- Gateway to Glacier Safety & Mobility Project
- Downtown Sidewalk and Parking Project
- River's Edge Park Projects
- Pool Modernization Projects
- Utility Infrastructure PERs

Finance & Admin
- Annual Financial Report

Police
- 25 Years – Shop with a Cop
- Technology Upgrade

Fire
- 2x new Volunteers
- Chili Dinner – Night of Lights

City Manager Report

- **Land Use Plan Development –** Montana Land Use Planning Act (SB382)
  - City's Planning and Zoning website includes a MLUPA section
  - **Water PER –** Ongoing; City reviewing analysis of Current Infrastructure
  - **Sewer PER –** Ongoing; City reviewing analysis of Current Infrastructure
  - **Land Use Planning –** Analysis of Existing Conditions
  - **Subdivision and Zoning Codes**

MLUPA Plan of Action & Milestones

Public Engagement Opportuni

✓ Nov 13	Joint Council & Planning Commission - Land Use Plan Kickoff
✓ ***Nov 20***	***Open House - Utility Infrastructure Public Meeting 1***
Dec-Feb	***Land Use Plan Outreach Round 1*** ***- Surveys, Interviews, Focus Groups***
Dec 11	Planning Commission – Utility Infrastructure
Dec 15	City Council – Utility Infrastructure
Jan 8	Planning Commission
Jan 26	Joint Council & Planning Commission Workshop - LUP Existing Conditions & Survey Results
Feb __	***Open House - Utility Infrastructure Public Meeting 2***
Feb 12	Planning Commission *(LUP workshop)* - Discuss LUP Existing Conditions & Survey Results
Mar 12	Planning Commission *(LUP workshop)* - Future Land Use Map & Recommendations Workshop
Apr __	***Virtual Public Meeting – Outreach Round 2***
Apr 9	Planning Commission
Apr 13	Joint Council and Planning Commission Workshop - Future Land Use Map & Recommendations Workshop - Final thoughts
Apr 23	**MLUPA Public Hearing** Planning Commission
May 4	**MLUPA Public Hearing Council – First Reading**
May 18	**MLUPA Public Hearing Council – Approves Plan**

- **Capital Improvement Projects:** City Staff is available to discuss current project details with the Public

  - **Wastewater Treatment Plant**
    - Substantial Completion. Exceeding expectations for nutrient removal following Bioreactor Expansion

- **Gateway to Glacier Safety & Mobility Project** (*www.columbiafallsgatewaytoglacier.com*)
  - City and Engineers submitted 100% design
  - Bid Advertisement; Bid Opening Jan 15th **Open House–Early Feb**; Construction in Mar 2026

- **Downtown Sidewalk and Parking Improvement – Phase 2**
  - **Contract awarded**; Construction in 2026

- **Railroad St Pathway Project** (MDT-led project)
  - Construction in Spring 2026

- **River's Edge Projects**
  - Fishing Pond Accessibility Project:
    - FWP William Camps Grant – Matching funds up to $70,000
    - Advertise for bids in Dec/Jan; Construction in Spring 2026
  - Signage:
    - Flathead Rivers' Alliance – received grant funding from American Rivers
    - People and Carnivores – received grant funding
    - Metal Entrance Sign – ongoing coordination
    - Timber Sign Frames – ongoing coordination

CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS
CORRESPONDENCE LIST
COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2025

12/01/2025 Email from Linda Miller – Folf at River's Edge Park

12/05/2025 Email from Paul Kruger – Tamarack Meadows

RECEIVED
DEC 0 1 2025
CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS

City of Columbia Falls Council

December 1, 2025

My name is Linda Miller and I am a 30 year resident of Columbia Falls, which is my home. I love living here, especially the people. One of my treasured experiences is visiting River's Edge Park, where people and nature can come together in peace and appreciation. The people who spend time at River's Edge come from all walks of life here, and are respectful of other people's safety and right to enjoy the Park. We have gardeners, dog walkers, bikers, hikers, photographers, wildlife and birding enthusiasts, ranchers, teachers and students. Families with young children come in droves, pushing their little ones in strollers, while older kids can play safely along the trail, or along the banks of the Flathead River. Parents keep an eye on their kids and intervene if the kids start throwing objects around other visitors. People with dogs keep their dogs on leashes (for the most part), clean up any poop without being reminded, and are considerate of folks who might be uncomfortable around dogs. In short, it's generally a wonderful and safe experience for all.

Unfortunately, that shifted this past week for me when I was walking around the creek/boardwalk area. I meandered down to the edge of the creek to watch some ducks and as I was moving back up toward the boardwalk trail, I heard a loud, zipping sound. I looked up to see a large frisbee whiz through the area where I had just been standing at the edge of the creek. If I had not been moving away from that area, I would have been hit. It was then that I noticed a large silver basket near the edge of the creek. When I got back up on the main wide trail, there were several people throwing frisbees. I attempted to ask them what they were doing but they ignored me as well as several other people who also were asking them what was going on.

