

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,
COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD NOVEMBER 20, 2023, AT 7:00 P.M.**

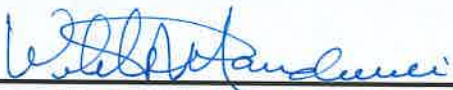
COUNCIL PRESENT OFFICERS PRESENT	The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Webb Mandeville began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. Council persons present were Rick White, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald, and Danen Johannes. Staff members present were Police Chief Gary Timm, City Attorney Ryan Addis, Public Works Director Scott Caton, and City Clerk-Treasurer Cherrie McAlexander.
SIDELINE IN PERSON	Charlie Denison, Marsha Olson, Hardin and Gretchen Graham
PUBLIC HEARING	NONE
REGULAR MINUTES APPROVED	The mayor asked Council if they had reviewed the minutes of the November 6, 2023, 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, Rick White, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.
SHUT OFF LIST	The shut off list for the month of November 2023 was presented to Council. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve the list as presented. Seconded by Cole Waltner; Roll call for vote, Rick White, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.
APPROVAL OF CLAIMS	The claims list for the 1st half of November was presented to Council. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Rick White; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Terry Nystul, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.
PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS	NONE
FIRE DEPT.	Fire Chief was not present, and did not provide a report.
POLICE	Police Chief was present, and did not provide a report.
PUBLIC WORKS	The Public Works Director was present and provided a report. Scott mentioned that the city Christmas decorations will start going up in the next week. Danen asked Scott if there will be road work done to repair the detour route now that the construction project is complete. Scott stated yes and mentioned that there has been some discussion with COP in sharing the cost of the repairs.
ATTORNEY	The City Attorney was present and provided a report. Ryan mentioned that he attended a meeting with the county and that there was discussion of the city donating the ice-skating rink and trailer to the county. No questions from Council.
CITY JUDGE	The City Judge was not present and did not provide a report to Council.
CLERK-TREASURER	The Clerk-Treasurer was present and provided a report. No questions from Council.
PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:	Hardin Graham discussed the decision of the Columbus Airport Board decision on the selection of the new airport manager. Please see attached letter that was read by Hardin. Marsha Olson discussed the Special Use Permit that was on the agenda. She stated that the Balloon Rally will be the same as last year except

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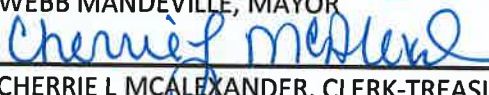
	<p>there will be a tent that will cater food for the pilots and possibly a live band on Saturday night. She will provide the proper insurance 30 days before the event. Rick White asked about parking and Marsha explained that she will revisit with all parking area owners to make sure that the same locations will be available for this year.</p>
COMMITTEE REPORTS-	NONE
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	<p>Second reading of Ordinance 366-2023 – An Ordinance to repeal Ordinance 352 entitled “An Ordinance amending section IV, design and improvement standards, of the 2014 Town of Columbus and Stillwater County, Montana, Subdivision Regulations”. Bob Fitzgerald made a motion to waive the reading of Ordinance 366-2023, seconded by Cole Waltner, no discussion, roll call for vote, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Bob Fitzgerald, Rick White, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed. Tim Mayo made a motion to adopt Ordinance 366-2023, seconded by Bob Fitzgerald, roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Terry Nystul, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Resolution 847 – Resolution of Intent to Adopt Subdivision Regulations for the City of Columbus. Bob Fitzgerald made a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 847, seconded by Cole Waltner, roll call for vote, Rick White, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve Resolution 847, seconded by Rick White, roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p>
NEW BUSINESS	<p>Approval of Special Use Permit for Christmas Parade of Lights at Railway Park on December 15, 2023 from 5pm to 8pm. Bob Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Special Use Permit, seconded by Cole Waltner, roll call vote, Rick White, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Special Use Permit for Stillwater Balloon Rally at the Woltermann Memorial Airport on May 3-5, 2023. Rick White made a motion to approve the Special Use Permit, seconded by Tim Mayo, Cole asked where the tent for the pilots would be located. Marsha said the location would be outside the fence between mine building and alley way or down where the food trucks were located last year. Roll call vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of COP Application #2 for Payment in the amount of \$228,969.00 for the Pratten St. Railroad Sewer Crossing Project. Bob asked what the retainage was for and if COP was completely finished. Scott stated that COP was not finished and that there was a final payment due to COP once all work and inspections were completed. Tim Mayo asked if the final payment would be the \$290,709.50 that was listed on the pay app and when it would be paid. Scott stated that would be the final payment and payment could possibly be paid before the end of the year. Bob expressed his concerns on how long the project took. Scott explained that COP had 90 days to complete the project per contract</p>

