

Regular City Commission Meeting

Mayor Stebbins presiding

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:00 PM

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** City Commissioners present: Dona R. Stebbins, Bill Bronson, John Rosenbaum, Bill Beecher and Mary Jolley. Also present were the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, City Attorney, Directors of Community Development, Fiscal Services, Library, Park and Recreation, Planning, Public Works, the Fire Chief, Police Chief, and the City Clerk.

**PROCLAMATION:** Fair Housing Month

**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS**

**Jack Stuckman, NC 6, sworn in.**

**1. Jack Stuckman** was sworn in as a representative of Neighborhood Council District No. 6.

**NC 4.**

**2A. Sandra Guynn**, Chair NC4, reported that the Home Place is now in compliance with the County. The trailer park at 4727 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North was inspected by the City after receiving complaints from several tenants last fall. A letter was recently sent to the landowner to bring those trailers into compliance. Ms. Guynn expressed appreciation for the great presentations regarding the public safety mill levy given by Fire Chief McCamley and Police Chief Grove at the Council of Councils meeting. Ms. Guynn also thanked Kristal Kuhn, Emergency Preparedness Officer, and Patty Rearden, Recreation Administrator, for the very informative presentations at the March meeting.

**NC 7.**

**2B. Aaron Weissman**, Chair NC 7, reported that a resident who resides in the area of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North provided an informative presentation to the council about traffic on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North between 9<sup>th</sup> Street and 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> one-way Streets. Mr. Weissman requested the Commission consider yield signs for more controlled intersections at that location.

**NC 2.**

**2C. Sue Strickland**, NC 2, reported that Stelling Engineers provided a presentation to the council on the completed noise abatement study. Upon receipt of stimulus monies, commencement of a pilot program for sound proofing 10 homes will begin. The entire project encompasses 324 homes mostly in the West Hill area. Through various grants, 50 qualifying homes will be sound proofed each year thereafter.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**2009/2010 CDBG Annual Action Plan public hearing conducted and action on the Final**

**3. 2009/2010 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN.**

Community Development Director Mike Rattray reported that the

**Action Plan scheduled for April 21, 2009.**

Commission received the recommendations made by the Community Development Council at a prior work session. Mr. Rattray requested that the Commission conduct a public hearing and take into consideration public comments before taking final action on April 21, 2009.

Mayor Stebbins declared the public hearing open.

**Brett Doney**, Great Falls Development Authority, thanked the City for its support to build up GFDA's loan capital to address credit needs of businesses and developers in the City. The recommended amount for creating a new loan fund will go a long way towards starting that process.

**Aaron Weissman**, Chair NC 7, thanked the Commission and CDC for including a recommendation for funding playground equipment at Whittier Elementary.

**David Dobbs**, City Engineer, thanked the Commission for its support of two upcoming projects. The first is the ADA handicapped ramps on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North from 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> Streets, and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North from 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Streets. These intersections will be brought into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Completion of this project will allow the City to apply for grants to resurface 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North from Park Drive to 25<sup>th</sup> Street. The other project is replacing defective sidewalks for 25-35 low to moderate income home owners in that area. These projects will be funded by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act. The end product will improve infrastructure.

**Heidi Gibson**, Center for Mental Health Foundation, spoke in support of the Center West project, which is a transitional living project for people with mental illness. Center West is a therapeutic community and place of healing. The first resident was accepted today. Ms. Gibson requested the Commission support the road to recovery at the Center for Mental Health, Center West project.

**Sheila Rice**, NeighborWorks Great Falls, thanked City staff and the Commission for proposing 25% of the CDBG funds to be used for affordable housing. Ms. Rice also spoke in support of Habitat for Humanity, Kairos Youth Service and the Center for Mental Health.

Mayor Stebbins declared the public hearing closed and asked for the direction of the City Commission.

**Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Rosenbaum, that the City Commission schedule action on the Final Action Plan for April 21, 2009.**

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

Motion carried 5-0.

**Res. 9817 and Ord. 3032.  
Adopted.**

**4A. RESOLUTION 9817, ANNEXES EAST RIDGE ADDITION,  
PHASE 5.**

**4B. ORDINANCE 3032, ASSIGNS ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO  
PROPERTY.**

Interim Planning Director Bill Walters reported that C & W Development Inc. has requested to annex and subdivide a 2.4 acre tract of land in the vicinity of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and 47<sup>th</sup> Street. The subdivision consists of three lots. Two of the lots will be zoned Planned Unit Development District and each will accommodate four residential condominium units. The third lot will be zoned R-2 Single-Family Medium Density District.

At the conclusion of a public hearing held February 10, 2009, the Planning Board passed a motion recommending the City Commission approve the minor plat, annexation, and Findings of Fact all related to East Ridge, Phase 5, as well as recommending City zoning as provided in Ordinance 3032.

Mayor Stebbins declared the public hearing open.

No one spoke in favor of or opposition to Resolution 9817 and Ordinance 3032.

Mayor Stebbins declared the public hearing closed and asked for the direction of the City Commission.

