

**JOURNAL OF JOINT WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE GREAT FALLS CITY  
COMMISSION AND CASCADE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS/COURTHOUSE ANNEX  
November 8, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 1:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** City Commissioners present: Michael J. Winters, Robert Jones, Bill Bronson, Mary Jolley and Fred Burow. Cascade County Board of Commissioners present: Joe Briggs, Bill Salina and Jane Weber.

Also present were the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk.

Commissioner Briggs announced that there was no formal agenda. The purpose of this joint work session was to allow a general discussion. Neither the City nor County Commissions will be taking any formal action on any items discussed, other than if each respective Commission decides to task their staff to look into something.

Mayor Winters addressed the City's fire hydrants being used by rural fire districts. Commissioner Salina read an outline of a prior discussion with involved parties that he had provided to Jim Rearden to draft a Memorandum of Understanding.

Commissioner Briggs noted the area of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue North by Heritage Baptist Church being the definition of split jurisdictions with two different speed limits. He explained the latitude under the law regarding the 85% rule, and suggested setting the speed at 35 mph in both jurisdictions. After discussion, both Commissions agreed to refer the matter to staff.

Linda Metzger, no address provided, commented that she would love a "no kill" animal shelter in the community. She inquired what the City and County Commissions have in mind for animal control and operation of the shelter. Ms. Metzger suggested the Commissions consider allowing a 501(c)3 volunteer organization take in animals that would otherwise be killed.

Commissioner Briggs commented that the County would like to get the animal control program reorganized and operating again at the Sheriff's Office. Once the new administration is in place, he would like the County to look at utilizing prison population, trustees and persons sentenced to community service, at the animal shelter on a limited basis.

City Manager Greg Doyon noted that the RFP deadline is November 22, 2010. One party participated in the mandatory walk through. He added that there does need to be some better City/County collaboration on the animal control/shelter front. The Animal Foundation is moving forward with an adoption facility.

Mayor Winters discussed phone calls he has received from persons expressing safety concerns about large vehicles parked on common streets. He suggested a joint City-County program of placing a notice in the newspaper for several days to notify the public to move vehicles and, after

a certain period of time, ticket the vehicles. Commissioner Briggs responded that he doesn't believe they had jurisdiction to do that unless it was in the County right-of-way.

City Attorney Jim Santoro added that this issue has recently been raised to the City. There have been several meetings with Neighborhood Councils. At the December 7, 2010, work session, City staff will discuss the issues that were raised, discuss possibilities/solutions, and ask for direction from the City Commission.

Assistant City Manager Jennifer Reichelt noted that the crux of the issue is the City doesn't have an existing City code that would allow ticketing or citing owners for parking oversize vehicles outside their homes or on City streets, unless the vehicle was abandoned.

Commissioner Briggs explained that the City has the authority to do anything not specifically denied by state law, and the County only has the authority to do those things specifically allowed by state law. The City has ordinance powers that the County couldn't mirror if it wanted to.

Commissioner Bronson commented that other considerations are the resources and time commitment with enforcement. There may be other solutions to accomplish the same goal.

Commissioner Jones concluded that efforts need to be made to educate the public. The City will be considering an ordinance to effectively deal with the safety issue before winter.

Commissioner Weber discussed the upcoming legislature. She inquired if there was an interest in inviting the legislators to a joint meeting. The parties discussed the roles of the Montana League of Cities and Towns and the Montana Association of Counties. All agreed it would be a good idea to meet jointly with legislators, either by hosting a reception or setting up teleconferences. Commissioners Weber and Bronson agreed to work together to create a white paper within the next few weeks.

Mayor Winters discussed identifying service organizations at the entrances to the City. The parties discussed creating the design and structure for each respective jurisdiction, and the organization being responsible for its signage.

There being no further items of discussion, the parties agreed to continue meeting on a quarterly basis.

Linda Metzger commented it was a great idea to continue meeting jointly.

Richard Liebert, 289 Boston Coulee Road, suggested future joint meetings be held at the Civic Center in the evening. Further, he would like to hear discussions regarding annexation, agri-tech parks, growth policy and renewable energy.

## ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Briggs adjourned the joint work session meeting of November 8, 2010 at 2:20 p.m.