

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,
COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD JANUARY 2, 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. Council persons present were Rick White, Dennis Holten, 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 Clerk-Treasurer Cherrie McAlexander.
SIDELINE IN PERSON	Travis West and June Mandeville
PUBLIC HEARING	NONE
REGULAR MINUTES APPROVED	The mayor asked Council if they had reviewed the minutes of the December 18, 2023, regular meeting, and if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections. Date was incorrect on the minutes and will be corrected. Danen Johannes, made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting, seconded by Bob Fitzgerald; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Bob Fitzgerald, and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Cole Waltner abstained from voting. Motion passed.
SHUT OFF LIST	NONE
APPROVAL OF CLAIMS	The claims list for the 2 nd half of December was presented to Council. Rick White made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.
PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS	<p>Mayor gave a recap of all activity that transpired in 2023. Mayor discussed all the snow that we had in January of 2023, subzero temps, repaving of streets after water line project, start and finish of the sewer project across the railroad tracks, restructuring of the water and sewer rates, hiring of new clerk-treasurer and new deputy clerk, creation of a new special use permit, first hot air balloon event, new police sergeant. Mayor mentioned future projects – new water well, improvement of facilities at Itck-Kep-Pee Park, and additional sewer projects, updating of growth policy, and hiring of new police chief in the spring of 2024. The mayor welcomed our new council member Dennis Holten. The mayor thanked all members of council and all employees of the city for all their hard work in making Columbus a great place to raise a family.</p> <p>Travis West from Engineering West discussed the water well location report for the city. Please see attached document from Engineering West. Travis also discussed the different water rights that the city currently has. One of the water rights will expire in December 2024. Travis spoke with DNRC and there will be no issue extending that right if needed. Danen Johannes asked if there was any guarantee that the water will be good at the Lantis property? Travis stated no. The city tested his irrigation well which is close by and the results were good. Travis also stated that when purchasing the property, you will want to have the contingencies that he suggested in his report in the purchase agreement to protect the city. Rick White asked if the city drilling a well at this location will cause residents with wells in the area to be concerned with water depletion. Travis answered that there is always that possibility and that the DNRC will look at this and the contingencies that will be in the purchase agreement would protect the city if any issues arise.</p>
FIRE DEPT.	Fire Chief was not present and no report was provided. No questions from Council.

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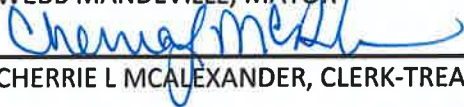
POLICE	Police Chief was present, and provided a report. No questions from Council.
PUBLIC WORKS	The Public Works Director was present, and provided a report. No questions from Council.
ATTORNEY	The City Attorney was present and provided a report. No questions from Council.
CITY JUDGE	The City Judge was not present and did not provide a report to Council. The Court Clerk provided a report. Ryan Addis stated that this report is a rough draft and that the corrected report will be presented at next council meeting.
CLERK-TREASURER	The Clerk-Treasurer was present and provided a report. No questions from Council.
PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:	NONE
COMMITTEE REPORTS-	NONE
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	NONE
NEW BUSINESS	<p>Approval of Special Use Permit for Montana Tour at Heritage Park on June 23-24, 2024. This is a bicycle tour from Red Lodge to Columbus. Tim Mayo asked if this event is the same as the bicycle event that took place at the park last summer. Mayor responded no; this is an outfit from Red Lodge. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve the permit, seconded by Dennis Holten; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, and Rick White all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Resolution 850 – for purchase of certain real property for the site of the city’s new public water supply well. Ryan Addis gave a brief explanation of the resolution. Tim Mayo asked where the money is coming from to purchase the property. Scott Caton stated that we have a grant for \$575,000 to help with the project. Cherrie McAlexander stated that the city has 3 properties that could be sold to help offset the unexpected expense of purchasing the property. Cherrie McAlexander stated that Parks Real-estate is completing some market analysis for these properties and they will be presented at a future council meeting. Rick White asked if we knew a ballpark figure of what they are wanting to sell the property for. Mayor stated \$400,000.00. Mayor also stated that we are not in a very good bargaining position but we will try to get the best price we can. Rick asked what is the size of the property. Mayor responded 2.5 acres. Bob Fitzgerald made a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 850, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald, and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed. Tim Mayo made the motion to approve Resolution 850, seconded by Rick White; roll</p>

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	call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.
COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA	Rick White asked about the water right that is expiring in December 2024, wanted to know if this was something that we needed to handle now. Scott explained that Travis West has been in discussions with the DNRC and they have stated an extension will not be an issue. Dennis Holten asked if Mark Cunnane was helping with the water rights and well. Scott replied he was helping secretly.
ADJOURNMENT	Webb Mandeville requested a Motion to Adjourn. Rick White made the motion to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. seconded by Dennis Holten, roll call all yea votes.



WEBB MANDEVILLE, MAYOR



CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER, CLERK-TREASURER