**Commissioner Jolley moved, seconded by Commissioners Beecher and Rosenbaum, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 9817, and approve the Minor Subdivision Plat, Findings of Fact and Annexation Agreement all pertaining to East Ridge Addition, Phase 5.**

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

Motion carried 5-0.

**Commissioner Jolley moved, seconded by Commissioners Beecher and Rosenbaum, that the City Commission adopt Ordinance 3032.**

Motion carried 5-0.

**Res. 9818. Adopted.**

**5. RESOLUTION 9818, CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW  
AN ANIMAL SHELTER ON LOT 4AA, BLOCK 1, NORTH  
RIVERVIEW TERRACE 7<sup>TH</sup> SUPPLEMENT (826 25<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE  
NE).**

Interim Planning Director Bill Walters reported the Animal Foundation of

Great Falls has applied for a conditional use permit to build and operate an animal shelter on a parcel of land located immediately south of North Middle School. The involved property is presently zoned C-2 General Commercial District wherein an animal shelter is permitted upon processing and approval of a conditional use permit.

At the conclusion of a public hearing held February 24, 2009, the City Zoning Commission passed a motion recommending the City Commission grant a conditional use permit to allow placement of an animal shelter on Lot 4AA, Block 1, North Riverview Terrace, 7<sup>th</sup> Supplement to Great Falls.

Mayor Stebbins declared the public hearing open.

Speaking in favor of Resolution 9818 was **John Huber**, current Board member of the Animal Foundation, residing at 3912 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Mr. Huber thanked the City for helping the Animal Foundation with the process of obtaining the conditional use permit and furthering their project.

Mayor Stebbins declared the public hearing closed and asked for the direction of the City Commission.

**Commissioner Rosenbaum moved, seconded by Commissioners Beecher and Bronson, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 9818.**

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

Motion carried 5-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**GFDA early loan payoff request. Approved.**

#### **6. GREAT FALLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY EARLY LOAN PAYOFF REQUEST.**

City Manager Gregory T. Doyon reported that on October 6, 2008, the City Commission considered a request from the GFDA to forgive a portion of a loan granted to High Plains Financial on April 15, 2003. The Commission modified the request and approved the loan payment arrangement. GFDA has recently requested that the City accelerate the loan payoff and forgiveness as follows: (1) lump sum payment of \$64,632.14; (2) accelerate the forgiveness of debt in the amount of \$138,500; (3) include a provision that if GFDA operates at a loss for any of the next three years, the City would then reduce its budget allocation (historically \$100,000) by \$46,166.67 which is one-third of the \$138,500 of debt forgiveness.

Commissioner Jolley commented that she was voting against this proposal because she doesn't understand the math.

City Manager Doyon corrected a typo on condition 2 wherein the forgiveness amount should read \$138,500.

**Commissioner Beecher moved, seconded by Commissioner Rosenbaum, that the City Commission amend its prior loan repayment and forgiveness agreement with GFDA and establish the following terms and conditions:**

1. **Accept a lump sum payment from GFDA in the amount of \$64,632.14; and,**
2. **Accelerate the loan forgiveness amounts of \$138,500 with the condition that should GFDA operate at a loss for any of the next three years, the City would then reduce its budget allocation by \$46,166.67 annually over the next three years.**

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

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

**Brett Doney**, GFDA, commented that what GFDA is proposing is to pay the same amount agreed upon except instead of paying it over three years it would be paid now. GFDA will be applying for a grant to compete for stimulus funds to build more loan capital for the community. Allowing the early loan pay off will help GFDA score better on its application.

**Ron Gessaman**, 1006 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, stated his opposition to granting any loan forgiveness to the GFDA.

Motion carried 4-1 (Commissioner Jolley dissenting).

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Land Exchange Agreement with Cascade County, as amended. Approved. OF 1488.**

#### **7. LAND EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH CASCADE COUNTY.**

Public Works Director Jim Rearden reported that this agreement describes the terms of the transfers of land between Cascade County and the City in order for the City to construct the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NW access to the new Federal Courthouse and West Bank Park.

**Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioners Beecher and Rosenbaum, that the City Commission approve the Land Exchange Agreement with Cascade County, with the proposed amendment to paragraph 6 set forth hereinafter and, further, to authorize the City Manager to execute this amended agreement and deeds of transfer.**

Commissioner Bronson stated that Paragraph 6 of the Memorandum of

Understanding as it currently stands would be stricken in its entirety, and the following language substituted in its place.

As amended, paragraph 6 will read:

“As further compensation to County for the transfers described in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, City agrees to initiate the process for vacation of 4<sup>th</sup> Street North, from 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North to 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North, to allow County to reconfigure its downtown campus and increase parking availability for County and State employees. In the event the described property is vacated, the City will remove all parking meters, and County will pay for any planning and reconfiguration, including traffic signals, improvements and maintenance. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as a guarantee that the described property will be vacated.”

Commissioner Bronson explained that, in essence, the proposed MOU as originally submitted was asking this body to approve the cart before the horse. The City Commission was being asked to approve a vacation of a public street and guarantee its vacation, without first undergoing the process. That is not what was anticipated by the laws that govern the vacation of public streets.