I then moved down the trail toward the river, and I found a number of other silver baskets which I recognized as part of a disc golf. The baskets have been

positioned on both sides of the large walkway by the river where countless people meander every day. Families with young children, elderly, disabled people, teenagers and people like me who come down to enjoy the river's comfort. It seems a huge safety issue has been created when there are people throwing discs competitively around and across that walkway trail as well as the boardwalk trail.

It's the first time I've ever felt unsafe in River's Edge Park. Frankly I was stunned.

I have gone back several times since that incident. I feel I have to keep my attention constantly focused on watching for anybody lurking around with frisbee discs in their hands so I don't get hit.

There is no signage, no warnings, and I did not see respect for other people who use this area. I read our Daily InterLake 7 days a week and I have seen nothing about these disc games being installed. Friends who regularly read the Hungry Horse News tell me they have not seen anything regarding it either.

I have no problem with disc golf, but it makes no sense to have it in an area which creates major safety issues for others. In addition, all the baskets are in the area designated in the River's Edge Master Plan as the natural interpretive area. This is totally out of character for natural interpretation experiences.

Why not have it in a large open area like they have at Lawrence Park and at FVCC in Kalispell? Safety should be paramount.

In summary, the disc golf setup in River's Edge Park is not safe for the rest of us using the Park regularly. It is also not in keeping with the Natural Interpretive area designation by the Park's Master Plan, which I read online.

Thank you for reading this and considering. Please respond so we can safely keep enjoying this gem of a park in a pristine area for years to come. It is so disheartening to see this happening in Columbia Falls.

Sincerely

Linda Miller 406-250-6295; lmemiller@yahoo.com

Barb Staaland

From: pdogkrug@aol.com
Sent: Friday, December 5, 2025 6:28 AM
To: Barb Staaland
Subject: For the next Columbia Falls City Council meeting reading file: Formal Request to Flathead County for "stay" of Tamarack Meadows Final Plat approval/recording due to Non-Compliance with Condition #18 of Preliminary Plat Approval and pending DEQ and DNRC...
Attachments: Tamarack Meadows Conditions of approval.png; Tamarack Meadows PreliminaryPlatPackage.Kevin 119 (1).pdf; pond I looking southwest to Garnier Creek, at or below grade of Garnier Creek.jpeg; For Sale Tamarack Meadows lots.jpg

Barb,...

Below and attached is additional information re: Tamarack Meadows subdivision and Garnier Creek. In the interest of keeping the City Council aware of these ongoing actions, I request that this be added to the file for the next Columbia Falls City Council meeting.

Thank you,..and I hope you are having a good Holiday Season.

--Paul Kruger
E: pdogkrug@aol.com
Cell: 509-554-9440

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----- Forwarded Message -----
From: pdogkrug@aol.com <pdogkrug@aol.com>
To: Erik Mack <emack@flatheadcounty.gov>
Cc: pdogkrug@aol.com <pdogkrug@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2025 at 07:56:38 AM MST
Subject: Formal Request to Flathead County for "stay" of Tamarack Meadows Final Plat approval/recording due to Non-Compliance with Condition #18 of Preliminary Plat Approval and pending DEQ and DNRC/FCD violation/penalty/rehab...

Dear Flathead County Planning and Zoning Director (Eric Mack) ...

This is a formal request for the Flathead County Planning and Zoning Department to "stay" the recoding of the final plat for the Tamarack Meadows Subdivision until the developer demonstrates full compliance with all City-imposed preliminary plat conditions, SPECIFICALLY CONDITION OF APPROVAL #18 FROM COLUMBIA FALLS RESOLUTION #1891` (FEBRUARY 6th, 2023). Condition of Approval (COA)#18 states that "the buffer area adjacent to Garnier Creek shall remain undeveloped and in a natural state". The City of Columbia Falls had planning jurisdiction at the time of this approval. Subsequently planning authority was transferred to Flathead County per State of Montana revocation of all interlocal agreements. The developer of Tamarack Meadows has since constructed Storm-water ponds immediately adjacent to Garnier creek, in direct contradiction of COA#18. Under 76-3-608(3) and 76-3-625 MCA, local governments must ensure subdivision compliance prior to final approval. I therefor ask Flathead County to withhold recoding of the final plat and any associated lot sales/building permits until:

1. The Stormwater ponds adjacent to Garnier Creek are re-engineered/reconstructed (in coordination with DEQ and DNRC/FCD) to comply with condition #18 of preliminary plat approval.

2. Ensure resolution/completion of all MT DNRC FCD and MT DEQ violations/penalties/rehabilitation p and
3. Hold a public hearing to review compliance with the City's original environmental conditions.

Supporting documents, including a timeline of events (below), Excerpt from DEQ e-mail re: pending action (below), Resolution 1891 (attached), Carver Engineering drawings showing storm-water pond encroachment on Ganier Creek (attached), and photographs of the actual buffer encroachment (attached), are part of this e-mail and my request,

Please acknowledge your receipt of this request, and subsequently status me on your decisions on this matter.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this serious compliance matter.

Have a good Thanksgiving Holiday...

