

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,
COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD April 21, 2025, 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, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, and Danen Johannes. Staff members present were Fire Chief Rich Cowger, Chief of Police Aaron Uecker, Public Works Director Peyton Brookshire, City Attorney Ryan Addis, and Clerk-Treasurer Cherrie McAlexander.
SIDELINE IN PERSON	Hannah McAlexander, Lane DeSaveur, Tim and Jennifer Avalone
PUBLIC HEARING	NONE
REGULAR MINUTES APPROVED	The mayor asked the council if they had reviewed the minutes of the April 7, 2025, 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, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.
SHUT OFF LIST	The shut-off list for the month of April 2025 was presented to the Council. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the list as presented, seconded by Tim Mayor; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.
APPROVAL OF CLAIMS	The claims list for the 1 st half of April was presented to the Council. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.
PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS	Cherrie discussed the different options for Security Cameras for the City. Tim Mayo asked what Wi-Fi would be used. Cherrie responded Starlink and Spectrum. Dennis asked where the central location for the hub would be for the cameras. Cherrie responded at City Hall. Cherrie explained that there will be access to view cameras on desktop computers and cell phones. Cole Waltner asked what the install fees would be for the DIS option. Cherrie stated that all installation was included. Rick asked about the camera warranty. Cherrie explained the warranty and extra maintenance plan that the city will carry for \$350.00 per year. Cole asked about the location of the cameras and what damage proofing will be needed. Cherrie stated that these cameras are the same cameras that are installed in prisons and are supposed to be very heavy duty and can withstand -40-degree temperatures.
FIRE DEPT.	The Fire Chief was present and provided a report.
POLICE	The Police Chief was present and provided a report.
PUBLIC WORKS	The Public Works Director was present and provided a report. Tim asked about how many gallons was included in the $\frac{3}{4}$ water lines for the city. Peyton responded 3,000 gallons. Tim asked Peyton if he wanted to remove all the water usage included and charge per 1,000 gallons. Peyton said yes, the impact is around \$20.00 which isn't huge. Peyton said that the base rate doesn't needed to be touched right now just need to get rid of the free water. Doing that will get us closer to our target rate. Tim asked Peyton about the new excavator and why the city is not using it for the culvert repairs down at the Airport instead of

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<p>ATTORNEY</p> <p>CITY JUDGE</p> <p>CLERK-TREASURER</p>	<p>contracting it out. Tim thought that the reason why the city bought a new excavator was to do their own digging. Peyton stated that was correct, but he currently does not have the manpower. Cherrie asked if the County would be paying for half of the repairs of the culverts at the Airport. Peyton said he would be getting with Rich Cowger about that. Dennis started a discussion on the airport culverts and the plan the city had in the past to fix them. Dennis stated that he needs a lot more information before moving forward on any water or sewer rate increase. Dennis stated that he does not like the words Target Rate. The mayor stated it was not a target rate but a break-even rate.</p> <p>The City Attorney was present and provided a report. Ryan stated that he did a bit of research on some council meeting rules regarding the 3 minutes for public speaking. Ryan said he could draft a policy through a resolution to set some council meeting rules. Ryan asked the council to give him some feedback on what they would like to see.</p> <p>The City Judge was not present and did not provide a report.</p> <p>The Clerk-Treasurer was present and provided a report. Dennis asked about the Board Application that was received for the SCD and if we had received a recommendation. Ryan stated that we are working on it. Ryan will be sending another letter to the SCD. Tim asked if Doug Harrington said why he wanted to pull his application. Cherrie responded no.</p>
<p>PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:</p>	<p>NONE</p>
<p>COMMITTEE REPORTS-</p>	<p>NONE</p>
<p>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</p>	<p>Discussion on allowing access to compost pile after hours – Tim Avalone stated that he was here if anyone had any questions for him. There was lots of discussion back and forth with the council, mayor, attorney and public works director on this matter. It was decided that the License Agreement and Release form would be modified by the city attorney and reviewed by Tim Avalone. It will be presented to the council at the next meeting for approval. It was agreed that the License Agreement and Release is only a temporary fix until a permanent solution can be found. There was discussion about making a separate entrance for the after-hours dumping which would only allow access to the compost pile. Tim thanked Peyton for answering his calls and allowing them to dump after hours and when the dump is closed. Jennifer asked if the current temporary fix of calling Peyton to let them in to dump is still the plan until the next council meeting. Peyton responded yes.</p> <p>Discussion on Sign Ordinance at Granite Peak Park – Ryan stated that he took comments from Danen and Cole for the Ordinance he drafted. He would like the council to give feedback. Once he gets any feedback, he can draft the final Ordinance and move forward with getting the Ordinance approved.</p>

