

# JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

July 3, 2018

Regular City Commission Meeting  
Commission Chambers Room 206

## CALL TO ORDER 7:00 P.M.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## ROLL CALL

City Commission members present: Bob Kelly, Bill Bronson, Mary Sheehy Moe, Owen Robinson and Tracy Houck. Also present were City Manager Greg Doyon and Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson; City Clerk Lisa Kunz; Public Works Director Jim Rearden; Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond; Finance Director Melissa Kinzler; City Attorney Sara Sexe; and, Police Chief Dave Bowen.

## AGENDA APPROVAL

City Manager Greg Doyon requested that a proclamation be added for Park and Recreation Month, and he noted that staff is requesting that the Commission remove Item 8 from the Consent Agenda and make a motion to postpone that item until August 7, 2018. No changes were proposed by the City Commission. The agenda was approved.

## CONFLICT DISCLOSURE/ EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Bronson noted that he will not be participating in discussion or vote of Item 25. He also disclosed that, long before the proposed annexation and rezoning pertaining to Item 26, he was approached by some people as a commissioner and he helped facilitate their conversation with City staff. He will be participating in Item 26.

Commissioner Bronson read a proclamation for Park and Recreation Month.

## PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

### 1. Miscellaneous reports and announcements.

**John Hubbard**, 615 7th Avenue South, spoke in opposition to the School Superintendent and City Manager salaries.

## NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

### 2. Miscellaneous reports and announcements from Neighborhood Councils.

None.

## **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

3. **Miscellaneous reports and announcements from Boards and Commissions.**

None.

## **CITY MANAGER**

4. **Miscellaneous reports and announcements from the City Manager.**

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that some energy efficiency recommendations of McKinstry consulting firm were discussed during the budget presentation. Also, the City's contract with Jim Morin, Earth Energy Advisors, is complete and reported that Mr. Morin is happy with the City's contracts for gas and electric. Electric consultant Bill Pascoe advised that there may be additional power available from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) that may be a benefit to the City that he is exploring.

Manager Doyon expressed appreciation to City staff and the community that came together to help mitigate flooding last week. A staff review meeting was held today pertaining to that event and emergency management that he will be following up with the County about. Fire Chief Steve Hester is preparing an after-action report that will be passed along to the Commission.

Manager Doyon encouraged residents to apply for the City 101 course to learn more about local government.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

5. Minutes, June 19, 2018, Commission Meeting.
6. Total Expenditures of \$1,977,192 for the period of May 31, 2018 through June 20, 2018, to include claims over \$5,000, in the amount of \$1,660,342.
7. Contracts List
8. Award a contract in the amount of \$260,520 to Ed Boland Construction Inc. for the Lift Station 9 Rehabilitation Project and authorize the City Manager to execute the construction contract documents. **OF 1722.1**
9. Reject the bid for the Animal Shelter Improvements Project from Wadsworth Builders in the amount of \$705,000. **OF 1673**

10. Recommend Staff readvertise the Encino Drive/Grande Vista 2 Street Repairs Phase I Project. **OF**  
**1679.7**
11. Set a public hearing for the 2018/2019 Business Improvement District Budget and Work Plan for July 17, 2018.
12. Set a public hearing for the 2018/2019 Tourism Business Improvement District Budget and Work Plan for July 17, 2018.
13. Set a public hearing on Resolution 10239 for July 17, 2018 for the Intent to Increase Property Tax.
14. Set a public hearing on Resolution 10240 for July 17, 2018, for the Annual Budget Resolution.
15. Set a public hearing on Resolution 10243 for August 7, 2018 to levy and assess the Street Maintenance District.
16. Set a public hearing on Resolution 10244 for August 7, 2018 to levy and assess properties within Special Improvement Lighting Districts.
17. Set a public hearing on Resolution 10245 for August 7, 2018 to levy and assess Special Improvement General Boulevard Maintenance District No. 3570.
18. Set a public hearing on Resolution 10246 for August 7, 2018 to levy and assess Special Improvement Portage Meadows Maintenance District No. 1195.
19. Set a public hearing on Resolution 10252, to Amend Building Permit Fees, for August 7, 2018.

**Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Houck, that the City Commission approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with the exception of Item 8, which is to be pulled for separate consideration by the Commission.**

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public.