--Paul Kruger

PS Currently lot sales via "deposits only" are occurring at Tamarack Meadows. Under Montana and Flathead Conty law, such sales are required to have escrow accounts and the funds not go to the developer until final plat approval and recording. I assume that Flathead County is ensuring these "deposit sales" at Tamarack Meadows are following these requirements. See attached photo

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Tamarack Meadows / Garnier Creek Summary of Events and Violations

Fact-based summary compiled from City of Columbia Falls public records, DEQ documentation, and Flathead Conservation District enforcement actions.

Timeline Summary

Date / Period	Agency / Actor	Action or Event	Facts & Evidence	Result / Consequence
Dec 13, 2022	City- County Planning Board	Public hearing on Tamarack Meadows subdivision	Carver Engineering plans show stormwater ponds near Garnier Creek; open-space buffer identified.	Public concerns raised about traffic, runoff, and environmental impact.
Jan 3, 2023	City Council	Initial public review of subdivision approval	Staff report notes 103 lots, 47 acres, open-space buffer and "no development	Questions about CC&Rs, access, and environmental protections.

			corridor" along Garnier Creek as basis for approval of preliminary plat.	
Jan 17, 2023	City Council	Conditions adopted for approval	Condition #18: 'Garnier Creek buffer shall remain undeveloped and in a natural state.'	Permanent Garnier Creek 'no-development buffer' established.
Feb 6, 2023	City of Columbia Falls	Resolution No. 1891 approved	Finalized subdivision approval with Condition #18 intact.	Legal foundation for permanent "no development" corridor along Garnier Creek.
Mid-2023	Montana DEQ	Stormwater design approval	Approved detention/treatment ponds adjacent to Garnier Creek corridor.	Contradicts City's Condition #18; buffer converted to engineered system. No apparent DEQ coordination with either the City of Columbia Falls or Flathead County Planning Departments.
2023–2024	City & Flathead County	Jurisdiction transition due to State of Montana termination of interlocal planning agreements	Project outside city limits; enforcement authority unclear.	No clear enforcement responsibility.
Spring - Summer 2025	Schellinger Construction/Flathead Conservation District (FCD)/MT DEQ	Unpermitted (310 law) Excavation and unpermitted groundwater dewatering/sumping from storm-water ponds. 310 complaints filed to FCD and DEQ	Groundwater intercepted; discharge pumped toward Garnier Creek. FCD acknowledges lack of 310 permit and issues "on the spot" 310 permit to construct ponds adjacent to Garnier Creek in violation of preliminary plat condition #18. DEQ issues violation/corrective action letter to developer on lack of required Best	Garnier Creek wetlands excavated, timber and vegetation removed, groundwater intercepted. Sediment-laden runoff observed entering creek. Various mud patches visible where dewatering lines laid on banks near Garnier Creek. Soils above Garnier Creek supersaturated with sumped groundwater.

			Management Practices (BMP's)	
Aug 11–12, 2025	Schellinger Construction	Mud discharge event	Heavy sediment flow documented entering Garnier Creek. Complaints files with MT DNRC FCD and MT DEQ.	Creek filled with heavy sediment/mud. Water quality significantly degraded. Native fishery impacted. Stream flow reduced. Downstream businesses (resort/ranch operations) adversely impacted.
Aug 29, 2025	Flathead Conservation District	310 Violation Notice & Penalty Order	Required remediation plan to restore creek by Oct 6, 2025.	Penalty assessed, limited jurisdiction.
Oct 3, 2025	Schellinger Construction	Response to FCD Order	Focused on penalty reduction ($15K penalty ultimately paid); no full restoration plan submitted (partial restoration plan ultimately submitted, not approved/permitted or implemented as of this date)	No substantive remediation action taken.to date.
Fall 2025	Montana DEQ	No enforcement/penalty action on mud discharge event to date	No notice of violation, penalty, sediment/flow study, or rehabilitation required to date.	No state-level water-quality enforcement to date. ***Actions may be pending per below statement from DEQ***
Nov 2025 (Present)	Residents	Ongoing impact	Garnier Creek remains sediment-laden (Bentonite drifts and wedges in creek), ponds still adjacent to creek. Reduced Creek flow due to possible aquifer damage	Continued risk of spring runoff contamination from mud/pesticides/fertilizer and weed seeds.

Summary of Key Violations / Failures

Type	Responsible Party	Violation / Deficiency

Subdivision Condition Violation	Schellinger Construction. City and County oversight lapse	Stormwater ponds built within 'no-development' Garnier Creek buffer (Condition #18).
Unauthorized Stream Impact	Schellinger Construction	Summer 2025 unauthorized stormwater pond "dewatering" via sumping.to upper banks of Garnier Creek. August 2025 mud discharge to Garnier Creek without valid permit.
Regulatory Oversight Failure	DEQ, DNRC/FCD, City of Columbia Falls, Flathead County	Approval or inaction allowed work within wetland/creek corridor and penetration of groundwater.
Inadequate Remediation	Flathead Conservation District / DEQ	No sediment study, flow analysis, pond capacity study (given groundwater penetration), or restoration completed to date

Current Environmental & Legal Status

• Garnier Creek: Impaired by sedimentation; reduced flow and clarity and altered bed structure. Potential future fertilizer/herbicide/weed contamination.