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NEW BUSINESS

Approval to add an additional police officer position to the Police Department. Rick White made a motion to approve, seconded by Tim Mayo; Danen Johannes asked if this was for a new position or just filling the vacant position. Aaron Uecker responded that this was for a new position. Danen said he read through Aaron's report but feels that another officer is more than what most cities this size have. Danen stated that when he got on the council the police department budget was around \$380,000 and now it is pushing \$1,000,000. Danen asked if the number of citations were going up. Aaron responded he did not know where they were right now. Danen stated that he has a difficult time adding another police officer right now. Aaron stated that the city's crime is going up. He explained that other cities our size do not have the traffic we have or the crime we do. Danen stated if the citations were going up and creating more arrests then we might need another officer. Aaron said that those numbers were in his report. The mayor talked briefly about the calls of service. Cole Waltner said that calls of service, citations, and arrest are all different. Cherrie explained that the revenue the police department brings in from citations, arrest or whatever you call them has not increased. Aaron stated that if you set the crime aspect aside with 5 officers it's really hard to get any time off or provide coverage when officers are sick. Dennis stated that he just received this information today and he needs more time to decide. Aaron said that he is available and willing to provide any information or answer any questions anyone has. Dennis stated it would be handy for all council members to be present for something like this. Aaron let the council know that in the current hiring process that is going on for the vacant position there are other candidates that would be a good fit for the new position if approved. Danen asked Aaron to confirm that the city police officers work alone. Aaron said yes. Danen stated that he sees highway patrol and sheriff office all the time in town so are the city police officers really working alone. Aaron said that at least a half dozen times a year an officer will go on a call alone and it's not a call you want to be on alone. Aaron Stated that the crime is here, and our town is less safe now than it was 10 years ago. Rick said he understands what Dennis is saying by wanting more time and asked if we can move this to the next meeting. Ryan advised the council on their options at this point. Dennis made a motion to table the approval of adding another police officer position until the next council meeting, Danen seconded; roll call for vote, Danen - Yes, Cole - No, Tim - No, Dennis - Yes, Rick - Yes. Motion passed.

Approval of purchasing a security camera system for the city: Option 1 - Verkada \$46,512.00, Option 2 - High Tech Solutions \$79,188.00 or Option 3 - DIS Technology \$20,589.74. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve option 1, seconded by Rick White; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.

Approval of letter to Senators and Representatives for Tax Credit 45X to be signed by the Mayor. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.

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Approval of Special Use Permit for Jonn Beer Memorial Poker Run at the Wolterman Memorial Airport on May 31, 2025 from 8am to 4pm. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve, seconded by Danen Johannes; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.

Approval of Special Use Permit for Columbus MTGives at Railroad Park and Diamond Street on May 9, 2025 from 2pm to 10pm. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve, seconded by Tim Mayo; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.

Approval of Special Use Permit for a Bike Rodeo at East 1st Ave N (elementary school) on May 22, 2025 from 8:30am to 2:30pm. Rick White made a motion to approve, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.

Approval of Resolution 870-2025 Establishing Wages for Pool Employees for 2025. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve, seconded by Danen Johannes; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.

Approval of the Lease Agreement between the City of Columbus and Devon Pinkal and Heather Meier (Beartooth Beanery) for July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.

Approval of Professional Services Agreement between the City of Columbus and AEI Applicators for Weed Control not to exceed \$30,000.00. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve, seconded by Danen Johannes; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.

Approval of Professional Services Agreement between the City of Columbus and Engineering West for Contracted Zoning Officer – no set amount see Exhibit C. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve, seconded by Tim Mayo; roll call for vote; Danen Johannes, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.

Approval of the Construction Agreement between the City of Columbus and Stillwater Excavating for Blading and Rolling of upper and lower Itch-Kep-Pe Road not to exceed \$20,000.00. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve, seconded by Danen Johannes; Cole asked how many gradings this amount includes. Peyton responded two and some materials are included if needed. Roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.

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	<p>Approval of Task Order 33 – Interstate Engineering to provide professional services for 12th Street Sewer Crossing Project in the amount of \$8,000.00. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve, seconded by Tim Mayo; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of contract between the City of Columbus and Olness CPA to provide auditing services. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Pay Application #2 to Askin Construction in the amount of \$172,581.75 for the UV Project. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve, seconded by Dennis Holten; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of the appointment of Jonathan Church to the Columbus Police department after 1 year probation. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve, seconded by Danen Johannes; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>AIRPORT *Approval of FAA Grant Application in the amount of \$219,248.00(\$208,284.00 FAA, \$10,964.00 local sponsor match) Pavement Maintenance Project. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve, seconded by Danen Johannes; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>AIRPORT Approval of Bid Recommendation for Pavement Maintenance Project – CR Contracting as the low bidder in the amount of \$150,627.26. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve, seconded by Dennis Holten; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p>
COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA	NONE
ADJOURNMENT	Webb Mandeville requested a Motion to Adjourn. Rick White made the motion to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. seconded by Dennis Holten, roll call all yea votes.

WEBB MANDEVILLE, MAYOR

CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER, CLERK-TREASURER

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