


**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,
COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD JANUARY 3, 2022, AT 7:00 P.M.**

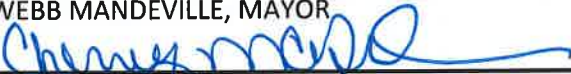
COUNCIL PRESENT OFFICERS PRESENT	The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Webb Mandeville began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. Council persons present were Rick White, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, and Danen Johannes. Staff members, Police Chief Gary Timm, Public Works Director Scott Caton, City Attorney Ryan Addis, and City Clerk Cherrie McAlexander.
SIDELINE IN PERSON	none
PUBLIC HEARING	No Public Hearings.
REGULAR MINUTES APPROVED	The Mayor asked Council if they had reviewed the minutes of the December 19, 2022, regular meeting, and if there were any additions deletions or corrections. Cole Waltner moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as written, seconded by; Rick White roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.
CLAIMS LIST	The claims list for the month of December 22 was presented to Council. Danen Johannes made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Seconded by Rick White; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.
PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS	The Mayor spoke and reflected on all the happenings of 2022. Please see attached letter.
FIRE DEPT.	No Report
POLICE	Police Chief Timm was present and provided a report. Tim Mayo asked question about the use of the new K9 vehicle and Chief Timm responded that all was going well.
PUBLIC WORKS	The Public Works Director provided a report for Council. Tim Mayo asked a question about the water leak on 4 th street. Scott responded that they are working on locating the leak and preparing to fix. Danen Johannes mentioned a massive pothole at the corner of 4 th and Diamond. Scott said they would fill immediately.
ATTORNEY	The City Attorney provided a report and had no questions from the Council.
CITY JUDGE	The City Judge did not have a report to Council.
CLERK	The Clerk did not have a report to Council.
PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:	No Public Comment.
COMMITTEE REPORTS-	No Committee Reports

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS	No unfinished business
NEW BUSINESS	<p>Resolution 833-2023 to Accept the Determination that an Environmental Assessment is Appropriate for the City of Columbus Wastewater Treatment Facility Projects was presented to Council. Rick White motioned to waive the reading and accept the resolution. Cole Waltner seconded, roll call vote Danen Johannes, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Rick White, Motion passed.</p> <p>Mayor motioned to Re-appointed Heidi Stadel to City-County Planning Board Cole Waltner made a motion to approve, seconded by Tim Mayo; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Scott discussed the Pike/Pratten RR X-ing Sewer Main Replacement Project. 70% of all sewers runs through this pipe. Scott discussed that the city was hoping to work in line with Montana Department of Transportation with this project, but they have decided to wait until the BNSF-MRL merger is complete. Scott mentioned the MRL extended the permit to the end of 2023 so will need to move forward. Discussion of the sewer main inspection that was inconclusive, cameras could not be fed through the entire line that runs under the railroad crossing. Danen Johannes asked about the bid that we have for this project. Scott would like to get Councils approval at next meeting to resend project out for new bids. Discussion of the depth of the line, size and material of new vs old line, location of old line compared to new, tying lines together, cost of project and where to obtain the funds, increase of water fees to cover project.</p>
COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA	none
ADJOURNMENT	Webb Mandeville requested a Motion to Adjourn. Rick White made the motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. seconded by Tim Mayo, roll call all yea votes.



 WEBB MANDEVILLE, MAYOR



 CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER, CLERK-TREASURER

This is the first meeting of 2023. It is a good time to look back at 2022 and ahead to the future. I think we can all agree that a year goes by very quickly and that things change. Some changes we anticipated; some we didn't.

So, what did we do these past 52 weeks? Well, we should have had about 24 meetings plus several work sessions. And we got some things done. The water main replacement project that had been in planning for 4 years got finalized in February and in August, COP Construction began digging big holes, piling up gravel, shutting off water in the midst of people's showers and canning projects and laying new water lines. That project is ongoing. I appreciate the patience our citizens have shown in the midst of this inconvenience and the way COP Construction has interacted with those affected.

We did significant work on the city planning process. In meetings with the County Planning Department we reviewed how planning costs should be divided between the city and county in the jurisdiction shared by both entities. We approved the zoning map and interlocal agreement. The zoning officer duties were contracted to Engineering West. That was all quite timely because soon after the city county planning board was reviewing a large addition to the city of Columbus. In September they recommended the conditional approval and in October the council voted to conditionally approve the Pioneer Landing Subdivision.

We approved the K-9 Program. We approved a petition to allow the county to access city water for the new fairgrounds. We received bids for a new UV system for waste water treatment. We had a flood. We looked at plans to restore lower Itch ke pe park and our waste water treatment channel. We bought a police vehicle or two and a public works pickup.

I realize that I have been saying "We" a lot. We, the council and I didn't do anything but make the final decision. I know that I never lifted a shovel, started a back hoe, moved any snow, mowed any grass, trimmed any trees, read any meters, filed any forms, took any minutes, put on a bullet proof vest, grabbed a weapon to pull a shift to keep our citizens safe. Our staff and our employees deserve all of the credit and our continuing support.

Scott took over the job as director of public works just before the start of 2022. It's been quite a year for him. He lost his water and waste water technician to retirement. Hired a great replacement in Paul Gorino. His crew: Jim Redli, Sean Strange, Leo Kashube and Paul do great work.

Gary and his officers work hard keeping our city safe. Officers, Grishop, Eucker, Zachary and Vance along with animal control officer Flementis are much appreciated for the job they do.

The city clerk is the repository of all that is critical to the functioning of the city. This is where the meeting agendas get created, the minutes are done, items carried forward, bills paid, payroll done, financials kept up, budgets made and monitored. Its where people go for information and to voice complaints. As we begin the transition from Kisha to Cherrie, we have the opportunity to evaluate how things have been done and how they can be done more effectively. I am very appreciative not only of Kisha's tenure as our city clerk treasurer, but also of her assistance and willingness to be a key resource during the transition. I am looking forward to working with Cherrie and am very excited about the future and the fresh perspective she brings to the position.

Speaking about the future, it is here and we are going to have some major projects and challenges in 2023. One of the first is a sewer line replacement under the railroad tracks on Pratton. It is critical and

it is expensive. Our sewer and water fees are in need of review as are the system development or hook up fees. We will be dealing with these soon. Hopefully we can also implement recommendations from the park master plan focusing on upgrading Itch Ke Pe Park.

Unlike the federal, state and county, Columbus had no elections in 2022. But in 2023 there are seats up for election in all three wards: Terry's, Tim's and Danen's terms are ending. Filing opens in April. I hope all three of you will file for re-election.

I have talked too long. I usually do. My personal plan for 2023 is to be a better mayor. I need to learn more, to be more proactive. I have enjoyed working with you this past year and appreciate the diligence each of you brings to your office. You are the decision makers for the City. It is a big job with much responsibility. I look forward to a busy year. Let's get started.