• Stormwater Ponds: Engineered basins now sit in violation of COA#18 and in the riparian buffer (in wetlands and in the Garnier Creek aquifer). Expected to discharge annually into the creek due to penetration into groundwater/wetlands. As constructed, the stormwater ponds are not protective of future sediment discharges (capacity issue due to groundwater penetration), internal and external pond wall erosion control via woody shrubs, fertilizer and pesticide mitigation from 103 lot subdivision via reed and woody shrub plantings in the ponds, and safety issue of potential for children/pets/wildlife access to the ponds.

* Accountability Gaps: No single agency addressing:
--Violation of COA #18 Garnier Creek "no development Corridor"
--Mitigation of future sediment to Garnier Creek
--Possible flow damage to Garnier Creek
--Mitigation of future Fertilizer/pesticide contamination to Garnier Creek via stormwater pond BMP's
--Safety issues with potential for child/pet access to the ponds
--Current weed infestation issues and future weed transport into Garnier Creek.

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Excerpt from E-mail from Susan Bawden, MT DEQ Enforcement Coordinator, to Paul Kruger dated 11/12/25:

(Kruger statement): with no apparent monetary penalty to the developer from DEQ,

(DEQ Statement): DEQ has a legal process outlined in statute it must follow prior to consideration and assessment of any monetary penalty; DEQ also has procedural rules it must follow when calculating and assessing any monetary penalty.

As required by this process, John O Bannon has issued violation letters with corrective actions and subsequently developed an Enforcement Request Packet and forwarded it to the Enforcement Program for further action. The action has been approved and is currently in the development stage. It takes several months from the approval of the action to the issuance of documents. I have been assigned to this action; I don't expect it to be out until after the first of the year, likely early February.

Please be advised, I cannot make further comment on an active case.

(Kruger statement): wetlands and the aquifer associated with Garnier Creek have been damaged (significantly reducing streamflow), and the ponds are filling with mostly groundwater, creating another overflow potential come spring runoff.

(DEQ Statement): This will be addressed as part of the Enforcement Action.

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ATTACHMENTS:

13. All dwellings shall have house numbers, which conform to the requirements of the Rural Fire District. This condition shall be placed on the face of the plat.

14. The applicants shall provide Columbia Falls Public Works Department and Meadow Lake Water and Sewer District copies of the final plat drawings and as-built construction drawings for all public infrastructure improvements constructed in street rights of way or easements within the plat. Drawings shall be paper and digital. Digital copies shall be in a format prescribed by the City and the District. The Developer shall provide a GPS location of the center of each water valve cover, sewer manhole cover, and the location every 20 feet of any buried piping that varies more than 6% from a straight line between main line appurtenances that possess surface components.

15. The parkland dedication requirement has been met by the common open space area as shown on the plat, in conjunction with the plat notes outlined herein.

16. The Flathead County Weed Department shall approve a Weed Management Plan for the Development prior to Final Plat. A note shall be placed on the face of the final plat stating: "Lot owners are subject to the Weed Management Plan approved by the Flathead County Weed Department."

17. The applicant shall provide a letter from the applicable Solid Waste Contractor stating that Solid Waste Service is available to the Subdivision. The CC&R's will encourage use of a Solid Waste contractor for residences in the subdivision.

18. Plat notes shall be added to the face of the plat delineating that the open space is dedicated in perpetuity; that the open space is available for use by the general public, and that said open space will be owned and maintained by the Homeowners Association. No vegetation can be removed in open space areas without approval by the Homeowners Association; and the buffer area adjacent Garnier Creek shall remain undeveloped and in a natural state. Changes to the use and/or management of the common open space shall be approved by the Homeowners Association.

