

**JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION**  
**July 5, 2011**

City Commission Work Session

Mayor Winters presiding

**CALL TO ORDER:** 5:33 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** City Commissioners present: Michael J. Winters, Bill Bronson, Fred Burow, Mary Jolley, and Robert Jones. Also present were the City Manager; Deputy City Manager; Directors of Fiscal Services, Library; Park and Recreation, Planning and Community Development, and Public Works; Fire Chief; Police Chief; and the Administrative Secretary.

**1. BUDGET WORK SESSION**

City Manager Greg Doyon reviewed a list of budget inquiries/questions from City Commissioners and the responses. Though there is no contingency in the FY 2012 proposed budget, Mr. Doyon explained he could be authorized to exercise the use of contingency from fund balance under the budget resolution. Fiscal Services Director Melissa Kinzler reported that of the \$100,000 that was budgeted last year, about \$65,000 was not spent and can be carried forward to FY 2012.

Mr. Doyon noted the inflationary factor was not taken in FY 2011, and is not included in the proposed budget. A total of \$214,120 could be raised if the Commission chooses to exercise that option.

No increase has been requested for the health insurance mill. Changes to the health insurance plan were outlined in a letter. Ms. Kinzler explained the mill is usually increased every other year, based on taxable valuations.

Mr. Doyon reported the GFDA participates in the City's health insurance plan, but they pay the full amount. Retirees also participate and pay 100% of the insurance premium.

Mr. Doyon stated there have been discussions about the City's allocation to the City-County Health Department, although an additional amount was not requested this year. There was discussion on the amount and use of that funding, and a handout was provided.

After closing FY 2011 year-end, funding remained to replace one play structure at an estimated \$40,000. Park and Recreation Director Mary Basta reported the Elks Riverside play structure receives the most usage and will be replaced. He has received correspondence from the Neighborhood Council Coordinator that neighborhood councils may be interested in pursuing funding opportunities for the other two structures.

Mr. Doyon reviewed the Recreation Center budget and the City police dogs. He suggested two dogs are adequate, though not ideal. Police Chief Corky Grove reported canines assist in searches and make apprehensions faster than officers. People tend to want to cooperate better when there is a dog on scene. They are also very advantageous in a drug search. Currently the

City has two police dogs on a swing team shift. The original plan was three dogs, one on each team, so a dog would change with each shift, and a fourth bomb dog. Currently MAFB will provide a dog search for a potential bomb. Expenses for each dog include \$18,000 for schooling and \$5,000-\$6,000 per year including providing a kennel, retrofitting a vehicle, veterinarian, food, plus overtime to an officer to care for the dog. There was discussion on the cost/benefits for using police dogs.

Mr. Doyon reported the Commission received handouts from Park and Recreation, the Police Department, and Public Works. Public Works Director Jim Rearden also provided a handout of recommendations for the Citizens Convenience Center (CCC). He reviewed the history of the CCC and explained past attempts to achieve a balanced budget for the facility. The CCC provides a drop-off recycling site, containers, and markets the commodities. He added the cardboard route has been moved to commercial sanitation.

Mr. Rearden reviewed the Citywide utility and CCC split for FY 2011 for residential, commercial, and Montana Waste System customers. County customers are charged the same as those within the City limits, and since the CCC has been operating at a loss, City residential customers have been subsidizing the operation of the facility. There has also been a reduction in the number of total customers at the CCC since 2006. He added that nationally there has also been a reduction in the amount of waste that is disposed. People are buying less and are throwing away less.

Mr. Rearden believes there will be an increase in recyclable commodity prices, and the rate structure is being evaluated. He reviewed possible modifications to the site, separating the recycling end, demolition of the old heavy duty shop, fencing, adding a turn lane onto 15<sup>th</sup> Street, and landscaping. He recommends keeping the CCC open another year, raising some of the upper end of fees, and waiting to see if recycling gets some competition.

Mr. Doyon stated he suggested closing the CCC because there are resources available to the public who want to continue to recycle. The broader perspective, however, is what is the CCC doing to the Sanitation Fund. To stay in the business of providing curbside residential and commercial hauling, a capable fleet is required. Also, the facility is not adequate to get to the needed level of efficiency, and how can a new facility be funded. Once the Sanitation Fund is stabilized, flexibility may be possible in other areas. He agreed that Mr. Rearden also provided good options.

Commissioner Bronson stated he is also looking at different options, but not in time for the budget. Mayor Winters agreed the City must find an option to continue the facility. Mr. Rearden believes the facility is a City asset that could also be leased. He noted the City also has about 350 acres in CRP at Manchester that were purchased to establish a future landfill site, and the CRP expires the first of October.

Mr. Doyon stated he believes only mandatory, fee-assessed recycling programs that provide incentives are effective. Also, there must be a market and a facility to store recyclables. The current facility is not only an eye-sore, but also dysfunctional; material must be handled many times.

There was continued discussion on the CCC and recycling. Mr. Doyon stated department heads would provide additional information to the Commission for any new proposal.

Mr. Doyon reported that he will make a request at the start of the City Commission meeting to move the Building Permit Fees item from the Consent Agenda on the July 5, 2011 Agenda. He reviewed other items on the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Basta reported that approximately \$20,000 in repairs was made to the River's Edge Trail in the spring. The annual City budget is \$5,000. Recreational Trails, Inc. (RTI) provided the additional \$15,000. Mr. Basta reported he has requested an additional \$5,000 in the City budget, bringing the total appropriation to \$10,000 for maintaining the 40 miles of River's Edge Trail. Though the \$5,000 was recommended to not be funded, he made an additional request for the maintenance funding.

Commissioner Burow questioned if MDT provides funding for the trail. Mr. Basta responded they don't provide funding for maintenance. For the past six or seven years, the City has provided \$5,000. The trail is aging and there are maintenance needs.

Commissioner Jolley commented the budget doesn't have to be adopted at the close of the public hearing to allow time for amendments.

### ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Winters adjourned the work session of July 5, 2011, at 6:28 p.m.