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	<p>but COP gave a completion time of 5 weeks which was very irritating. Danen asked if there were ways to impose penalties on the contractors or shorten the 90-day completion time. Scott stated that this would be something that would need to be discussed with the engineer and contractor. Danen expressed his concerns for all the businesses that were negatively affected by this project. Tim made a motion to approve the COP Application #2 for payment, seconded by Rick White, roll call vote, Rick White, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Airport Manager recommendation of Matthew Prinkki. Tim Mayo stated that he was invited to attend the Airport Board meeting and met Matt. Tim said that he was a very nice gentleman. Matt lives out of the county and Tim worries that he may have a hard time fulfilling the duties of the Airport Manager, especially during the winter when the runway will need to be plowed in a timely manner. Rick asked what brought Matt into the picture. The mayor stated that the Airport Board did request for proposal, it was posted in the newspaper. Cole asked Hardin if Matt currently played any role at the airport or he just applied for the position. Hardin replied that he first heard of Matt a few years ago when Jay Baum brought his name up as a potential person to be the Airport Manager. Hardin stated that he doesn't even know if Matt has even been to the airport or owns an airplane. Tim stated that Matt had only been to the airport the day of his interview and that the only experience he has in managing anything is with some residential rental properties. Cole asked if Matt had any experience in managing an airport. Tim said that as far as his understanding Matt has no experience in managing an airport. Bob stated that he has nothing against Hardin but needs to go by the recommendation from the Airport Board. Bob Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Airport Manager recommendation, seconded by Tim Mayo, roll call vote, Danen Johannes – Yes, Bob Fitzgerald – Yes, Cole Waltner – No, Tim Mayo – No, Rick White – No, motion fails.</p>
COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA	none
ADJOURNMENT	Webb Mandeville requested a Motion to Adjourn. Tim Mayo made the motion to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. seconded by Rick White, roll call all yea votes.



 WEBB MANDEVILLE, MAYOR



 CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER, CLERK-TREASURER

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11/20/2023

TO: Columbus Montana City Council
Stillwater County Commissioners

From: Hardin Graham
406-780-0034
Hardingraham21@gmail.com

Dear Council/Commission members

I am here to speak to the decision of the Columbus Airport Board regarding the selection of the new airport manager.

I don't know what you know of the reasons for the decision. I have some knowledge I wish to share.

I (Hardin Graham) have been the airport manager since 2009 as a volunteer. I have not asked nor have I received compensation. I have always accepted this duty to give support my community. I believe I have done this job very well and have done it with no guidance. I have received no criticisms. I have allowed the Weather Cameras and airport traffic radio to be in my hangar powered by my hangar and monitored by me. As the responsibilities as manager continued to grow, I lost more and more revenue in my own business by giving more and more time to the airport and for that reason have worked towards making the position a legitimate paid position even though that pay would still not fully compensate for the loss.

Now that the airport board, City and County have worked out how to make the manager position paid, the airport board has decided to give the position to someone else from out of town and county. I have been dropped despite my 14 years of volunteer service.

The rejection letter, to me, only stated that "their (other party) experience with "airport business and landlord/tenant" was the deciding factor. A very vague statement that doesn't fit any of the items in the list of specific services in the RFQ. During the interview no questions were asked regarding "airport business or landlord/tenant." I was never given the opportunity to respond to this requirement. To add to the insult, I've been asked to stay on as a volunteer and to train the new manager.

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The RFQ was very clear that any failure to "follow the instructions completely" or "not complying with the terms of the RFQ" may be grounds for rejection. Instructions for delivery of the RFQ required a sealed envelope with a specific address. The other applicant's envelope did not have the required address and was not sealed and had been opened before the official opening at the public Airport Board meeting in Sept. A fact that is proven by the date stamp being on the proposal papers not the envelope. That the proposal to the RFQ was opened prior to the specified official opening is interesting. That no board member raised an objection is interesting. I was there to witness this.

By the current Airport Board Chairman's own admission, the other party is a "friend of his who thought being the Columbus Airport Manager would give him something interesting to do along with his job as a college professor." I was there to hear this statement first hand.

These things that I have stated are facts. I ask that you do your own due diligence and make your decision with your own integrity in mind.