

Regular City Commission Meeting

Mayor Winters presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL: City Commissioners present: Michael J. Winters, Robert Jones, Bill Bronson, Fred Burow and Mary Jolley. Also present were the City Manager, City Attorney, Directors of Fiscal Services, Park and Recreation, Planning and Community Development, Public Works, the Executive Director of the Housing Authority, Administrative Assistant to the Library Director, Fire Chief, Police Operations Captain and the City Clerk.

PROCLAMATION: Mayor Winters read a Proclamation for Tough Enough to Wear Pink Day.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

1. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

There were no miscellaneous reports and announcements from neighborhood council representatives.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

2. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Board of Health.

Alicia Thompson, Health Officer for the City-County Health Department, reported that there has been a national movement towards public health accreditation. The City-County Health Department was one of seven pilot projects in Montana that received grant funding from HB 173. The City-County Health Department fared well in a recent standards review self-assessment.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) 2010/2011 Budget and Work Plan. Accepted.

3. TOURISM BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT 2010/2011 BUDGET AND WORK PLAN.

On behalf of Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) Board member Deryk Copperwheat, City Manager Greg Doyon reported that the City Commission was provided with the TBID's budget and work plan at a recent work session. The Commission is now being asked to approve the TBID's budget and work plan.

Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission accept the 2010/2011 Tourism Business

Improvement District Budget and Work Plan.

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners. Hearing none, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

Business Improvement District (BID) 2010/2011 Budget and Work Plan. Accepted.

4. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT 2010/2011 BUDGET AND WORK PLAN.

Alison Fried, owner of Dragonfly Dry Goods, 504 Central Avenue, reported that on a yearly basis the Business Improvement District (BID) presents a work plan and a budget to the Commission. The BID consists of property owners in the downtown area that self imposed a tax to provide additional income to renovate the area. Ms. Fried reviewed the services the BID will provide pursuant to its 2010-2011 work plan.

Commissioner Burow moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission accept the 2010/2011 Business Improvement District Budget and Work Plan.

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners. Hearing none, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

Res. 9888. Adopted as amended.

5. RESOLUTION 9888 TO LEVY AND ASSESS SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT GENERAL BOULEVARD MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 3570.

Fiscal Services Director Coleen Balzarini reported that assessments are allocated to properties within the General Boulevard District and provide the funds necessary to maintain 15,517 trees currently located within the General Boulevard District. Services include pruning, removal, planting, leaf pickup and streetscape design. This year the City Commission is being asked to approve an assessment amount of \$318,823, which is a 10% increase.

The average cost to trim one tree is \$400. The increase in the assessment is related to an increase in boulevard maintenance expenses, an increase in capital expense for tree replacement, as well as payment of the insurance deductible to replace ash trees damaged by a spring freeze in April of 2008.

Ms. Balzarini concluded that the average assessment for a typical 7,500 square foot lot will increase by \$6.13 per year for a total average assessment of \$67.39.

Mayor Winters declared the public hearing open.

Cyndi Baker, 500 Montana Avenue NW, asked how the \$400 cost per tree was calculated and how many trees could be trimmed per day. Park and Recreation Director Marty Basta responded that the cost was estimated by the City Forester and that some of the larger, more mature Elm trees could take most of one day to bring down in a residential area.

No one spoke in favor of Resolution 9888.

Mayor Winters closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Bronson noted a date error in the fourth “whereas” clause in the text of Resolution 9888.

Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 9888, as amended to reflect the fourth “whereas” clause date change to August 3, 2010.

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Jolley inquired if she heard correctly that the last increase was in 2001. Ms. Balzarini responded that the last increase for the Boulevard District was in 2002.

Motion carried 5-0.

Res. 9889. Adopted with technical amendment.

6. RESOLUTION 9889 TO LEVY AND ASSESS SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT PORTAGE MEADOWS MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 1195.

Fiscal Services Director Coleen Balzarini reported that assessments are allocated to properties within the Portage Meadows Maintenance District and provide the funds necessary to maintain the turf, trees, irrigation system and provide snow removal in the green belt area of the Portage Meadows Addition. This year the City Commission is being asked to approve an assessment amount of \$46,992, which is a 116% increase from 2010. The increase in the assessment is related to the depletion of reserves in the Portage Meadows fund.