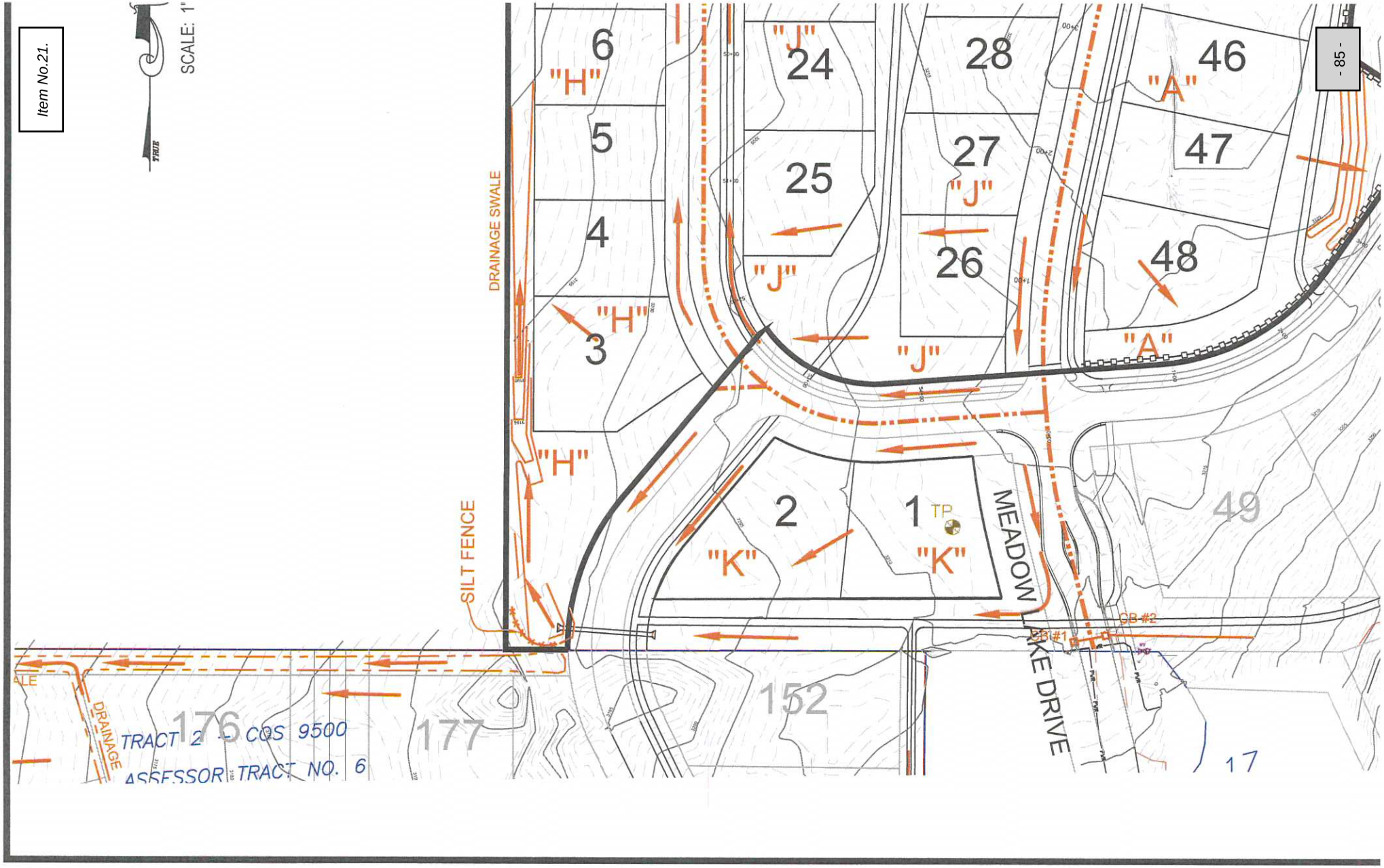
19. The applicant shall provide a Set of CC&R's to be filed with the Final Plat. Said CC&R's shall address the maintenance of all common features within the subdivision including roads, common areas, and paths within common areas.

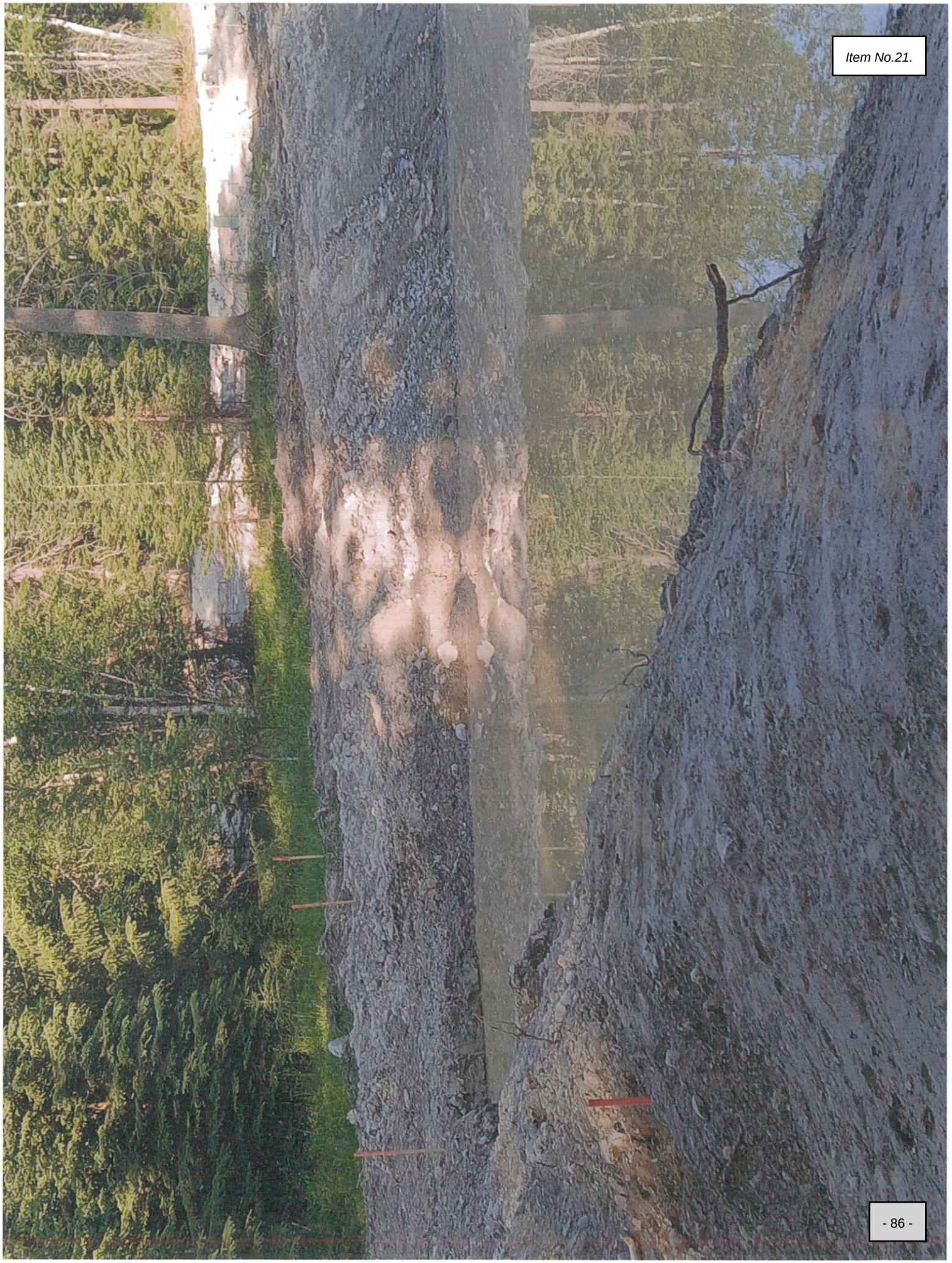
20. A Construction Mitigation Plan shall be developed, in consultation with the applicable representative Homeowner's Associations (Mountain Watch, Meadow Lake and Garnier Estates) and private property owner adjacent to Lots 2-15, and submitted to the City prior to the commencement of any construction. Said plan shall include construction hours, ingress, egress and haul routes, staging of materials and job shacks, parking for construction workers, dust abatement, temporary erosion control measures and other best management practices. The neighboring representatives have no veto power over any proposed or approved Construction Mitigation Plan.

