

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,
COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD February 3, 2025, 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, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald and Danen Johannes. Staff members present were Chief of Police Aaron Uecker, Public Works Director Peyton Brookshire (via zoom), City Attorney Ryan Addis (via zoom), and Clerk-Treasurer Cherrie McAlexander.
SIDELINE IN PERSON	Marsha Olson, Scott Olson and Maurie Petterson
PUBLIC HEARING	NONE
REGULAR MINUTES APPROVED	The mayor asked the council if they had reviewed the minutes of the January 21, 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 Tim Mayo; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, all yea votes. Motion passed.
SHUT OFF LIST	NONE
APPROVAL OF CLAIMS	The claims list for the 2 nd half of January was presented to the Council. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Dennis Holten; roll call for vote, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.
PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS	NONE
FIRE DEPT.	The Fire Chief was not present and did not provide a report.
POLICE	The Police Chief was present and provided a report.
PUBLIC WORKS	The Public Works Director was present (zoom) and provided a report. Peyton stated that the renovation of the restroom at Itch-Kep-Pe Park was complete and if any council member wanted to come and look, he would be happy to show them.
ATTORNEY	The City Attorney was present (zoom) and provided a report.
CITY JUDGE	The City Judge was not present and did not provide a report.
CLERK-TREASURER	The Clerk-Treasurer was present and provided a report.
PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:	NONE
COMMITTEE REPORTS-	NONE - Cole Waltner stated that he had spoke to Travis West who attended the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting. Cole apologized for missing the meeting and commented that no one from the school or little league was there either. Cole stated that the Adult Softball League will not use the baseball field

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	<p>if they don't have to. If they do use the field, they will use a pitching mat so they will not mess up the infield and would increase the base length. The mayor stated that it was a frustrating meeting and not much was accomplished because representatives from the school and Granite Peak Little League were not present.</p>
<p>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</p>	<p>NONE</p>
<p>NEW BUSINESS</p>	<p>Approval of Professional Service Agreement between the City of Columbus and The Grounds Guys to provide mowing services at the Cemetery in the amount of \$23,888.21. Bob Fitzgerald made a motion to approve, seconded by Danen Johannes. Bob Fitzgerald asked what the amount was for the mowing last year. Cherrie responded that it was a few hundred dollars less last year. Cole asked if we usually had an employee mowing in the past. Dennis stated that we always had an employee with the city who would do the mowing. Cherrie stated that the city had an employee, that employee went part time and when that happened the PWD decided to subcontract the mowing out. Cherrie added that it is cost effective for the city to sub the mowing out if it stays under \$40,000.00 per year. Roll call for vote; Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald, Danen Johannes, all yeah votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of matching funds in the amount of \$4,000.00 for MT Historic Preservation Grant for the Museum of the Beartooths. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve, seconded by Danen Johannes; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, all yeah votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Special Use Permit for the Stillwater Balloon Rally at Woltermann Memorial Airport on June 6, 7, and 8, 2025. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve, seconded by Cole Waltner. Marsha Olson made a few comments about the changes that will happen at this year's event, dates, parking, kids' corner, etc. Roll call for vote; Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald, Danen Johannes, all yeah votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Resolution 867-2025 for Interstate Engineering to apply for MT DOT Grant on behalf of the city. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve, seconded by Bob Fitzgerald; roll call for vote, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald, Danen Johannes, all yeah votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Task Order 30 – Agreement for Interstate Engineering to furnish grant application services for MT DOT 2025 Alternatives Program in the amount of \$8,500.00. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve, seconded by Tim Mayo; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, all yeah votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of the purchase of a Mini-Excavator for the Public Works Department Option 1 – Bobcat in the amount of \$71,143.00 or Option 2 – Torgerson Equipment in the amount of \$72,550.00</p>

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	<p>Tim Mayo made a motion to approve Option 1, seconded by Dennis Holten; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, all yeah votes. Motion passed.</p>
<p>COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA</p>	<p>Cole asked when there needs to be a decision on the pool. Tim asked if there were bids on the boiler but no bids for the pipe work. Peyton stated that he had some bids for the boiler and has a company out of Idaho that will be in Bozeman in a month that is willing to give us a bid on the pipe work. Peyton had sent them photos of the pool issues. Peyton stated that it is not going to be cheap. Dennis asked what the \$75,000 in the Clerk's report was referring to. Cherrie responded the boiler needed for the pool. There was discussion about the size and price of the boiler. The mayor mentioned that we must start hiring lifeguards next month. Cherrie stated that she doesn't know if the pool will open. We could approve the installation of the boiler and run the pool in poor condition like we have for the last few seasons but then find out that the other repairs are going to be 3 or 4 hundred thousand dollars. I just don't know. She also stated that if we do find a contactor to repair the pool, they are probably going to want to work on it during the summer. Cherrie stated that the pool loses around \$50,000 per season, the pool is funded by tax dollars and has a repair fund with \$72,000 in it. The mayor and Dennis both state that pools are money pits. The mayor also stated that cities all over the state are closing their pools. Dennis stated that Laurel filled their pool in and created a splash park. Cole asked if that was an option for us. Peyton stated that a splash park is an option and probably a better one for the city. Dennis and Cole both expressed their interest and would like numbers on both options, pool repairs and splash park. Ryan, the city attorney reminded everyone that with either option it will have to be put out for bid which will take time.</p>
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Webb Mandeville requested a Motion to Adjourn. Dennis Holten made the motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. seconded by Tim Mayo, roll call all yea votes.</p>

Webb Mandeville

WEBB MANDEVILLE, MAYOR

Cherrie L McAle Alexander

CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER, CLERK-TREASURER