Staff was asked to look at all expenses paid from the General Fund to determine if the expenses were being properly assigned to the appropriate areas within the City budget. Assessments were adequate to cover the direct costs pertaining to the Portage Meadows District, such as the summer caretaker, mowing crews and the irrigation water. However, there were non-scheduled costs related to repair of the irrigation systems and other maintenance calls that were not charged or assessed to the district and were being paid from the general fund.

On July 22, 2010, Assistant Park and Recreation Director Patty Rearden, Park Maintenance Supervisor Giles Salyer and Ms. Balzarini presented information to Neighborhood Council 4, including residents of Portage Meadows. By the end of the meeting the residents had a much better understanding of the district, maintenance costs and assessments. It was suggested by some property owners to consider turning the greenbelt area over to the property owners. There were some owners that were satisfied with the services provided by the City park crews and were not in favor of taking over ownership. There were also a number of owners that indicated the greenbelt area should be considered a public park. The greenbelt area weaves in and out of the private properties within Portage Meadows.

Ms. Balzarini presented two options to the Commission for consideration. One was to keep the assessment at the same level, but service to the area would be decreased to keep costs in line with the assessment. The second option was to approve the assessment increase, which would provide adequate funds to maintain the current level of service. It would not, however, provide adequate funding to build up a capital replacement reserve.

She further reported that there are 186 parcels within the Portage Meadows Maintenance District. There have been a great number of inquiries regarding the need for the increase, but the City Clerk has received only three emails from residents in opposition to Resolution 9889.

Ms. Balzarini concluded that the assessment for an average Portage Meadows lot will increase from \$117 per year to \$253 per year.

Park and Recreation Director Marty Basta added that this matter came to light after being directed to review funds to determine if adequate compensation was being received for the services provided.

Mayor Winters declared the public hearing open. He noted an objection he received via email from Joshua Campbell.

Speaking in opposition to Resolution 9889 was **Dave Kloppel**, 616 Pineridge Court. Mr. Kloppel believes the property was deeded to the City in the late 1970's. He requested that the City investigate returning the property to the Portage Meadows Maintenance District property owners or reduce the frequency of mowing.

Mr. Basta responded that the maintenance budget could be reduced by mowing less frequently, but the residents should expect that the greenbelt area will not be in the same condition as it is currently being maintained.

Mayor Winters inquired if residents in the greenbelt area could help by doing some of the mowing. Mr. Kloppel responded that he couldn't speak for others, but he would have no trouble mowing an extra 20 or 30 feet from his property line. He understands the technical aspect due to the zig-zagged property lines. But, he compared it to paying rent and believes it would be a

better investment if the City turned the property back to the property owners.

Mr. Doyon reminded the Commission the core issue was the agreement when the development was approved that the City would maintain that area as a greenbelt. He expressed the desire to work with the residents, but that it would be difficult to put together a plan without an organized entity and everybody on board. As staff reported after the Neighborhood Council meeting, the majority in attendance understood that it wasn't just about mowing, but tree trimming, landscaping and snow removal. His goal in recommending the increase to the Commission was for the City to recoup its costs.

Sandra Guynn, Chair NC 4, reiterated that NC 4 did have a good meeting. It served its purpose as far as educating those in attendance about the Portage Meadows development. She encouraged the residents to meet to decide what they wanted to present to the Commission. Ms. Guynn noted that if the City wanted to pursue something more, as Chair of NC 4 she would be happy to help in that area.

The City Clerk received emails expressing opposition to Resolution 9889 from:

Pat and Jen Doyle, 414 Sweetgrass Court, **Joshua Campbell**, no address provided, and **Judy Kloppel**, 414 Sweetgrass Court.

No one spoke in favor of Resolution 9889.

Mayor Winters closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Jolley moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 9889.

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Bronson noted the same date error in the text of Resolution 9889. He requested that the technical error be corrected should the motion pass. Commissioner Bronson would like to see a concerted effort to re-explore how this area was set up. He discussed similar areas in Billings. He offered to help staff identify those areas to make inquiries. Even with the increase, he believes the Commission will be addressing this issue again because the long term financial issues have not been addressed. If there is a majority, he would like staff directed to explore options, work with the homeowners and take Ms. Guynn up on her offer.

Mayor Winters reported that the comments he has received were that the residents felt they were being double taxed. He, also, supported exploring options.

Mr. Doyon reiterated that it is his desire to engage the residents. However, there needs to be an entity by which the City knows there is a majority sentiment in one direction or another.

