

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,
COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD September 23, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL PRESENT OFFICERS PRESENT	The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Webb Mandeville began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. The council persons present were Rick White, Dennis Holten, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald and Danen Johannes. Staff members present were Police Chief Aaron Uecker, Public Works Director Peyton Brookshire, City Attorney Ryan Addis and Clerk-Treasurer Cherrie McAlexander.
SIDELINE IN PERSON	Charlie Denison
PUBLIC HEARING	NONE
REGULAR MINUTES APPROVED	The mayor asked Council if they had reviewed the minutes of the September 3, 2024, regular meeting, and if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting, seconded by Rick White; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Dennis Holten and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.
SHUT OFF LIST	The shut-off list for the month of September 2024 was presented to the Council. Rick White made a motion to approve the list as presented, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Dennis Holten and Rick White all yea votes. Motion passed.
APPROVAL OF CLAIMS	The claims list for the 1st half of September was presented to the Council. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Cole Waltner; Danen asked about the invoice from CMI for a purchase of a police vehicle, he questioned why it was on the approval list when council had not approved the purchase. Aaron explained according to the city's procurement policy it is allowed. Ryan added that it is on the agenda for approval tonight. Roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.
PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS	NONE
FIRE DEPT.	The Fire Chief was not present and did not provide a report.
POLICE	The Police Chief was present and provided a report. Danen stated that the city needs to be fiscally responsible when purchasing police vehicles and make sure the purchases are necessary. Danen stated that our police officers all have their own vehicles but most city police department officers share vehicles. Moving to a shared system could save the city money. Danen stated that he doesn't want to see taxes raised to pay for things that are unnecessary.
PUBLIC WORKS	The Public Works Director was present and provided a report. Danen asked if the Basketball Court was getting resurfaced along with the tennis court. Cherrie stated that she sent him an email about it. Cherrie asked if he checks his email, and he stated not very often. Cherrie stated that it is getting resurfaced along with the tennis court.
ATTORNEY	The City Attorney was present but did not provide a report.
CITY JUDGE	The City Judge was not present and did not provide a report.

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CLERK-TREASURER	The Clerk-Treasurer was present and provided a report. Bob asked about the situation with the city and the golf course not having a lease. Cherrie explained that the only lease she could find expired in 1993. She stated it is an easy fix, we just need to create a new one. Ryan explained that the reason this all came about was due to the UV Project and the SRF Loan required a site opinion to be done. The new UV building will be on golf course property, so they wanted a copy of the lease. Golf course has been notified and is ok with everything.
PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:	NONE
COMMITTEE REPORTS-	NONE
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	NONE
NEW BUSINESS	<p>Approval of Customer Agreement between NorthWestern Energy and the City of Columbus in the amount of \$63,169.32 to provide electrical services at 200 Lagoon Road for the UV project. Bob Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Dennis Holten; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Special Use Permit for a Halloween Trunk n Treat at Granite Peak Park on October 31st from 4pm-7pm. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the permit, seconded by Bob Fitzgerald; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Dennis Holten and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Special Use Permit for the Parade of Lights on December 6th from 4pm-8pm – same route as last year. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve the permit, seconded by Danen Johannes; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Second Extension of Interlocal Agreement between the City of Columbus and Rural Fire District #3. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the extension, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Dennis Holten and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Request for Qualifications for Engineering Services to be advertised. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Rick White; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Dennis Holten and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Pay App #4 for Mystic Mountain in the amount of \$185,458.09 for the 2nd Street Storm Drain Project. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the pay app, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis</p>

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Holten, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.

Approval of Task Order 29 from Interstate Engineering in the amount of \$377,409.00 to furnish Engineering Services for the UV Project. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve the task order, seconded by Dennis Holten; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Dennis Holten and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.

Approval of Construction Agreement between the City and Stillwater Excavating in the amount of \$20,100.00 for road maintenance to the Water Tank. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Rick White; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Dennis Holten and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.

Approval of Infield Replacement Project for Mandeville Baseball field at Granite Peak. Bob Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the project, seconded by Danen Johannes. Cole asked if this is all coming out of the city budget. The mayor said yes. Cole stated that the city is paying for all the improvements and the school is still getting to play ball on the field. The mayor said yes. Cole asked who is going to be responsible for the upkeep of the improvements to the field. Cole stated that he agrees that the field needs improvements along with the other fields but if there isn't better upkeep and maintenance the field will be right back to the condition it is in a few years. Cole stated that there needs to be better agreements between these organizations and the city to make sure this upkeep and maintenance gets done. Cole stated that the fields are currently being used for unofficial practices for high school right now. Peyton stated that we may need to restrict some usage to these organizations if they are not willing to help with funding and maintenance. Dennis asked who is "Granite Peak". The mayor stated he is not fully aware how Granite Peak is structured but it is mostly Tom Chamberlin. The mayor stated that the only entity that will take on all year around maintenance is the city. Dennis stated that it wasn't always that way. Back in the good old days Granite Peak was going to do all the maintenance and over the years that has all shifted. Dennis stated if we want it nice the city is going to have to do it. Roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.

Approval of purchase of Police Vehicle in the amount of \$25,995.00. Bob Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Cole Waltner. Danen asked if we were getting rid of a vehicle. Aaron stated that the impala will be replaced, and it has been with the city for a long time. Roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.


Approval of pay application from Morrison Maierle \$4,555.27 and Dick Anderson Construction \$44,557.95. A total amount of \$49,113.22 (90% FAA grant of \$44,201.90, City and County sponsor share of \$2,455.67 each). Rick White made a motion to approve the pay app, seconded by Dennis Holten; roll call for

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	<p>vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Dennis Holten and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p>
COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA	<p>Bob asked if it was illegal to ride side by side and dirt bikes at the end of Centennial Road. There have been a bunch of kids driving around in circles stirring up a bunch of dust. Bob believes it is private property. Aaron stated that half that road is cut up between county and city. Ryan stated that zoning would cover it because it is in the bubble but didn't know if any zoning rules would be relatable to the issue. Aaron stated that he would swing by and chat with the property owner.</p> <p>The mayor discussed the issue of not having a quorum at the last council meeting and the ripple it created. He asked if you know that you are going to be gone try to check with the other council members to see if they will be attending so we won't have this problem again. The mayor discussed the lack of volunteers in the city. He mentioned the ROCE workshop series that is going on in the city right now. He also mentioned the need for members on the City-Planning Board. Out of 9 seats there are 3 vacant and they are all city seats. Danen asked when the planning board meets. The mayor said the 4th Tuesday of every month with mandatory meetings of 4 times per year. The mayor asked if the council could talk it up and let people know. The mayor asked about having an open Zoom for all our council meetings to give more transparency. This was mentioned to him by Peyton. Dennis asked about #9 on the agenda. How do you handle that.</p> <p>Cherrie stated that Mike Abfalder that has been volunteering at Itch-Kep-Pe Park for the last 15 years, resigned today. Moving forward, there will not be anyone going down to the park 3-4 times a day to keep an eye on things.</p>
ADJOURNMENT	<p>Webb Mandeville requested a Motion to Adjourn. Rick White made the motion to adjourn at 7:41 p.m. seconded by Dennis Holten, roll call all yea votes.</p>



 WEBB MANDEVILLE, MAYOR



 CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER, CLERK-TREASURER