

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,
COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD APRIL 1, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M.**

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| 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, Bob Fitzgerald and Danen Johannes. Staff members present were Fire Chief Rich Cowger, Police Chief Gary Timm, Police Officer Aaron Uecker, Public Works Director Scott Caton, City Attorney Ryan Addis, and Clerk-Treasurer Cherrie McAlexander. |
| SIDELINE IN PERSON | Rachael Geehan, Kelly Uecker, Barb Uecker, Margaret Uecker, Josh Severs, Dianne Geehan, Drea Obert, Kathy Grotbo, Kelley Vesbach, Elias Vesbach, Daniel Vesbach, Joe Morse, Travis West, Bill Pronovost, Marsha Olsen, Mellisa Codner, Maurie Petterson, Payne Bramer, Elinor Uecker, Emmerson Boehler, Kristne Timm, Lincoln Uecker, Charlie Denison |
| PUBLIC HEARING | NONE |
| REGULAR MINUTES APPROVED | The mayor asked Council if they had reviewed the minutes of the March 18, 2024, 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, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed. |
| SHUT OFF LIST | NONE |
| APPROVAL OF CLAIMS | The claims list for the 2nd half of March was presented to the Council. Rick White made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Tim Mayo; 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>Marsha Olsen with the Stillwater Balloon Rally presented some changes to the event. She discussed some of the parking and schedule changes. Dennis Holten asked if the airport board had approved this event. Marsha replied yes.</p> <p>Travis West from Engineering West presented a report to Council. His report explained why it was his opinion to not purchase the Lantis property.</p> <p>The mayor presented Gary Timm with a retirement plaque and gave a short speech.</p> <p>The mayor swore in the new Chief of Police Aaron Uecker.</p> |
| FIRE DEPT. POLICE PUBLIC WORKS ATTORNEY CITY JUDGE | <p>The Fire Chief was present and provided a report. No questions from Council.</p> <p>The Police Chief was present and provided a report. No questions from Council.</p> <p>The Public Works Director was present and provided a report. Tim Mayo asked if all went well with Pratten Street closing over the railroad tracks. Scott replied yes.</p> <p>The City Attorney was present and provided a report. No questions from Council.</p> <p>The City Judge was not present and did not provide a report.</p> |

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| <p>CLERK-TREASURER</p> | <p>The Clerk-Treasurer was present and provided a report. Bob Fitzgerald asked about the pool manager situation. Cherrie replied that we had 1 applicant. Dennis asked when this applicant was available to work. Cherrie replied that there were a few weeks before the pool opens that the applicant was not available to work, and that time is very critical time for the pool manager to be available. Dennis asked if this would be on next week's agenda. The mayor stated that if we do not have a pool manager the pool will not open. Dennis stated that we need to open the pool, so something needs to be figured out. Danen asked when the pool opened last year. Cherrie replied June 3rd or 4th. Tim Mayo asked how many lifeguards we had for the pool. Cherrie replied that we have not started hiring lifeguards, that is the pool manager's responsibility. Cole Waltner asked about Hannah Obert helping with the pool and if that was something new. Cherrie replied that Hannah had reached out on Friday about helping. Cole stated that he agrees with Dennis, and we need to figure out a way to open the pool. Cole stated the pool is a summer highlight for some of the little guys in town. The mayor mentioned that the manager of the pool needs to be a certified pool operator. Danen asked if Hannah was certified pool operator. Cherrie replied no, but Kodi Obert was certified. Dennis stated that he does not know all the rules but doesn't believe that a CPO needs to be at the pool at all times. Cherrie replied that that is correct. Cherrie mentioned that there are online classes to become a CPO. Bob Fitzgerald asked will there will be an item on the agenda at the next meeting about this situation. The mayor replied that it might be on the agenda just depends on what happens. Danen asked that if Hannah Obert was willing to help when the applicant was not available would the city consider looking at hiring that applicant. Danen said that the applicant is an outstanding young man, does lots of community service, is respectful and sees no problem with him in a leadership role like the pool manager. Danen requested that it be put on the agenda that we are working with something with that. Tim Mayo asked if we needed Hannah Obert to fill out an application. Cherrie replied yes and that she would be reaching out to Hannah after the meeting. Cole stated that he received a phone call about the applicant and agrees with Danen.</p> |
| <p>PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:</p> | <p>Elias Vesbach – the pool manager applicant - commented that he will be available from May 19th to May 23rd. The dates that he is not available will be June 24th to June 3rd. He stated that he is more than willing to help organize and help with the pool. Dennis asked if he was available before May 19th. Elias stated that he would be in school then and was unsure and then stated that he would try to make anything work.</p> |
| <p>COMMITTEE REPORTS-</p> | <p>NONE</p> |
| <p>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</p> | <p>Second Reading of Ordinance 369-2024 amending section 17.96.015 of the Columbus Municipal Code to revise the Chicken Regulations. Dennis Holten made a motion to waive the first reading of the Ordinance, seconded by Bob Fitzgerald; roll call for vote, Rick White, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald, and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Rick White; roll call for vote, Rick White, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald, and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> |