**John Hubbard**, 615 7th Avenue South, spoke in opposition to Items 13-19.

There being no one further to address the Commission, Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners. Hearing none, Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0

**Commissioner Moe moved, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, that the City Commission postpone consideration of Item 8 on the Consent Agenda until the August 7, 2018 Commission meeting.**

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public or any discussion amongst the Commissioners. Hearing none, Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

20. **Ordinance 3187, Amending Ordinance 2903 for the property located in Jewell Addition, Lot 4, Block 1 to allow a "Residence, Multi-family" land use within the Emerald Green PUD.**

Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond reported that this agenda item is a request by T&M Properties and Development LLC to amend an existing PUD zoned property to allow for the development of (3) 12 unit apartment buildings for a total of 36 units. The subject property is located on the South side of American Avenue and the BNSF rail yard and generally north of the Hickory Swing Golf Course.

In 2006 the existing Emerald Green PUD was approved by the City Commission creating a mixed use development that included 32 residential condominiums and an assisted living senior care facility in addition to an exercise facility. Since 2006, the condominiums have been constructed, but the senior care facility and the exercise facility were never constructed.

Beginning last year, the applicant of the proposed development began meeting with City staff to look into revising the PUD in order to build the apartment project. Staff and the developers have discussed development standards, traffic circulation, utility services and fire department access.

Planning and Community Development staff together with Public Works/Engineering staff find that adequate utilities exist to serve the proposed project. The developer has proposed a mounded and landscaped berm along the frontage of American Avenue to help buffer the sights and sounds from the rail yard and American Avenue. Staff feels that this is a good alternative to the constructed concrete wall in front of the condominiums to the west. The design also proposes to not construct the continuation of Emerald Drive due to cost and the desire to construct the landscaped berm. It should also be noted that this specific proposal should decrease any undue traffic circulation directly in front of the condos to the west. The site plan shows an emergency only access on the east side of the development onto a shared drive with Hickory Swing Golf Course.

The applicants of this project have met with Neighborhood Council #2 on two separate occasions as they navigated the project through the approval process. On both occasions, the council voted in favor of supporting the project. On May 8, 2018, the Zoning Commission held a public hearing and ultimately recommended approval of the proposed PUD amendment and supported the project. It should be noted that during the public hearing a number of nearby residents spoke in opposition to the apartment development, citing primarily traffic concerns but also concern

with potential chemical spill accidents at the rail yard. One in attendance spoke in favor of the project stating that the apartment project is preferable to an empty lot. During discussions with the developer, City staff conducted traffic analysis and concluded: (1) the development as proposed does not have a significantly larger traffic impact than the previously approved senior care facility would have, and (2) the increased traffic should not warrant additional traffic mitigation measures. In response to the neighborhood concern at the Zoning Commission public hearing, City staff placed traffic counters on American Avenue, collected the data which only confirmed previous findings that while there will be an increase in traffic, the increase anticipated does not trigger additional traffic mitigation measures.

Mayor Kelly declared the public hearing open.

Speaking in support of Ordinance 3187 was:

**Jolene Schalper**, Great Falls Development Authority (GFDA), 300 Central Avenue, commented that GFDA is excited to have more housing development in Great Falls. Great Falls' average wages have outpaced the national and state averages for fourteen quarters. Five hundred new apartments have been added in the past two years, and yet the vacancy rate for rentals is under 5%. The national average for the vacancy rate for rentals is around 7%.

Speaking in opposition to Ordinance 3187 were:

**Patty Jo Sheldon**, 1214 Emerald Drive, Chair of Emerald Green Homeowners Association, commented that it is upsetting that the Association did not know preparations were taking place until about 10 days prior to May 8th. The majority of Association members oppose this development due to its largeness, amount of people, and increase in traffic on American Avenue.

**Jim Dawson**, 1212 Emerald Drive, commented that he and his wife moved into their condo in November and would like the quiet neighborhood to stay the way it is. He is concerned about the extra traffic and noise that may come from this development.

Written correspondence in opposition to Ordinance 3187 was received from: Kathleen Schlingens, 1218 Emerald Drive, and Jim and Dolores Dawson, 1212 Emerald Drive.

There being no one further to address the Commission, Mayor Kelly closed the public hearing.

Mayor Kelly requested that Director Raymond explain the public notification process.

Director Raymond explained that the developer met with the Neighborhood Council on two occasions going back to 2017. Prior to the Planning Board meeting, which is the first public hearing, a public notice is advertised in the *Tribune* at least 15 days prior to the public hearing date and notices are mailed to adjoining neighbors within 150 feet. A sign was also posted on the property that was visible from the road.