Commissioner Jolley commented that she is in favor of the increase to deal with the immediate situation. For many years the costs haven't been covered by the assessment. She also encouraged the neighbors to meet to see what the will of the neighbors are.

Motion carried 5-0.

Res. 9890. Adopted as amended.

7. RESOLUTION 9890 TO LEVY AND ASSESS STREET MAINTENANCE DISTRICT.

Fiscal Services Director Coleen Balzarini reported that the Street Maintenance District provides the funds necessary to maintain over 372 miles of streets and alleys within the City. This year the City Commission is being asked to approve an assessment amount of \$3,657,556, which is a 10% increase in assessments collected. Part of the increase is attributable to newly annexed property. Existing property owners will see a 5% increase.

The average assessment for a typical 7,500 square foot lot will increase by \$4.27 per year, for a total average assessment amount of \$89.51.

Public Works Director Jim Rearden reported that there are 286 total street miles within the City exclusive of alley miles. Of those miles, about 193 miles are in need of some form of maintenance – overlay, chipseal or reconstruction. Mr. Rearden discussed increased expenses in asphalt, chip seal oil and wages, increased revenue due to 5% street maintenance assessment and new assessments. The net impact essentially allows the same level of service. Another factor that has impacted the street budget has been the decrease in funds received from State Gas Tax revenue causing increased assessments locally.

Mayor Winters declared the public hearing open.

Speaking in opposition to Resolution 9890 were:

John Hubbard, 615 7th Avenue South, expressed concerns and opposition to any and all tax increases in this economy.

Charlie Overking, 402½ 2nd Avenue South, believes it is good public policy to impose taxes. Property owners have the right to challenge the tax.

Speaking in support of Resolution 9890 was **Cyndi Baker**, 500 Montana Avenue NW, who commented that it is a responsible thing to do if costs have gone up resulting in a shortfall. Ms. Baker inquired about the decrease in the gas tax revenue and the shortfall from the previous year. She asked about the \$4.27 increase and total cost of the assessment. Mr. Rearden responded that the \$4.27 would be the additional cost per property for an

average size lot of 7,500. Ms. Baker also expressed concerns about all the different tax increases in this economy.

Mayor Winters closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 9890, as amended to reflect the fourth “whereas” clause date change to August 3, 2010.

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Burow inquired if the Street Department was subsidized by the general fund. Mr. Rearden responded that it is funded through the Street Maintenance District assessments, State Gas Tax, and charges for services performed for City departments.

Motion carried 5-0.

Res. 9893. Adopted.

8. RESOLUTION 9893, ESTABLISHING SANITATION SERVICE RATES EFFECTIVE AUGUST 9, 2010.

Public Works Director Jim Rearden reported that the sanitation division services 1,649 commercial customers and 14,780 residential customers. The Convenience Center varies between 14,000 and 20,000 customer transactions per year. The proposed 3% rate increase for residential customers will provide approximately \$49,000 additional revenue. The residential bill will increase \$0.29 per month. The last residential rate increase occurred in 2007. No change in the commercial rate is being proposed. Also being proposed is transferring the commercial cardboard service from the Convenience Center to a commercial division because it is a direct service to the commercial customers.

Mr. Rearden also reviewed the Convenience Center financial trends. There has been a steady decrease in the amount of loss at the facility since 2008. The anticipated loss for 2010 is about \$30,000. The City Convenience Center serves primarily two functions – a transfer station as well as a recycling drop off center. Changes being proposed at the City Convenience Center are a 50% increase to all dumping fees at the transfer station, a reduction in hours of operation on Sundays and relocating all recycling containers from the Albertson’s locations and Sam’s Club to the Convenience Center. An RFP will go out for servicing the recyclable containers at the Convenience Center.

Mr. Rearden reviewed the proposed rate increases at the Convenience Center compared to the landfill rates. He also reviewed and compared statewide residential rates. Great Falls’ residential rates are still the lowest in the state even with the 3% proposed increase.

Mayor Winters declared the public hearing open.

Speaking in opposition to Resolution 9893 were:

Cyndi Baker, 500 Montana Avenue NW, pointed out that Montana Waste rates were less and inquired if the department considered privatizing. Mr. Rearden responded that privatizing has been proposed over the years. The City has about 79% of the customer base and he feels that is because the City provides a higher level of service than the competition.