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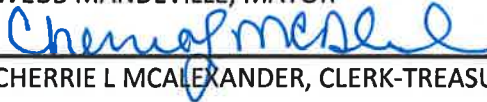
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| | <p>Second Reading of Ordinance 370-2024 amending sections 6.08.010, 6.08.050, and 6.08.060 of the Columbus Municipal Code for Animal Control. Cole Waltner made a motion to waive the reading of the ordinance, seconded by Dennis Holten; roll call for vote, Rick White, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald, and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the ordinance, 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.</p> |
| <p>NEW BUSINESS</p> | <p>Approval of Invitation to Bid for solid waste collection and disposal for the City of Columbus commencing July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029. Cole Waltner made the motion to approve the Invitation to Bid, seconded by Rick White: roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald, and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Professional Services Agreement between the City of Columbus and The Grounds Guys of Billings for the mowing of the Cemetery in the amount of \$23,050.69. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve the service agreement, seconded by Dennis Holten; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald, and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Public Works Construction Agreement between the City of Columbus and TLC Patriot Septic & Excavation for Septic System upgrades at Itch-Ke-Pe Park restrooms in the amount of \$10,592.82. Cole Waltner asked where this work was being done. Scott replied that work was at the main bath house at Itch-Ke-Pe Park. Dennis asked if the proper permits have been handled for this project since it is in a flood plain. Scott replied yes. Danen Johannes made a motion to approve the construction agreement, seconded by Bob Fitzgerald; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald, and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Special Use Permit for Montana Shakespeare in the Park on July 23, 2024 from noon until 10 p.m. at Heritage Park. Rick made the motion to approve the permit, 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.</p> <p>Approval of Special Use Permit for Columbus Farmers Market every Thursday from August 1, 2024 to September 3, 2024 at Railroad Park from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve the permit, seconded by Tim Mayo; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> |
| <p>COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA</p> | <p>Drea Obert stated that her girls were both managers of the pool 2 years ago and they missed the first few weeks before the pool opened and there were no issues or problems with them being gone. They handled a lot of the things before they left for vacation. Josh Seavers asked if there was an ordinance that would help with the squatters at Itch-Ke-Pe Park and if there was a way to charge a fee for staying at the park. The mayor replied that the current stay at the park is a maximum of 7 days and there is currently no fee but there are donation tubes. Gary Timm stated that he asked Council back in 2021 if there was a way to start</p> |

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| | charging to stay at the park. Tim Mayo stated that it has been discussed but there is a lot of cleaning up that needs to be done at the park before that can happen. Ryan Addis stated that there were a couple committee meetings about this a few years ago and a Park Recommendation was done by an engineering firm to help with direction on this. |
| ADJOURNMENT | Webb Mandeville requested a Motion to Adjourn. Rick White made the motion to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. seconded by Dennis Holten, roll call all yea votes. |
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WEBB MANDEVILLE, MAYOR



CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER, CLERK-TREASURER