

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
February 15, 2011

City Commission Work Session

Mayor Winters presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 5:45 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, Planning and Community Development, Public Works, Deputy Director of Park and Recreation, Executive Director of the Housing Authority, Police Chief, and the City Clerk.

1. LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that, in anticipation to a trip to Washington, D.C., in March, he prepared a list that summarizes departmental priorities. He requested the Commission's review to determine if the following items are the Commission's priorities in terms of large-scale projects that he could take to our delegation in hopes that there may be some prospect for funding of the items. He also noted that some items are regulatory requirements that will be placed upon the City, primarily the Public Works Department.

Mr. Doyon reviewed the following:

Department/Project Name	Description	Need	Projected Cost
Park & Recreation			
Aquatics Center Rehabilitation	Rehabilitate and repair the Morony Natatorium (a 42-year-old, single-use facility). The facility is used by the public and is one of only 2 public indoor use swim facilities in Great Falls. Facility serves 67% low to moderate income residents.	Facility needs extensive renovations including pool deck, boiler, HVAC and restrooms.	\$1.5 Million
Gibson Park Irrigation System	Replacement of 15.26 miles of irrigation system in the community's premier park.	The current irrigation is inefficient, aged, requires frequent repairs. Operations and maintenance of the current system is labor intensive.	\$1.5 - \$2 Million
Public Works			
North Great Falls Storm Drain	Detention Pond/Piping System	Runoff/Development Control	\$5.9 Million
Water Treatment Switchgear & Pump Controls Replacement	Replace obsolete water treatment processing equipment	The switchgear at the City Water Plant is the electrical backbone for the facility. The existing equipment is well beyond its useful life expectancy. Significant failures have been experienced.	\$4.5 Million
Wastewater Upgrades	UV disinfection, metering, diffuser, metals removal at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.	To meet EPA regulatory requirements as directed by MT DEQ	\$11.6 Million

NE Interceptor	Increase sanitary sewer interceptor sizing	Upsize capacity problem areas to accommodate residential and industrial growth in the NE sector of the City	\$1.5 Million
Transfer/Waste Diversion Facility	New trash transfer/recycling facility	A properly sized and functional facility will promote continuation and improvement of a recycling program. This will result in reduction of landfill tonnage.	\$2.0 Million
Public Safety			
Central Montana Training Facility	Plan, design and build a public safety training complex that would meet current and future needs of Federal, Tribal, State, County and Local public safety organizations to include Dept of Homeland Security, Montana State University Fire Services Training School, Law Enforcement Agencies and Volunteer/Paid Fire Service, EMS and Search & Rescue.	Currently there is no facility in Central Montana that can provide hands-on, realistic training for public safety organizations. The Carrico Regional Training Facility, 1900 9th Street South is a 10 Acre plot owned by the City of Great Falls and the classrooms, fire training tower, and burn building are dilapidated and no longer meet today's emergency service training needs.	\$10 Million
Great Falls Fire Station Renovation (all 4 stations)	Redesign and renovate each of the 4 fire-stations to provide firefighters with a healthy and safe living and work environment. Create energy efficient buildings that utilize modern green technology. The fire stations shall meet current and future fire service mission and operational needs for the Community served.	Renovation and maintenance has been deferred due to lack of funding. The buildings do not meet the needs of the Fire Department and the buildings have been open for 24 hours a day for the last 40 years. The renovation of the buildings would improve the health and safety for City employees. Facility components and fixtures would be replaced and upgraded, which would lower current repair and upkeep costs and create energy savings. Improve security and disaster infrastructure to ensure these buildings and the occupants remain operational during disasters. Change the floor plans to ensure offices, living quarters, kitchens and latrines are isolated from the apparatus bays to prevent cross biological and chemical contamination.	\$3.4 Million for all 4 stations
Emergency Response & Justice Center	Plan, design and build a new emergency response and justice center to include a county-wide dispatch center, emergency operations center and justice center	The current facility is deficient in the following areas: security controls, technological infrastructure, square footage for general operations, evidence storage and retrieval, emergency services, and ventilation.	\$15-\$20 Million
Emergency Generator Replacement at the Police Department	Replace and upsize the existing emergency generators at the City/County 911 Communications Center	The emergency generators at the City/County 911 Communication Center do not meet the needs of the center, and exhaust from the gasoline-powered system is hazardous.	\$150,000

After discussion, the Commission requested that Mr. Doyon explore the possibility of a grant with the delegation staff for the Police Department emergency generator; that the Transfer/Waste Diversion Facility be removed from the list at this time; the repairs to the Natatorium, Gibson Park irrigation system and Fire Station renovation be removed and placed under the City's capital improvement program; and, to request federal funding for larger ticket items, such as the Wastewater upgrades, when it is driven by EPA regulatory requirements.

Mr. Doyon concluded that he would revise the list. He requested the Commission let him know of other issues they want him to make the delegation aware of.

2. DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Planning and Community Development Director Mike Haynes reported that staff and the working groups are now six months into this project. He estimated two to three more months before concluding the primary portion of public participation process. Mr. Haynes encouraged the Commissioners to attend the upcoming working group meetings. He thanked and commended Brant Birkeland for his work on this project, as well as the citizens that are participating in the working groups. Mr. Haynes concluded that after the Planning Board's recommendation and approval, the Downtown Master Plan will come before the City Commission for final adoption.

Comprehensive Planner Brant Birkeland provided a PowerPoint presentation. He provided an update of the number of meetings held during the past six months, and what has been accomplished during that time. He read the Vision Statement and reviewed goals, objectives and strategies. Mr. Birkeland concluded that the working groups will begin working on developing objectives for identified goals in the month of February; will be preparing strategies to achieve objectives at March meetings; finalizing strategies, if necessary, in April; and, will hold a public open house to present goals, objectives and strategies in May. Staff will then complete the draft Master Plan document and initiate the process for adoption. Mr. Birkeland also encouraged the Commissioners to participate as much as possible.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Winters adjourned the work session of February 15, 2011, at 6:20 p.m.