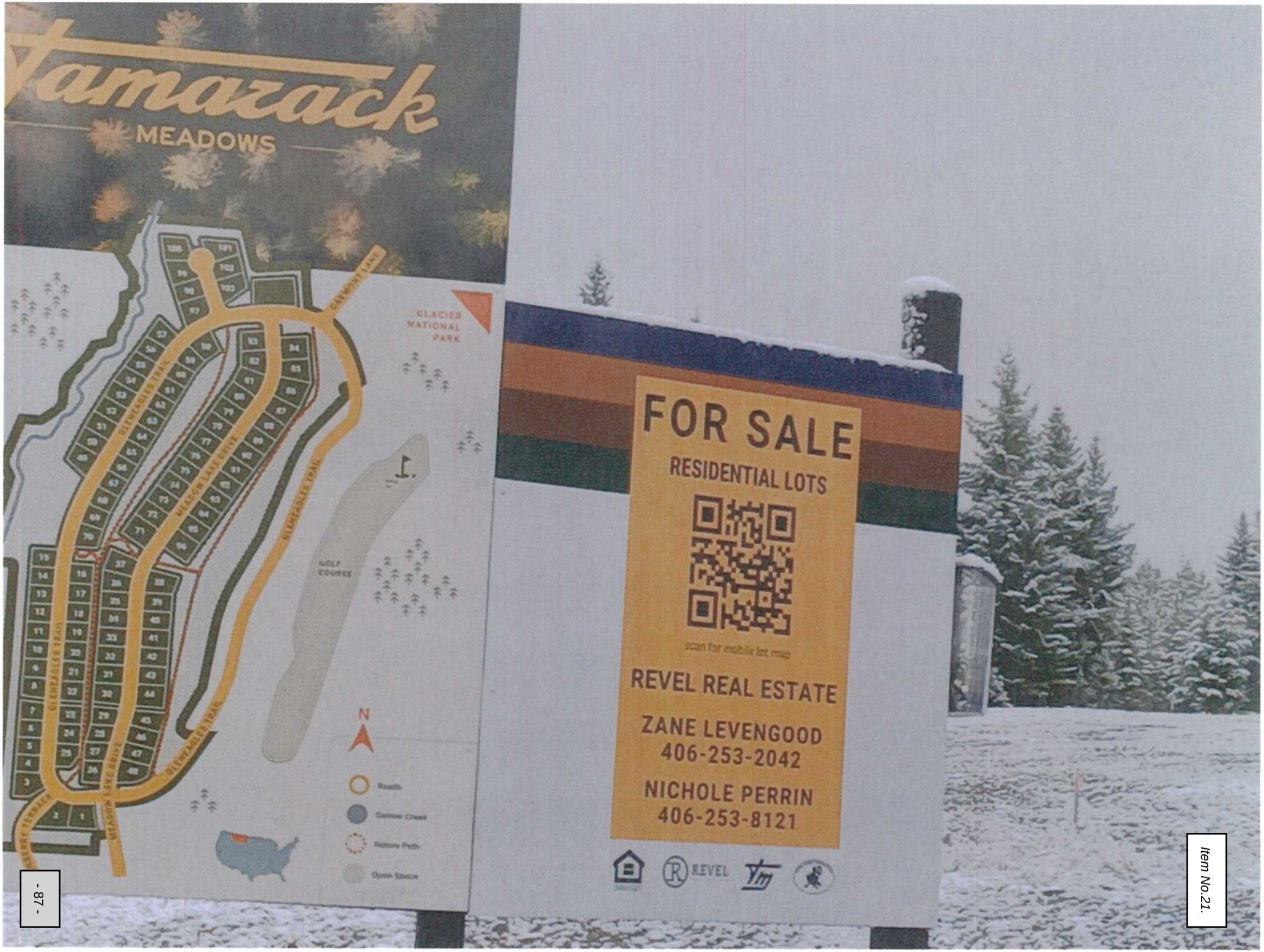
21. Tamarack Heights is approved as a single phase.

