

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,
COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD JANUARY 21, 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 Rick White, 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 Deputy Clerk Cassidy Thompson.
SIDELINE IN PERSON	Brad Boehm, Eric Ler, Joe Morse, Charlie Denison, Jill Exner, Tom Tindale, LaNette Diaz (zoom)
PUBLIC HEARING	NONE
REGULAR MINUTES APPROVED	The mayor asked the council if they had reviewed the minutes of the January 6, 2025, 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, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.
SHUT OFF LIST	The shut-off list for the month of January 2025 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 January was presented to the 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, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.
PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS	Jill Exner with Stillwater Legacy Trails and LaNette Diaz with Interstate Engineering gave a presentation on an opportunity to apply for a grant for the city. This would be a grant to extend our current trails and pathways in the city. This project would be fully funded by Stillwater Legacy Trails and the grant. There would not be any cost to the city. The city Attorney advised that a resolution be drawn up that will outline the expectations and have it as an action item on the agenda February 3, 2025. The mayor noted that there is no opposition from council.
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. Dennis Holten suggested having a committee meeting on the Rules and Regulations Governing Water and Service Standards and Water Systems Improvements, Service Line Regulations, and the Standard Modifications to the MPWSS before bringing it to the council for a vote. The mayor reminded the council about open meeting policies that include committee meetings. Dennis gave a brief history of the dumping of sewage at the Lagoon, the port a poti at the cemetery and the RV dumping station at Cenex. Dennis asked that before we just shut anyone down who is dumping at the lagoon, he would like some more facts.
ATTORNEY	

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CITY JUDGE	The City Attorney was present (zoom) and provided a report.
CLERK-TREASURER	The City Judge was not present and did not provide a report. The Clerk-Treasurer was not present but did provide a report.
PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:	NONE
COMMITTEE REPORTS-	NONE
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	<p>The mayor appointed the committee designations for the City of Columbus for 2025.</p> <p>Approval of one of the following options for the City of Columbus Website: Option 1 – Rebel River Creative \$13,450.00 one-time charge Option 2 – CivicPlus Ultimate \$4,631.00 per year Option 3 – Zee Creative \$5,280.00 one-time charge Option 4 – NO CHANGE TO CURRENT WEBSITE</p> <p>Bob Fitzgerald made a motion to approve Option 4, seconded by Dennis Holten. Cole asked if there were any complaints about our current website. There was no answer. Tim asked what the driving factor was to look at new website. Ryan stated that it had a lot to do with trying to make our website more interactive for future needs of the city. Danen added that a few years back there was some research done to make sure that our website was ADA accessible. Roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p>
NEW BUSINESS	<p>Approval of Pay Ap No. 10 to Morrison Maierle for Final grant paperwork in the amount of \$4,312.50. \$3881.25 90% FAA grant, \$215.63 each City/County. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve Pay Ap. No 10, seconded by Rick White; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Task Order No. 5 – recommend approval for sponsor signature. Engineering Services for 2025 Airfield Pavement Maintenance. 95% FAA grant funding, 5% local sponsor share, estimate of Engineering Costs to be \$66,620.00, (\$63,289.00 FAA Grant, \$3,331.00 City/County sponsor share). Dennis Holten made a motion to approve Task Order No. 5, seconded by Tim Mayo. Tim asked if the city was paying \$3,331.00 or if it was split between City and County. The mayor stated it would be split. Dennis asked if this was a seal or pavement. The answer was unknown. roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Bob Fitzgerald, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p>
COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA	Peyton discussed the issue of catching an individual dumping their camper sewer on the ground at Itch-Kep-Pe Park. Peyton stated that there is nothing mentioned in any city ordinance about this issue, and he is not sure what direction we want to go with this.

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	<p>Tom Tindale, President for Centennial Trail Community voiced his concerns with having three open mobile home lots that are not using water or sewer but are still being charged the base rate for each lot every month. He feels that with no water or sewer usage the base rate is a little excessive of an amount to pay. He is asking the city to investigate this matter. One of the lots does not have a home on it and the other two lots have homes that are not livable. Tom stated that they are in financial strain. Peyton explained the ordinance to council that pertains to this matter. Tom asked again to have that ordinance looked at and maybe a change be made to that ordinance. Tom stated maybe a service charge to be assessed when no water or sewer is being used instead of the full base rate. The mayor stated that we would take this under advice and that was all he could promise. Tom stated that on the city's website it states that the sewer fee is based on an average, so since there is no current usage, the fee should be zero. Peyton explained the ordinance and that their statement was incorrect. The mayor stated that we would consider it but it's not likely there will be a change.</p> <p>The mayor thanked the council for their leadership, thanked the staff for managing their departments and the employees for carrying out their tasks. There were some changes in 2024, Aaron became the Police Chief, Peyton was hired as the new Public Works Director. Lots of projects were completed in 2024, Itch-Kep-Pe Park got all the camp sites numbered and the bathroom got a full renovation. The city hall has got all new lighting and a new HVAC system. A new Collective Bargaining Agreement has been approved. The city purchased a new Backhoe and a used patrol vehicle. There were two major storm drain projects completed on 2nd Street and 4th Avenue. Revised the pool, pet licensing and solid waste fees. The basketball and tennis courts got resurfaced and added pickle ball court lines. The welcome to Columbus sign was completed. The city approved a new growth policy and redid the infield for the baseball field at Granite Peak. The city voted to have a local government review done and that work will start soon. The city was approved for a grant to hold a series of meetings ROCE. The new Town Pump should be completed this year. The Police department started a new program Shop with a Cop. As we look ahead, we need to continue to look at our water and sewer projects. The sewer UV project will be starting soon. Another project that is becoming critical for the city is the 12th street crossing sewer project. We need to get the Capital Improvement Plan updated. There will be lots of other things like budgets and ordinances and resolutions. There will be an election in 2025. There are three openings Cole Waltner, Rick White, Bob Fitzgerald. The mayor encouraged each council person to file. If you are unable to file or do not want to file, the mayor encouraged them to find someone who would do a good job to fill their spot.</p>
ADJOURNMENT	Webb Mandeville requested a Motion to Adjourn. Rick White made the motion to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. seconded by Dennis Holten, roll call all yeas votes.

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Webb Mandeville

WEBB MANDEVILLE, MAYOR

Cherrie McAlexander

CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER, CLERK-TREASURER