Ron Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, pointed out that he is a Montana Waste customer and it has been 11 years since Montana Waste increased its rates. He doesn't feel City sanitation staff is efficient and, therefore, is opposed to a rate increase. Mr. Rearden disagreed with Mr. Gessaman in that the numbers prove otherwise. Efficiency has been increased and costs have been reduced substantially at the Convenience Center. Also increased over the past year are the amount of dollars put aside for reserves for residential and commercial accounts.

John Hubbard, 615 7th Avenue South, discussed all the new tax increases being imposed. He expressed that it is tough to make ends meet.

Cyndi Baker, 500 Montana Avenue NW, in response to Mr. Gessaman, Ms. Baker defended the honor of the City garbage men. As a single mother with a large lot, she noted that they have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

No one spoke in support of Resolution 9893.

Mayor Winters closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Bronson, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 9893 establishing sanitation service rates effective ~~April~~ August 9, 2010.

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Jolley also gave praise to the Sanitation Department. She explained that there are separate routes for pick-up of trash containers and bags or containers of leaves or branches. Customers can also call to request a pick-up.

Mayor Winters also complimented City firemen, policemen and sanitation drivers.

Motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Res. 9881. Adopted with an amendment. 9. RESOLUTION 9881, ANNUAL BUDGET RESOLUTION.

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that Resolution 9881 is the annual budget resolution being recommended for adoption. In summary, staff has been working on the budget since February. There were several meetings held with the Commission. At the June 15, 2010, work session, the Commission was provided an overview of the budget and was asked for direction with regard to the permissive mill levy and the inflationary factor, which there seemed to be agreement to move forward to keep services consistent with last year and to move forward with the proposed increases. On July 20, 2010, a public hearing on the budget was held and closed. The topic discussed at last evening's meeting may play into the Commission's deliberations tonight.

Commissioner Jolley moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 9881, with an amendment to the Electric City Power fund projected revenue estimate of 13.9% be changed to a 2% increase.

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Bronson noted that the amendment was the recommendation of this body sitting as the Electric City Power Board at last night's meeting. He opposed that amendment and continues to oppose that amendment, but is not opposed to adopting the budget resolution.

Commissioner Bronson proposed continuing with the \$1,000 expenditure for the Urban Art Project from a line item in the parking fund. That expenditure would not require an amendment per se to Resolution 9881, but would require direction from a majority of this body. He explained that they are about to embark on a new downtown master plan which will get into issues about urban art, as has been the trend around the country. The City has had the Urban Art Project now for several years and it has performed that role admirably. Mr. Bronson wants to continue that program especially going into a revitalization plan that will raise the subject again. He also noted that an unintended consequence if the Commission no longer supports the project would be that if there are a lot of empty glass spaces in the South Parking Garage, experience tends to show that is more attractive to vandalism. A further concern is that if public dollars are needed to clean up that vandalism, at some point more money would be spent on that than the \$1,000 expenditure to the Urban Art program.

Commissioner Bronson further suggested the City fostering the creation of some type of a fund that could receive private dollars to continue supporting these types of projects.

Mayor Winters repeated the motion to adopt Resolution 9881 and called for the vote.

Motion carried 4-1 (Mayor Winters dissenting; Commissioner Bronson opposed the amendment only to Resolution 9881).

With regard to providing direction to the City Manager to continue with the \$1,000 expenditure for the Urban Art Project, Mayor Winters and Commissioners Bronson, Winters and Jones expressed their support, and Commissioners Jolley and Burow expressed their opposition.

NEW BUSINESS

International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 8, Labor Agreement. Approved.

10. LABOR AGREEMENT, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS, LOCAL 8.

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that City staff commenced negotiations with Local 8 in January. There were several negotiation sessions that were unsuccessful. The parties agreed to have a mediator explore the differences and to try to work to reach an agreement. It was recommended by the mediator that, in order to advance in the discussions, the last economic proposal from Local 8 be presented to the Commission for direction. On July 6, 2010, the Commission voted to accept that proposal. Before the Commission this evening is a ratified agreement with the union. Mr. Doyon reviewed the major changes made to the terms of this agreement as well as Addendum 1 in Schedule A.

Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Jolley, that the City Commission approve the labor agreement between the City of Great Falls and the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 8.

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Burow inquired if the 1.5% increase and 2.13% market adjustment was in addition to the 8% increase for the battalion chief. Mr. Doyon responded that there is a differential that occurs between the ranks.

Mayor Winters asked if there were any inquiries from the public.