22. The responsible postmaster shall approve a common mailbox facility at an approved location. The facility shall meet the requirements of 17.18.250.

23. All improvements including road, water, sewer, stormwater, dry utilities, sidewalks and paths shall be installed prior to Final Plat or the applicant


SCALE: 1"
6
"H"
5
4
3
"H"
"H"
DRAINAGE SWALE
SILT FENCE
"J"
24
25
"J"
"J"
28
27
"J"
26
"J"
46
"A"
47
48
"A"
2
"K"
1 TP
"K"
MEADOW LAKE DRIVE
49
CB #1
CB #2
ALE
DRAINAGE
176
TRACT 2 - COS 9500
ASSESSOR TRACT NO. 6
177
152
17




Tamarack
MEADOWS
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK
GLENMORE LANE
GLENEAGLES TRAIL
MEADOW LAKE DRIVE
GOLF COURSE
N
Roads
Summer Creek
Nature Path
Open Space
FOR SALE
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
scan for mobile lot map
REVEL REAL ESTATE
ZANE LEVENGOOD
406-253-2042
NICHOLE PERRIN
406-253-8121
REVEL

Columbia Falls Police Department
Monthly Activity Report
November 2025

Police	November					5 Year Average	Year to Date
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021		
Arrests (Total)	33	23	37	23	19	27	399
Adult	26	18	33	21	18	23	348
Juvenile	7	5	4	2	1	4	51
Accidents Investigated	30	30	5	7	9	16	204
Stolen Property (Value)	9023	6119	25853	212	48464	17934	108,966
Stolen Property (Recovered)	1525	0	25111	57	40000	13339	18,570
Criminal Mischief (Incidents)	1	1	4	2	9	3	18
Damage Amount	50	0	500	50	2711	662	11,312
Misdemeanor Citations Issued	93	82	184	76	69	101	1,727
Traffic Offenses	83	72	157	65	66	89	1,534
Cell Phone Violations	1	2	6	2	2	3	44
DUI Offenses	12	5	18	5	2	8	114
Drug Offenses	3	1	3	0	2	2	34
Traffic Stops	173	131	252	109	118	157	3,168
Court Fines and Forfeitures	14508	13325	19610	10422	15519	14677	219,436
Miles Patrol	8088	5837	8825	N/A	7470	7555	86,865
911 Phone Calls	218	221	210	92	115	171	2,879
Incident Reports	612	654	817	649	811	709	10,066
Disturbances/Assaults	32	13	31	26	20	24	272
Felony Investigations	9	9	8	9	9	9	83
Buisness Checks	79	65	106	54	61	73	957
Welfare Checks	9	11	5	8	14	9	140
Citizen Assist	42	28	62	44	45	44	527
Agency Assist	28	31	41	28	48	35	352