Mayor Kelly asked if the Commissioners had any questions of staff or the applicant.

Commissioner Bronson inquired if there was ever an easement obtained for public access over American Avenue.

Public Works Director Jim Rearden responded that, American Avenue was initially built when the interstate system was put in by the State with federal funding. He believes an easement was acquired because the City has been doing work over there. The City would not be able to do work there without an easement or proper public right-of-way.

City Attorney Sara Sexe added that the site plan that was provided by the professional engineer indicates there is a right-of-way specifically on the site plan.

**Commissioner Robinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Houck, that the City Commission adopt Ordinance 3187.**

Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Bronson reported that he was Chairman of the City/County Planning Board in 2003 when the initial development was proposed. At that time, the developer's intention was to build the condominium units and a retirement home or assisted living facility. He explained his recollection of a prescriptive easement with BNSF Railroad for American Avenue. He concluded that traffic is always going to be an issue or concern in a lot of areas in the community, as it was for the project in 2003. If it gets to the point that it appears there is more traffic building up accessing 6th Street, the City can look at the possibility of having conversations with the State about traffic, such as a light.

Commissioner Robinson pointed out that this land is halfway between two fire stations and both are well within rapid response times. The development may cause some disruption in traffic, but not any more than it would have had the retirement home or assisted living facility been built. If there isn't a place for children to play, he believes people with children would choose another place to live.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0

21. **Resolution 10242, Revising Fee Schedule for Public Safety Information Requests to the Legal Department, Superseding Resolution 10065.**

City Attorney Sara Sexe reported that the City Commission adopted Resolution 10065 in 2014 that updated the City Attorney's Office fee schedule for record requests. In early 2018, the City implemented the Zuercher Public Safety Software for electronic storage of public safety records. Since that time, the Legal Department has evaluated the time and effort expended in responding to record requests.

The information in the public safety software provided by Zuercher includes copies of color photographic evidence integrated with case documentation. These photographs are currently being provided to record requestors as part of a package of information, versus being provided in CD format which the Police Department records division had prepared in the past. Additionally, virtually all documents in the system include a blue Zuercher footer, substantially increasing costs per page of printed material. As such, the copying charges have increased under the applicable lease agreement for the Criminal Division's color printer. The Legal Department would also like to provide requestors with other delivery options such as CD/DVD, jump drive, or email to receive electronic delivery, versus paper copies. To provide these options, the proposed schedule reflects the additional costs. Additionally, to be consistent with current practice, the Resolution allows for a waiver of fees to individuals who provide Court determinations of their inability to pay and to governmental entities on a reciprocal basis.

Mayor Kelly declared the public hearing open.

No one spoke in support of Resolution 10242.

Speaking in opposition to Resolution 10242 was:

**John Hubbard**, 615 7th Avenue South, commented that these services are already paid by public tax money.

There being no one further to address the Commission, Mayor Kelly closed the public hearing.

**Commissioner Moe moved, seconded by Commissioner Houck, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10242.**

Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Moe commented that the proposed resolution strikes a balance between actual costs for the City and convenience for the requester.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0

22. **Resolution 10251, Conditional Use Permit for Westside Family Dental parking lot addition located at 900 10th Ave NW.**

Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond reported that this item is a request by Dr. Kevin Fairhurst and Westside Family Dental to approve a conditional use permit which would allow the expansion of the parking lot capacity above which is typically allowed by code.

Director Raymond explained the regulation in the Land Development Code that apply to various types of uses such as single family residences, retail centers, school properties and doctor and dental clinics.

The subject property is located at 900 10th Avenue NW. Westside Family Dental has been in existence since 1979 with offices in Great Falls and Fairfield. In 2017, after selling off the Fairfield office, the applicant expanded the existing Great Falls' building to accommodate the high amount of daily patients and need for more employees. The building addition project was approved by the Design Review Board in 2017 and completed in February of this year. The applicant's practice is comprised of four dental assistants, four receptionists, three dental hygienists, and two dentists. As a result, the business must accommodate the parking needs of 13 employees. Additionally, the practice treats between 40 and 60 patients per day. Westside Family Dental currently has 11 parking spots, and patients and staff are parking in on-street spaces as well as at a nearby restaurant. The applicant is not comfortable with patients and staff crossing the street. The applicant's proposed plan will increase the parking count to 19 spots, which is still below what they will utilize, but will be a significant improvement over the existing condition.