Ron Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, commented that he received a call about this agreement from an upset citizen expressing concern that firefighters that live outside of the City limits do not pay City taxes. Mr. Gessaman inquired how many Fire Department employees were currently taking advantage of the Article 36 provision.

Fire Chief McCamley responded that a resolution has been in effect since 1999 that required all new hires reside within the City limits. The employees hired prior to that time were not subject to that restriction. He estimated 25% but noted the number changes all the time when employees move within or out of the City limits depending on whether they were

subject to the restriction.

Mr. Doyon added that during the negotiating process the timeframe was determined to be feasible.

Mr. Gessaman inquired and was informed that traffic was considered when the parties discussed the 30 minute timeframe.

There being no one else to address the Commission, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

Agreement with U.S. Customs and Border Protection allowing use of the Great Falls Fire Rescue Training Facility. Approved.

11. AGREEMENT WITH U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION ALLOWING USE OF THE GREAT FALLS FIRE RESCUE TRAINING FACILITY.

Fire Chief Randy McCamley reported this is a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the City of Great Falls. It sets forth the terms and conditions which will allow U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to utilize the training tower located at the Great Falls Fire Rescue Training Center to practice quick repel training. The City of Great Falls enjoys a positive and productive working relationship with the federal public safety officials. He looks forward to increasing the level of partnership through this agreement.

Commissioner Burow moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission authorize the City Manager to sign the Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to allow them use of the City Fire Training Facility.

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Bronson noted typographical errors on page 1, paragraph 3, and page 2, paragraph 5.

Mayor Winters asked if there was any other discussion. Hearing none, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

Ord. 3050. Adopted.

12. ORDINANCE 3050, AMENDING TITLE 13 OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS.

Public Works Director Jim Rearden reported that Ordinance 3050 amends the sanitary sewer codes related to the Industrial Pre-Treatment Program of Title 13 of the City Code. These amendments were done to comply with federal regulations. First reading of the ordinance came before the Commission on March 16, 2010. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the code modifications for a 30 day public comment period on May 21, 2010. The City received confirmation from the EPA on July 1, 2010, that the comment period was over, no public comment was received, and that the modifications were approved. Now that the EPA has completed the public noticing process, staff is recommending approval of Ordinance 3050.

Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Burow, that the City Commission adopt Ordinance 3050.

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners. No one responded.

Mayor Winters asked if there were any inquiries from the public.

Ron Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, commented that it is his belief this ordinance was prompted by inadequate pre-treatment of sewage from the Malt Plant and the enforcement action being taken against the City by the EPA. Mr. Gessaman read the “right of entry” section 13.2.210 and expressed he didn’t believe City employees have the right to enter homes.

Commissioner Bronson responded that it was his understanding that this right of entry clause has been part of the ordinance for many years and it has been standard procedure. Mr. Rearden agreed adding that the provision is also part of the sewer and water agreements signed by every property owner.

In response to Mr. Gessaman’s comments about what prompted this ordinance, Mr. Rearden commented that this was a culmination of many years of working in the industrial pre-treatment program and seeing the need to make it better and to match federal regulation. It was not driven specifically by issues at the Malt Plant.

Jerry Taylor, 3417 4th Avenue South, asked if the City was in violation of the MPDES permit for the sewage treatment plant, or if the City received any notifications from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to cease and desist or to make changes because of the pre-treatment program.

Mr. Rearden responded that there are some specific issues but none that say to cease and desist.

City Attorney Jim Santoro added that the City is in the process of working with DEQ to update those permits.

Motion carried 5-0.

**Consent Agenda.
Approved.**

CONSENT AGENDA

13. Minutes, July 20, 2010, Commission meeting.
14. Total expenditures of \$2,022,810 for the period of July 9-28, 2010, to include claims over \$5,000, in the amount of \$1,748,618.
15. Contracts list.
16. Award construction contract for the Great Falls Police Department re-roof project to Metal Works of Montana, Inc. in the amount of \$145,535. **OF 1529.2**
17. Award construction contract for the West Interceptor Trenchless Rehabilitation to Planned and Engineered Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$188,750. **OF 1566.6**
18. Award construction contract for the Sanitary Sewer Trenchless Rehabilitation, Phase 14, to Planned and Engineered Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$128,630. **OF 1566.1.**

Commissioner Jolley moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners. No one responded.

Mayor Winters asked if there were any inquiries from the public.

Ron Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, referred to agenda item 14, Enterprise Funds, and inquired if the City would have to pay more money for the deposit due to the rate increases from the supplier.