Columbia Falls Fire Department Incident Breakdown

2025	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD	2025
Dispatches	**33**	**29**	**24**	**33**	**26**	**23**	**49**	**34**	**36**	**34**	**47**		**368**	**Dispatches**
ALS Medical Total	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2		8	ALS Medical Total
BLS Medical Total	16	9	8	15	12	7	16	17	13	12	15		140	BLS Medical Total
Medical CPR	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2		5	Medical CPR
Medical ALS	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2		6	Medical ALS
Medical BLS	5	5	2	4	4	2	5	8	5	5	5		50	Medical BLS
Medical Lift Assist	3	4	2	6	2	2	2	4	1	1	3		30	Medical Lift Assist
MVA with injury	4	0	2	1	2	2	5	2	1	1	4		24	MVA with injury
Extrication	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0		2	Extrication
Ambulance Driver	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	1		6	Ambulance Driver
MVA non injury	4	0	0	4	4	1	3	3	7	5	3		34	MVA non injury
Airport Emergency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Airport Emergency
Traffic Control	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Traffic Control
HazMat	4	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	2	0	0		11	HazMat
Hazardous Conditions	4	0	0	3	2	2	7	4	2	3	1		28	Hazardous Conditions
CO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		1	CO
Gas Leak/Odor inside	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1		6	Gas Leak/Odor inside
Gas Leak/Odor outside	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0		8	Gas Leak/Odor outside
Powerline	0	0	0	3	1	0	4	1	0	2	4		15	Powerline
Other	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0		2	Other
Service	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	1	1	0	1		9	Service
Good Intent	1	1	3	0	2	1	3	2	6	2	1		22	Good Intent
Fire Alarm	1	1	0	1	1	2	5	1	2	2	5		21	Fire Alarm
False Alarm	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	4	0		12	False Alarm
Illegal burn	0	0	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	0		9	Illegal burn
Smoke Investigation, outside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1		2	Smoke Investigation, outside
Smoke Investigation, inside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0		1	Smoke Investigation, inside
Cancelled enroute	6	3	9	3	4	9	7	5	5	5	9		65	Cancelled enroute
Fire, residential	4	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1		10	Fire, residential
Fire, chimney	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		2	Fire, chimney
Fire, commercial	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0		8	Fire, commercial
Fire, vehicle	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	1		7	Fire, vehicle
Fire, vegetation, grass	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		2	Fire, vegetation, grass
Fire, vegetation, wildland	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	Fire, vegetation, wildland
Dispatch Totals	33	29	24	33	26	23	49	34	36	34	47		**368**	**Dispatch Totals**
Structure fires (In District)	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1		9	Structure fires
Structure fires (Mutual aid)	3	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0		8	
Acres burned	0	0	0	0.5	0	0	0.03	0	0	0	0		0.53	Acres burned

Columbia Falls Fire Department
2025 Runs

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total	2025
calls	33	29	24	33	26	23	49	34	36	34	47		368	
Weeks	20	19	10	13	13	9	25	10	15	17	11		162	44.02%
Peterson	15	11	6	9	7	9	26	13	16	16	14		142	38.59%
Smith, R.	19	13	9	11	6	10	25	9	15	17	21		155	42.12%
Thomas	18	8	9	12	5	9	25	14	18	11	20		149	40.49%
Ross	16	14	3	6	3	2	7	8	8	0	2		69	18.75%
Loughery	5	4	1	2	2	4	5	2	4	1	3		33	8.97%
Smith, K.	5	1	10	3	10	6	14	8	5	14	14		90	24.46%
Arnold	10	7	8	11	12	7	13	11	10	4	10		103	27.99%
Perkins	5	4	6	3	4	3	5	1	4	3	4		42	11.41%
Willcut	8	9	7	6	10	9	13	9	10	9	9		99	26.90%
Woodruff	8	8	7	14	9	5	12	5	7	3	10		88	23.91%
Stuhler	11	4	7	3	3	4	19	9	16	10	16		102	27.72%
Grogan	0	0	9	27	26	18	40	19	24	25	20		208	56.52%
Shanks	4	2	1	3	1	4	3	5	5	3	6		37	10.05%
Bates	1	0	1	4	2	1	8	2	9	2	5		35	9.51%
Schrader	3	6	1	2	2	1	9	1	1	0	0		26	7.07%
Dickerson	4	1	1	2	1	0	0	2	2	1	1		15	4.08%
Butts	7	6	3	1	3	8	5	4	2	2	9		50	13.59%
Hogan	10	9	9	15	14	12	32	17	23	22	24		187	50.82%
Messer	4	2	3	2	0	3	5	1	1	4	4		29	7.88%
Vessels	15	20	10	20	5	6	17	3	13	4	0		113	30.71%
Kienas	12	14	13	20	23	12	27	19	13	11	17		181	49.18%
Johnson	14	11	6	7	5	8	7	19	16	11	8		112	30.43%
Jost	6	19	8	19	9	6	21	15	8	4	5		120	32.61%
Thorsteinson	5	6	6	6	3	2	8	6	5	4	5		56	15.22%
Weber	2	6	1	3	1	0	8	1	1	1	3		27	7.34%
Mainolfi						7	17	3	12	5	7		51	13.86%
Ruben							3	4	8	6	7			
Swartzenberger								7	15	0	5			
Inabnit											1			
Thomas, J											0			
Atchley	1	2	0	0	0	0	4							
			#1 month		#2 month		2025 #1					Average:	102	27.65%
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Calls YTD 2025	
Total calls	33	29	24	33	26	23	49	37	36	34	47		371	
Rural	19	15	17	23	11	10	31	23	15	19	33		216	58.22%
City	14	14	7	10	15	13	18	11	21	15	14		152	40.97%
Mutual Aid Received	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1		9	2.43%
Mutual Aid Given	3	1	1	1	3	1	3	1	0	0	1		15	4.04%
Medical & MVA	16	12	8	16	12	7	16	17	14	13	19		150	40.43%

Columbia Falls Fire Department
November 2025 Inspections

Business Name	Address	Date Inspected	Reinspection Date
Mary Ellen Getts	336 2nd St E	10/20/2025	11/20/2025
Jeff Pope	321 1st Ave W	11/25/2025	