On June 12, 2018, the Zoning Commission held a public hearing and recommended that the City

Commission adopt Resolution 10251, subject to the six conditions of approval as outlined in the agenda report and the resolution.

Mayor Kelly declared the public hearing open.

Speaking in support of Resolution 10251 were:

**Jolene Schalper**, 124 13th Avenue South, commented that an excellent job was done renovating the inside of the building, and that she is pleased that staff is recommending approval for outside parking improvements.

**Dr. Matt Klinker**, 904 Anita Drive, commented he is a co-owner now of Westside Family Dental and is in favor of the parking lot development. With two doctors, three hygienists and a lot of patients there is a high need for parking. Dr. Klinker reported that a neighbor expressed concerns at the prior public hearing. Since that time he has met with the neighbor and they have worked out their differences.

No one spoke in opposition to Resolution 10251.

Mayor Kelly closed the public hearing and asked the will of the Commission.

**Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Houck, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10251 for a Conditional Use Permit for the Westside Family Dental parking lot addition for the property located at 900 10th Avenue NW.**

Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Houck commended Dr. Klinker for working out the differences with his neighbor.

Commissioner Bronson commented that the current code allows the Commission to look at these conditional use permits on a case by case basis, but he is looking forward to suggested changes in the code from staff.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

23. **Final Plat for the Buffalo Crossing Subdivision located in Government Lots 2 and 3, Section 11, Township 20 North, Range 3 East, P.M., City of Great Falls, Cascade County, MT.**

Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond reported that this agenda item is a request to approve the final plat of the Buffalo Crossing subdivision and the associated Findings of Fact subject to certain conditions of approval.



The Planning Advisory Board reviewed and approved the preliminary plat for the proposed subdivision at a public hearing held on February 27, 2018. The City Commission then granted approval of the preliminary plat at a public hearing held on March 20, 2018.

The subject property is a long, linear strip of land at the southeast corner of Central Avenue West and Bay Drive, located along the western edge of the Missouri River. The property is roughly 2.22 acres and zoned M-2, Mixed-use transitional. There are two structures on the property. One structure is a brick building at the corner of Bay Drive and Central Avenue West, which is proposed for renovation and reuse, and the second structure is a metal clad storage building that will be either demolished or relocated as part of future development. The property has been the subject of much scrutiny due to it being abandoned and falling into disrepair.

The applicant is proposing to subdivide the property into six lots and create a project known as Buffalo Crossing. The northernmost lot would be created to redevelop the existing building which has commonly been referred to as the "barrel building," while five new lots are proposed for future development consistent with the M-2 zoning district. The applicant is hoping to develop the lots with mixed uses and potentially upper story residential units to take advantage of the property's riverfront location. The lots in the final plat range in size from 10,245 square feet to 25,510 square feet.

Insofar as utility and infrastructure issues are concerned, roadway infrastructure already exists adjacent to the property with Bay Drive running in a north/south direction alongside the parcel to be subdivided. First Avenue SW and 2nd Avenue SW run perpendicular to the site and both terminate at Bay Drive. Bay Drive will be utilized for vehicular access for each lot at the time of development. Currently, no sidewalk exists; however, the owner does acknowledge that public sidewalk will be installed as each lot develops. The applicant will also be required to install boulevard trees and curbing along the east edge of Bay Drive. In addition to the sidewalk, shared use paths will be provided to connect Bay Drive sidewalk to the River's Edge Trail.

All utilities, including water, sewer, power, gas, and telephone, exist in the Bay Drive right of way. No extension of water or sewer mains is needed for the subdivision. Water services will be connected to the main at the time of development. There is adequate sewer capacity for the typical amount of wastewater discharge associated with the proposed subdivision.

As far as storm water is concerned, the existing lot drains away from the river and towards Bay Drive. The City already has capacity to adequately handle storm water from the development as it is proposed. Additionally, site design methods will be employed that include low impact development concepts.

One of the unique features of the subject property is its relationship and proximity to the Missouri River. An additional feature is that a segment of the River's Edge Trail system runs along the back of the property, separated from the remaining property by a retaining wall. This type of project is most definitely contemplated in the 2004 Missouri River Corridor Plan plan although the vision which was depicted in the plan for this specific property was a much more aggressive concept. The plans scope in purpose was in part to "recognize that some development patterns along the river corridor represented an opportunity for more desirable, sustainable development that would capitalize on the river as an amenity and a resource."

