

Special City Commission Meeting

Mayor Pro Tempore Jones presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 10:30 AM

ROLL CALL: City Commissioners present: Robert Jones, Bill Bronson, Fred Burow and Mary Jolley. Mayor Winters was excused. Also present were the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, Director of Fiscal Services, and the City Clerk.

OLD BUSINESS

Change in scope and implementation schedule for HB 645 projects.
Approved.

1. CHANGE IN SCOPE AND IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR HB 645 PROJECTS.

Fiscal Services Director Coleen Balzarini reported that the City of Great Falls was approved for funding in the amount of \$957,754 during the 2009 state legislature. The original funding approval specified two projects: West Bank Roadway Construction and Civic Center Roof Replacement. The West Bank Roadway project was substantially completed prior to the availability of funds. On September 1, 2009, a substitute list of projects was approved by the Commission. The Montana Department of Commerce (MDOC) accepted the “change in scope” application granting the substitution of the Police Department Re-roof, Civic Center Theater Air Conditioning, Convention Center Air Conditioning, and Broadwater Bay Boat Dock Parking projects.

HB 645 project funds must be expended by September 30, 2010. Due to cost considerations, product availability, and contractor availability portions of the previously approved projects cannot be completed within the necessary timeframe. There are other projects that meet the HB 645 eligibility requirements that may be substituted to utilize the entire \$957,754 allocation. Approval of the already completed Great Falls – Street Improvements Project will, in turn, free up general purpose funds that may be used to complete those projects originally authorized as HB 645 projects.

Ms. Balzarini noted that each of the substitutions and the change in scope and implementation that the Commission is being asked to consider involve contracts that the Commission has already approved. She recommended that the City Commission approve the change in scope and implementation schedule for HB 645 funds. That will free up other general government dollars that the City will be able to use to complete the previously authorized projects.

City Manager Greg Doyon added that staff did try to work with the Department of Commerce to extend the September 30th deadline. The Department of Commerce was not flexible; ergo the meeting today to reapportion or re-designate the projects that had already been contracted.

Since the Commission already approved projects with this funding, Commissioner Jolley inquired if those projects would again come before the Commission for approval of the funding.

Ms. Balzarini responded that if the Commission approves the change in scope and implementation schedule for HB 645 funds, it would be clear that the City would be using those other dollars to pay for projects that were already authorized.

Commissioner Jolley expressed concerns that the Commission approved special projects based on receiving state or federal money. Some project she may not have approved if the money was coming from regular funds.

Ms. Balzarini reminded the Commission that it had already approved the projects and staff prepared notices to proceed that authorized construction to begin.

Mr. Doyon noted that the Commission could take action and revisit the Civic Center Re-Roof and Broadwater Bay projects. He is not sure though what complications would occur from that.

Mayor Pro Tempore Jones commented that the Commission has already given the go ahead so he doesn't think it needs to come back before the Commission.

Ms. Balzarini commented that the Broadwater Bay project had originally been approved using surplus tax increment dollars. Those funds are not being used for the project, so it frees up those dollars. There could possibly be another project to come before the Commission for approval using those tax increment dollars.

Mr. Doyon added that the representation from the Department of Commerce was that almost any public works project would be agreeable.

Commissioner Burow reiterated that the action being requested was to approve spending of HB 645 money today and using City money for approved projects.

Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Burow, that the City Commission approve the change in scope and implementation schedule for HB 645 funds as referenced in the September 23, 2010 communication from the City Manager to the Montana Department of Commerce.

Mayor Pro Tempore Jones asked if there was any public participation regarding this motion. Hearing none, Mayor Pro Tempore Jones called for the vote.

Motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn.

There being no further business to come before the special Commission meeting, **Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioners Burow and Jolley, that the special meeting of September 30, 2010, be adjourned at 10:40 a.m.**

Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Pro Tempore Jones

City Clerk

Minutes Approved: October 5, 2010