

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,  
COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD March 3, 2025, 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. 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, Chief of Police Aaron Uecker, Public Works Director Peyton Brookshire (via zoom), City Attorney Ryan Addis, and Clerk-Treasurer Cherrie McAlexander.
<b>SIDELINE IN PERSON</b>	Maurie Petterson, Doug Harrington, Aimee Bailey
<b>PUBLIC HEARING</b>	NONE
<b>REGULAR MINUTES APPROVED</b>	The mayor asked the council if they had reviewed the minutes of the February 18, 2025, 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, and Rick White all yea votes. Motion passed.
<b>SHUT OFF LIST</b>	NONE
<b>APPROVAL OF CLAIMS</b>	The claims list for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of February was presented to the Council. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Tim Mayo; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Bob Fitzgerald and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.
<b>PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>	A letter was presented to the council from Maurie Petterson. The letter was asking the City of Columbus to look into using the Billings model for snow removal and have it funded by a snow removal levy. The mayor requested that the Streets and Alleys Committee meet to discuss this matter and report back to the council.
<b>FIRE DEPT.  POLICE  PUBLIC WORKS  ATTORNEY  CITY JUDGE  CLERK-TREASURER</b>	<p>The Fire Chief was present and provided a report.</p> <p>The Police Chief was present and provided a report.</p> <p>The Public Works Director was present (zoom) and provided a report. Tim Mayo asked about the sewer truck and what was wrong with it. Peyton explained the issues and the repairs needed.</p> <p>The City Attorney was present and provided a report. Ryan talked about a letter that will be sent to the Stillwater Conservation District requesting additional information on the applicants that are applying to be appointed as city representatives for the Stillwater Conservation Board.</p> <p>The City Judge was not present and did not provide a report.</p> <p>The Clerk-Treasurer was present and provided a report.</p>

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<b>PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:</b>	NONE
<b>COMMITTEE REPORTS-</b>	NONE – The mayor asked to review the tasks that have been assigned to different committees. Parks and Receptions – regulations for signs at Granite Peak Park and the naming of the pool. Cemetery – green burials. Water and Sewer – water/sewer standard regulations. Street and Alleys – snow removal.
<b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</b>	NONE
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	NONE
<b>COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA</b>	Maurie Petterson requested that the cemetery not be watered. The city water is causing damage to the headstones. The cemetery has historical value that needs to be preserved. We get enough water in the spring to keep the cemetery green until Memorial Day, after that it doesn't matter. Doug Harrington asked that council please take a looking into the issues and dealings that are going on at the Stillwater Conservation District. Doug stated that what is going on there is completely illegal. Doug talked for several minutes about all the issues and concerns he has about the two individuals that were appointed incorrectly to the board and why they should not be reappointed. Tim Mayo asked about piping underneath the property that the city owns and rents out. Tim asked if the city is responsible for repairing it. The mayor responded that it depends on the rental agreement. Tim asked if all the rental agreements are the same. The mayor stated he was not sure, and the attorney stated that they are all the same. Tim stated that if a property has 40-year-old water lines under it and they break, is it fair for the person renting it to have to pay for the repairs. Cherrie let council know that there is only one lease that has water or sewer lines. The lease is good through June 30 <sup>th</sup> and renews every year. Ryan told the council that if they wanted to change the lease moving forward that is possible. Rick White asked where we are with the Cenex situation. Peyton stated that it was approved through the planning board and will be presented to the council on April 7th.
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	Webb Mandeville requested a Motion to Adjourn. Rick White made the motion to adjourn at 7:41 p.m. seconded by Dennis Holten, roll call all yea votes.

*Webb Mandeville*

WEBB MANDEVILLE, MAYOR

*Cherrie L McAlexander*

CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER, CLERK-TREASURER