Furthermore, this proposed subdivision conforms to the plan in that:

- 1) The proposed subdivision and subsequent development will not have an adverse effect on the stream flows or hydrology of the river nor have a substantial affect on the flood plain of the Missouri River;

- 2) Land and water based recreational values and opportunities associated with the river will be created, preserved, and enhanced, including public access to the river;
- 3) The subdivision will promote beneficial, sustainable economic development that utilizes the river as an amenity and will not have a negative affect on the ecological integrity and asset value; and
- 4) No major through transportation facilities are needed to serve this development nor are substantial transportation improvements proposed other than pedestrian facilities along Bay Drive and the aforementioned public connections to the River Edge Trail.

At its June 12, 2018 meeting, the Planning Advisory Board recommended that the City Commission approve the Final Plat request.

**Commissioner Houck moved, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, that the City Commission approve the final plat for the Buffalo Crossing Subdivision as legally described in the staff report and the accompanying Findings of Fact, subject to the Conditions of Approval being fulfilled by the applicant.**

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public. Hearing none, Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Robinson commented that he is excited this development will result in being an asset, rather than a blight, to the community.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0

24. **Central Montana Agriculture and Technology Park (CMATP) TIF OF Application for Phase III Storm Drain Design. 1658.1**

Public Works Director Jim Rearden reported that the owner of property near the Malt Plant north of the City has requested the release of tax increment funds for design of a storm drain system to serve the entire area. Currently, some erosion is occurring in the area. If the release of funds is approved, an engineering contract and a future construction contract to complete that work will be forthcoming to the Commission.

City staff recommends that the Commission approve the release of the funds.

**Commissioner Houck moved, seconded by Commissioner Bronson, that the City Commission approve the application for release of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds to complete the final design for the storm drainage network across the CMATP.**

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public or any discussion amongst the Commissioners. Hearing none, Mayor Kelly commented that this is a great example of what

TIF funds are for.

Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0

## **ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

25. **Ordinance 3190, Rezoning the property formerly known as Beargrass Village, located in the Great Falls Water Power and Townsite Company's First Addition, Block 405, Lots 8-14 from PUD Planned Unit Development to R-3 Single-family high density.**

Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond reported that this agenda item is a request to accept Ordinance 3190 on first reading and set a public hearing for August 7, 2018, to consider the rezone of the subject property which is located at the northwest corner of 3rd Avenue South and 14th Street South.

Previously, the applicant had proposed to develop a unique style of pocket neighborhood in Great Falls, on a 1.21 acre parcel. The City Commission approved a rezone of the property from R-3 Single Family to PUD to accommodate the project on December 5, 2017 and also approved a Preliminary Plat for a subdivision for the development. However, the developer never proceeded to Final Plat.

Due to the costs of the project related to the types of soils, groundwater and the required foundations, the applicant has decided to not move forward with the pocket neighborhood and is proposing to build seven single family homes on the existing lots which were never divided.

Because the PUD was designed and approved for the unique nature of the project, the PUD zoning does not permit the current proposal for the property. Therefore, the applicant is requesting a zoning map amendment to rezone the property back to R-3 Single-family high density.

Commissioner Bronson stepped out at 8:14 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

**Commissioner Moe moved, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, that the City Commission accept Ordinance 3190 on first reading and set a public hearing for August 7, 2018.**

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public or discussion amongst the Commissioners. Hearing none, Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 4-0-1 (Commissioner Bronson abstaining)

26. **Ordinance 3191, Establishing R-2 Single-family Medium Density zoning for the properties located in Sky-line Addition Lots 1A, 2A, 3-5 and 6A; Tract 2 of Certificate of Survey #5150; and the adjoining right-of-way of Skyline Drive NW.**

Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond reported that this item is a request to accept Ordinance 3191 on first reading and set a public hearing for August 7, 2018 to consider assignment of R-2 zoning to the subject property upon annexation. The annexation resolution will also be brought to the Commission for consideration on August 7th.

There are currently six residential properties located on the south side of Skyline Drive NW that are legally described as Sky-line Addition Lots 1A, 2A, 3-5, and 6A. These six lots have been connected to a 2" water line that provided City water even though the properties are located in the County. This service line had multiple failures in the past and was made of a material that is no longer used by the City of Great Falls. The line was allowed to be repaired one last time in 2013. At that time, the property owners were informed that the City would not repair the noncomplying line in the future.