Fiscal Services Director Coleen Balzarini responded that at this point the amount of the deposit remains the same.

Motion carried 5-0.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

19. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Mayor Winters opened the meeting to Petitions and Communications.

Budget, taxes.

19A. Cyndi Baker, 500 Montana Avenue NW, suggested that the budget not be set for adoption during State Fair week. Mayor Winters responded that the budget has a specific time frame, it is well publicized and this meeting is open to everybody. Ms. Baker also expressed disappointment that the Commission approved several tax increases tonight, but did not save the taxpayers \$1,000 for something as discretionary as the Urban Art Project.

Public policy.

19B. Charles Overking, 402½ 2nd Avenue South, believes it to be good policy for stores to have public restrooms for customers.

**Building permits,
Montana Specialty Mills.**

19C. Brett Doney, Great Falls Development Authority, residing at 3048 Delmar Drive, complimented Mike Haynes, Terre Gift and Greg Doyon for the recent explanations, communications and educating the public regarding building permits. Mr. Doney also reported that the Development Authority Board has allocated a \$234,000 grant for Montana Specialty Mills' rail improvements should they designate a location within Cascade County by the end of the year.

DEQ.

19D. John Hubbard, 615 7th Avenue South, believes the EPA has not done its job with regard to the coal plant and the Weissman property. Planning and Community Development Director Mike Haynes again advised that DEQ has informed him that until there is some type of development or redevelopment at the site, it has no way to require clean up.

**Chambers, ECP Board
meeting, SME,
California city officials.**

19E. Ron Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, commented on the different chair arrangement in the chambers. Mayor Winters explained the reason he asked staff to remove the chairs from the back of the room. Mr. Gessaman continued that some members of the public were appreciative of the action taken at last night's ECP Board meeting. He provided a copy of Cascade County's letter regarding revoking the location performance permit issued to SME. Mr. Gessaman also discussed and provided an article regarding salaries of city leaders in Bell, California. He commented that he has no idea how much money the City Manager or top 10 City officials make in Great Falls.

Information request.

19F. Cyndi Baker, 500 Montana Avenue NW, in response to Mr. Gessaman's comments, Ms. Baker reported that during the school levy, she contacted City Manager Greg Doyon inquiring about his salary to compare with the Superintendent of Public Schools. She reported that Mr. Doyon was very forthcoming and provided every figure.

Commissioner Bronson added that all that information is public record.

CITY MANAGER

20. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

City Manager Greg Doyon commented that, as with most requests that Mr. Gessaman makes during the meeting, he is welcome to come in at any time during the business week to ask and get the information instead of playing to the audience that there seems to be some corruption going on

Mr. Doyon thanked Melissa Kinzler, Krista Artis and Coleen Balzarini for their direct assistance with the budget process this year, as well as the department head team and the Commission.

Mr. Doyon also reported that he felt privileged to be part of the Omaha Trophy award presentation to the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base for their performance in Strategic Command for the third year. There was also recognition by the MAFB leadership for the community support of the base.

The Montana Air National Guard has been listed as a candidate for a new C27 transport aircraft mission. The Central Montana Defense Alliance has been working with MANG leadership at the state and federal level to try to secure another mission. They are an important component to our community and there is an economic value of having them here. He encouraged the Commissioners to express their support via connections with the federal and state delegations.

Mr. Doyon also reported that he will be out of the office for an Association of Defense Communities Conference in California relating to what he just discussed and will provide a report upon his return. City Attorney Jim Santoro will act in his stead.

Mr. Doyon also noted that new microphones were purchased for the podium and Commissioners in an attempt to improve the sound in the chambers.

Mr. Doyon concluded that City employee wages are adopted as part of the budget which is a public process. What the Bell, California folks did was an insult to those in the profession.

CITY COMMISSION

21. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Commissioner Jolley asked and was informed that the City did receive the taxable valuation from the Department of Revenue that will be provided in the weekly review.

Commissioner Burow thanked Ron Gessaman for mentioning that article and noted that the State's attorney was looking at possible criminal charges against those particular Bell, California, elected officials. Pursuant to Montana's open meeting laws, the public is entitled to those types of documents. He had asked Human Resources for and received a listing of all City employees' wages and benefit packages.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn.

There being no further business to come before the regular Commission meeting, **Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the regular meeting of August 3, 2010, be adjourned at 9:17 p.m.**

Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Winters

City Clerk

Minutes Approved: August 17, 2010