

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,  
COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD JANUARY 16, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M.**

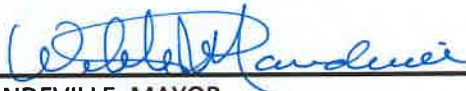
<b>COUNCIL PRESENT OFFICERS PRESENT</b>	The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Webb Mandeville began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. Council persons present were Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, and Bob Fitzgerald. Staff members present were Fire Chief Rich Cowger, Police Chief Gary Timm, City Attorney Ryan Addis, Public Works Director Scott Caton, and Clerk-Treasurer Cherrie McAlexander.
<b>SIDELINE IN PERSON</b>	Charlie Denison
<b>PUBLIC HEARING</b>	NONE
<b>REGULAR MINUTES APPROVED</b>	The mayor asked Council if they had reviewed the minutes of the January 2, 2024, regular meeting, and if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections. Tim Mayo, made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.
<b>SHUT OFF LIST</b>	The shut off list for the month of January 2024 was presented to Council. Rick White made a motion to approve the list as presented, seconded by Dennis Holten; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner and Bob Fitzgerald, all yea votes. Motion passed.
<b>APPROVAL OF CLAIMS</b>	The claims list for the 1st half of January was presented to Council. Rick White made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.
<b>PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<p>The mayor re-appointed Bob Fitzgerald as the Council President. The mayor appointed council Members to all Committees for the city. Please see attached document that list all Committees and Members.</p> <p>Cherrie McAlexander presented 3 Comparative Market Analyses to Council. The analyses were completed by Parks Real Estate. These were presented to Council to open a discussion to determine if there is any interest in selling any of the properties to help cover the purchase of the new city well property. Tim Mayo asked Scott Caton if there was any reason why the City would need to keep the property that is located close to the shop for future expansion. Scott stated no. Tim Mayo asked what could be built on the superfund property. Scott explained that the city zoning book has all the rules for what can be built on that property. Dennis Holten asked if the city sold the property would it release the responsibility for the PRP. Scott replied he was not sure and asked Dennis if he knew about the other superfund property and if the city still had PRP on that property. Dennis responded that he was not for sure. Dennis stated that he would like to have more time to think about it. Dennis asked about the other lease that was attached to the property that has a structure currently on it. Cherrie McAlexander stated that there are no current leases on the property. Tim asked if the property had been split and that other lease was on a different piece of city owned land. Dennis stated no, that there were 2 leases on this property. Dennis stated that the building was leased by Advanced Cleaning and the back portion of the lot was leased by Nemont. Nemont built a small building on that portion of the lot. Mayor stated that we need to get this figured out before thinking about selling this property. Dennis stated that before selling property the city better check the zoning requirements for size and frontage.</p>


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<b>FIRE DEPT.</b>	Fire Chief was present, and provided a report. Mayor asked about the RFP for the firefighters. Rich explained that the fire department received a grant that will allow the department to bring in a company that will perform full FDA approved physicals and other testing for Columbus, Park City and Absarokee firefighters.
<b>POLICE</b>	Police Chief was present, and provided a report. No questions from Council.
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>	The Public Works Director was present, and provided a report. No questions from Council.
<b>ATTORNEY</b>	The City Attorney was present and provided a report. No questions from Council.
<b>CITY JUDGE</b>	The City Judge was not present and did not provide a report to Council. The Court Clerk provided a report. No Questions from Council.
<b>CLERK-TREASURER</b>	The Clerk-Treasurer was present and provided a report. No questions from Council.
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:</b>	NONE
<b>COMMITTEE REPORTS-</b>	NONE
<b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</b>	NONE
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	<p>Approval of Police Chief Job Description. Cole made the motion to approve the Police Chief Job Description, seconded by Rick White; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner and Bob Fitzgerald, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Resolution 851-2024 – Calling for an election on the question of conducting a Local Government Review and establishing a study commission to do so. Cole Waltner made a motion to waive the reading, seconded by Dennis Holten; roll call for vote, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Cole Waltner. Tim Mayo asked what exactly is a Local Government Review. The mayor gave a brief explanation of what it was and that the review is required to be voted on every 10 years. Cole Waltner asked if the review passes who would be on the commission. The mayor stated that the 3 members of the commission would be elected and the vote would be in November. Tim Mayo asked if the members of the commission would be from Council. The mayor stated that the members of the commission can be any city resident. Bob Fitzgerald asked about the budget and where we got that figure from. Cherrie McAlexander stated that Local Government Services released a projected budget for cities and based on that report the city decided to be at \$20,000 for a budget. The county has already approved their resolution and their budget has been set at \$27,000.00. Dennis Holten asked if we had the money. Cherrie stated we have to have the funds available. Roll call for vote,</p>

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	<p>Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner and Bob Fitzgerald, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Counter Offer to purchase new well property for the City of Columbus in the amount of \$375,000.00. The mayor gave a brief explanation of the transaction of dates and timeline of the counter offer. Dennis asked about the contingencies – water rights, water quality and amount of water. The mayor stated that Travis West is working on the water rights for the city and that the contingencies in the counter offer cover all concerns. Bob Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the counter offer, seconded by Dennis Holten; roll call for vote, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of City of Columbus Contractor Agreement with Agri Industries/Aqua Drilling to drill a test well. Tim Mayo made the motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Cole Waltner, Scott Canton added that the quoted price to drill this test well is the same as the test well that was drilled at City Hall. Roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner and Bob Fitzgerald, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p>
<b>COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA</b>	NONE
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	Webb Mandeville requested a Motion to Adjourn. Rick White made the motion to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. seconded by Dennis Holten, roll call all yea votes.

  
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 WEBB MANDEVILLE, MAYOR

  
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 CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER, CLERK-TREASURER