At the beginning of 2017, the Public Works Department noticed that the water line was leaking significantly, and the City reached out to the property owners to start the conversation about annexation and installation of separate service lines. The City met with the owners to explain the process and the costs involved with the improvements. Staff informed the property owners that it would be more feasible financially for all the property owners to petition to annex at the same time. At that time, a seventh property owner to the north of Skyline Drive NW was informed of the annexation and decided to petition to annex a vacant parcel of land in order to build a new single-family home.

**Commissioner Robinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Moe, that the City Commission accept Ordinance 3191 on first reading and set a public hearing for August 7, 2018.**

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public or any discussion amongst the Commissioners. No one responded.

Manager Doyon noted that a study was done several years ago that outlined properties being serviced with utilities that were not annexed. Manager Doyon commented that there is no reason those properties shouldn't be annexed and will be something that staff will clean up when things slow down in the Planning Department.

Commissioner Bronson also recalled such a policy in the Planning Department that, if it made sense to annex some of those properties receiving City utilities, the City would do it subject to the Department's schedule.

Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0

27. **Resolution 10250, Amending Resolution 10211 that approved placement of Coins for a Cause donation containers on Downtown light poles.**

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that this item is a request to extend a program that the Commission had authorized the Business Improvement District (BID) to commence with regard to attaching coin boxes on light poles for the downtown Coins for a Cause program.

It seems that the program is working, and he supports the request to extend the program. If approved by the Commission, the program will be re-evaluated at the end of this revised term.

**Commissioner Moe moved, seconded by Commissioner Bronson, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10250.**

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public.

**John Hubbard**, 615 7th Avenue South, commented this program is a nice idea in a perfect world, but it won't help with the panhandlers.

**Sandra Thares**, 808 5th Avenue North, commented that she has a business downtown and lives downtown. She is a member of the Downtown Safety Alliance that are working to make sure downtown is a safe, viable place to do business, for tourists to visit, and for residents to eat and shop. The Coins for a Cause program is gaining legs and, with the coin boxes on the light poles, the Alliance will double its contributions to a charity. The Alliance is also educating the public on downtown panhandling issues.

Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Houck commented that this program has made a difference. It provides people with an opportunity to give if they so choose, but not directly to somebody that they are not sure how that money is going to be used. She has heard recent praises from tourist about how much the downtown has changed for the better. She attributed those ongoing changes to the Downtown Safety Alliance.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0

28. **Resolution 10254, Ratifying the Declaration of Emergency by Acting City Manager James L. Rearden on June 20, 2018.**

City Attorney Sara Sexe reported that, in response to the National Weather Service's flood warning for several areas in the City of Great Falls, on June 20, 2018, Acting City Manager James Rearden executed a Declaration of Emergency pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 10-3-402. The Great Falls and Cascade County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated, and Cascade County and City emergency services and staff were activated to implement emergency planning.

In order to preserve the opportunity for the City to receive reimbursement funding for emergency City expenditures resulting from said Declaration, staff recommends that the City Commission ratify the Declaration issued June 20, 2018.

**Commissioner Houck moved, seconded by Commissioner Moe, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10254.**

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public. Hearing none, Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Appreciation was expressed to Director Rearden, City staff, and the community's and County's response to the flooding event.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0

## **CITY COMMISSION**

### **29. Miscellaneous reports and announcements from the City Commission.**

Mayor Kelly announced that:

- he will be absent from the Commission meetings on August 7, 2018, due to a previously scheduled trip;
- another work session is scheduled for July 11, 2018 at 2 p.m. in the Gibson Room for further detailed discussion on the budget that has been presented. He welcomed the public to attend, observe and comment on the proposed budget;
- he encouraged those interested in local government to apply for the City's 101 class that begins July 26th; and
- he praised the community action group that responded during the flooding emergency. He hopes we can also help our neighbors in Augusta and on the Bench.

Commissioner Moe reported on her attendance and details learned at the Sheriff's press conference regarding the President's visit on Thursday.

Police Chief Dave Bowen added that it is a combined effort with the Sheriff to make sure that the President has a safe trip here. It will require a lot of staffing and he has planned accordingly.

Chief Bowen also urged the public to use common sense and be neighborly for a safe 4th of July holiday.

Commissioner Moe extended thoughts and prayers to the families of community members, Ron Gessaman and the Airport Director's wife, who have recently passed away.

### **30. Commission Initiatives.**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Houck moved, seconded by Mayor Kelly, to adjourn the regular meeting of July 3, 2018, at 8:40 p.m.**

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**Mayor Bob Kelly**

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**City Clerk Lisa Kunz**

**Minutes Approved:  
July 17, 2018**