



**Special Work Session**  
**City Commission Special Minutes**  
**Great Falls Fire Training Center, 1900 9th St S**  
**March 27, 2018**

1. Lunch 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call: City Commission members present: Bob Kelly, Bill Bronson, Tracy Houck, Owen Robinson, and Mary Sheehy Moe.

Staff Present: City Manager Greg Doyon, Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson, Training/Development Coordinator Mark Willmarth, and City Clerk Lisa Kunz.

Lunch concluded and the meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m.

2. Commission Initiatives for Fiscal Year 2019.

Mayor Kelly began a roundtable discussion by asking the Commissioners about their general impressions of the City and what they want to accomplish over the next couple of years, taking into account the budget. Common concerns were the negativity expressed by several community members and on social media that distorts perceptions of others and creates issues for the community, talking more about the City's problems than successes, and the Commission not having a collective vision. Discussion followed about ways to do a better job of telling the City's positive story of accomplishments and successes. Arranging a joint meeting with the County to discuss accomplishments of both agencies, engaging the younger population to discuss their vision, incentivizing positive development, creating a government citizen's academy, and quarterly town hall style meetings to discuss certain topics were suggested.

Commissioner Moe noted it would be helpful to be notified when Planning Board packets are posted to know what future projects may be coming before the Commission to avoid ex parte communication.

Commissioner Bronson suggested that the Commission members read the minutes of all advisory boards.

Mayor Kelly initiated another discussion about what citizens might say about the City Commission versus what the Commission would want them to say. Similar responses included: some people do not have a clear understanding of what the City Commission does, there is a lack of understanding about what local government is responsible for, no knowledge that the City Commission is non-partisan and without districts, and, that people are taxed more and government is not efficient. Commissioner Moe commented that she would like people to think that the City Commission is leading Great Falls to a more positive vision, backed by action.

Mayor Kelly reviewed a list of last year's accomplishments.

Break 1:26 p.m. to 1:35 p.m.

Training/Development Coordinator Mark Willmarth provided an example of a results pyramid. He discussed with the Commission to first define their beliefs to create a more positive culture.

City Manager Greg Doyon commented that he needed general goals and for the Commission to outline higher priorities so that he can work on the budget.

The April 2017 Commission budget priorities were reviewed. The golf courses are an ongoing challenge both in utilization and debt service. There is also an ongoing need for Police and Fire Department staffing, with added stress as more developments and annexations occur.

The Commission discussed operational management, challenges, the market, and different scenarios with regard to the golf courses. Golf has run at a deficit for years, and is a budget and policy issue that needs to be resolved. Manager Doyon noted that once the May election is over, Director Herrig can focus on the golf courses. It was the consensus of the Commission that Manager Doyon bring options pertaining to the golf courses to the City Commission that changes the current dynamics.

Additionally, all agreed that the Natatorium is unsafe and beyond salvageable. The Commission discussed the impact of a closure, and suggested planning for its replacement before closing it down. Manager Doyon again noted that once they know the outcome of the Park District after the May election, Park and Recreation staff will have the ability to explore creative opportunities. It was also noted that the community deserves handicap accessibility in parks.

The status of the Civic Center was inquired about. Manager Doyon reported that the façade is going through the design phase and there are no final numbers yet. He further discussed Planning and Community Development, Legal and Court office space issues. A rental room in the Civic Center may be utilized for short term space needs.

Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson explained that he was tasked and has been evaluating the Planning and Community Development review structure and processes. He has met with an external development review task force, that includes representatives from Home Builders and the Realtors Association, in an effort to address perceptions and concerns. He is working with Director Raymond to streamline the internal review process.

Manager Doyon commented that wage compression and equity issues are still a concern with non-union employees. When labor agreements are ratified it has an impact on the organization. He is monitoring this matter moving forward.

With regard to public safety, there has been a good dent in equipment needs of Great Falls Fire Rescue. Manager Doyon discussed staffing needs of the Fire and Police Departments. Applying and utilizing grants for staffing was discussed, as well as how to sustain those salaries and benefits after the grant period.

Mayor Kelly noted that if the Park District passes there will be less of a strain on the general fund and that some of those funds could be used for public safety. Use of CDBG funds for certain priorities for ADA projects was also discussed. The impact of Calumet's tax appeal is also a consideration.

The City's relationship with Great Falls Development Authority (GFDA) was briefly discussed. Several Commission members expressed frustration and concerns about hearing negative comments about the City and City staff coming from one of its members.

Manager Doyon asked the Commission what three priorities they wanted addressed this year, if they needed additional information to feel equipped to make such decisions, or if the Commission wanted to reconvene to talk about or work through the budget process. After Commission discussion, Manager Doyon commented that it would be helpful if the Commission laid out their broad picture so that he could address budget or policy issues, and that he would have staff schedule another meeting.

Mayor Kelly recommended that Commission Initiatives be moved up on the agenda to discuss new ideas and concepts. He further noted that he would be in contact with each Commissioner regarding Manager Doyon's upcoming yearly review.

Commissioner Moe noted that, at a committee meeting that Judge Best asked her to serve on, it was proposed that breath testing for the 24/7 Sobriety Program be moved from the Sheriff's Office to the Cascade County Courthouse.

Personal and work schedules were discussed with regard to planning another budget discussion meeting.

Commissioner Robinson reported that he updated his conflict disclosure statement to include that he provides volunteer management services for Flawless Auto Body.

3. Public Comment.

None.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly adjourned the informal special work session of March 27, 2018, at 3:40 p.m.