

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,
COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD DECEMBER 16, 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. 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, Public Works Director Peyton Brookshire (Via Zoom), City Attorney Ryan Addis, and Deputy Clerk Cassidy Thompson.
SIDELINE IN PERSON	NONE
PUBLIC HEARING	NONE
REGULAR MINUTES APPROVED	The mayor asked the council if they had reviewed the minutes of the December 2, 2024, regular meeting, and if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections. Rick White made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.
SHUT OFF LIST	The shut-off list for the month of December 2024 was presented to the Council. Tim Mayo 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, Bob Fitzgerald and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.
APPROVAL OF CLAIMS	The claims list for the 1st half of December was presented to the Council. Rick White made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Tim Mayo; Danen asked about the invoice from Gairrett Excavation and if it had been discussed with them the amounts that would not be paid. The mayor stated that there was a discussion between Travis West and Cherrie on the agreement and that Gairrett Excavation was notified. Roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.
PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS	NONE
FIRE DEPT.	The Fire Chief was present and provided a report.
POLICE	The Police Chief was not present but provided a report.
PUBLIC WORKS	The Public Works Director was present and provided a report.
ATTORNEY	The City Attorney was present and did not provide a report. Ryan mentioned that Farmers Union reached out to the city again about purchasing the Superfund Site. Ryan stated that there are a lot of risks, roadblocks and work involved if the city moves forward.
CITY JUDGE	The City Judge was not present and did not provide a report.
CLERK-TREASURER	The Clerk-Treasurer was not present but did provide a report.

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PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:	NONE
COMMITTEE REPORTS-	NONE
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	NONE
NEW BUSINESS	<p>Approval of the City/County Airport to apply for an InterCap Loan to install heating in the new T-hangars. The loan will be made through the county. Rich gave some background on the project. The rent income from the T-hangars will pay back the loan. No city funds will be needed. Tim made a motion to approve applying for the loan, 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 the Columbus Rural Fire District to use Capital Funds up to \$105,000.00 to purchase a Fire (ladder) Truck. Rich stated that the current ladder truck is having some problems, and it would be good to purchase a newer one. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve, 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.</p>
COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA	<p>The mayor mentioned the advertising signs at Granite Peak. He recalls that when the idea came up to sell signs for revenue for the park the state highway said that signs on the outside of the fence were not allowed. The mayor spoke with Jim Redli and he got ahold of Travis Brumfield with the highway department and he said he didn't care where the signs were placed. Dennis Holten mentioned that there is a different department that handles the signs. The mayor suggested that maybe there needs to be some better regulations on this matter and would like to hand this over to the parks and recreation committee. Danen asked how much a sign cost on the inside of the fence. The price is \$200.00. The mayor would like the parks and recs committee to get with Peyton and figure out better regulations or ordinance on this matter. Peyton stated that he spoke with Jim again about the issue and he reached back out to Travis for more clarification. Peyton also reached out to the sign owner to let them know of the situation.</p> <p>The mayor stated that he got a call from a concerned citizen about Green Burials. This is a new type of burial where a body is buried without embalming them and not being put in a casket. This type of burial has been done in Billings. The mayor is wondering if we might want to investigate this and look at what our cemetery regulations are for our cemetery. The mayor suggested that the cemetery committee consisting of Rick White and Dennis Holten investigate this and give the council a recommendation.</p> <p>The mayor stated he would like a pathway on how to name the Pool after Barbara Hendersen. He asked the parks and recreation committee to do this and advised them to reach out to the city attorney to help draft something up.</p>

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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.

Webb Mandeville

WEBB MANDEVILLE, MAYOR

Cherrie L McAlexander

CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER, CLERK-TREASURER