Commissioner Bronson further explained that he believed this amendment was still in keeping with what the County has proposed. He also believed the County should explain its proposal to Neighborhood Council 7.

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

**Aaron Weissman**, Chair NC 7, thanked Commissioner Bronson and Mayor Stebbins for ensuring NC 7 was aware of this proposal. NC 7 has not taken a position on this proposal yet. Mr. Weissman pointed out that the parking garage is about a block and a half from the County Courthouse. NC 7 requested a traffic and parking study be conducted of the ramifications of closing this street.

**Sue Strickland**, NC 2, respectfully requested that NC 2 be included in discussions with regard to this land swap or street closure because some of the land is within the boundaries of NC 2. Ms. Strickland requested and received verification that the considered land swap does not include any part of West Bank Park. Ms. Strickland commented that safety issues should be considered regarding the removal of traffic signals. Commissioner Bronson responded that the Montana Department of Transportation would retain jurisdiction over that particular issue and will have the final decision for approval or changing of lighting.

**Stuart Lewin**, 615 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North, commented that the West Bank development is important for the City and County because it is the opportunity to clean up a superfund site that was originally created by the

County shop. Mr. Lewin suggested that the language be clear in the land swap documents who will be responsible for the clean up. Mr. Lewin also suggested that the new road to the Federal Courthouse be moved further south. He faulted the City Commission for not properly prioritizing the development of West Bank.

**Brett Doney**, Great Falls Development Authority, commented on the progress that has been made at West Bank Park. This project is coming together to fulfill the vision of West Bank Park. In response to previous comments, Mr. Doney clarified that GFDA is trying to find a site for Montana Specialty Mills; the County is not making any money from the lease back to Montana Specialty Mills; and, the County is ahead of schedule on the clean up that is regulated by DEQ.

**Ron Gessaman**, 1006 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, stated his opposition to closing any streets in the downtown area. Mr. Gessaman encouraged the use of existing facilities. He suggested the City negotiate an agreement with the County for its employees to park in the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North and South parking garages.

Motion carried 5-0.

**Right-of-Way Agreement  
for 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NW.  
Approved. OF 1488.**

**8. RIGHT-OF-WAY AGREEMENT FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE  
NORTHWEST.**

Public Works Director Jim Rearden reported that this agreement begins the process for the City to acquire additional land needed for construction of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NW roadway. This agreement will allow the City's contractor access to the site to begin construction of the roadway to serve the West Bank area. For the project to proceed, the City must acquire the right-of-way. The agreement includes purchase of property for the new avenue, vacation of two segments of unused City right-of-way, as well as additional clarification of allowable uses of tax increment funds from Staybridge Suites. In response to Mr. Lewin, Mr. Rearden clarified that the County will retain the portion of the roadway with contaminated soil.

**Commissioner Jolley moved, seconded by Commissioner Beechers and Rosenbaum, that the City Commission approve the Right-of-Way Agreement for 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Northwest with Talcott Properties, and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.**

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

Commissioner Rosenbaum pointed out that Talcott is a player in this project as well.

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

**Stuart Lewin**, 615 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North, stated his opposition for the reasons he provided in Item 7. Mr. Lewin discussed TIF funds for public benefit. He asked the Commission to consider use of TIF funds for clean up under the roadway if the County doesn't fully clean up the site.

Motion carried 5-0.

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act CTEP projects. Approved.**

**(ARRA Project Agreement subsequently not executed. See Item 27, September 1, 2009, Minutes.)**

**9. AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) CTEP PROJECTS.**

Interim Planning Director Bill Walters reported that the City of Great Falls has secured \$1,000,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for local enhancement projects. A local priority project by the Montana Department of Transportation is the "Sun River Connector Trail," a key component in the Great Falls pedestrian/bicycle network, which will safely connect the Fox Farm and Southwest neighborhoods with 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South via the Warden Bridge. The cost of the connector project is estimated at \$804,000 to be 100% funded through the Act.

Staff is recommending the remaining \$196,000 ARRA funds be spent on landscaping the new 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Northwest, between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Northwest and West Bank Park. As programming of the ARRA funds for specific projects needs to proceed quickly, a timely response has been requested from the City.

**Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Rosenbaum, that the City Commission approve the Sun River Connector Trail and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NW Landscaping projects for funding with Transportation Enhancement funds available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.**

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

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

**Sue Strickland**, NC 2, commented that Bob Mehlhoff informed her that the legislature has also authorized funding for the connector trail. Mr. Walters confirmed that Representative Mehlhoff and Senator Schmidt were instrumental in obtaining these funds. It was one in the same.

**John Juris**, 220 Woodland Estates, expressed appreciation for the City's efforts to make the Sun River Connector Trail come to fruition. It is an important connection as it currently is a safety hazard. He encouraged the City Commission's support of accepting the funds.

Motion carried 5-0.



**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

**Res. 9820 adopted, and Ord. 3033 accepted on first reading and set public hearing for May 5, 2009.**

**10A. RESOLUTION 9820, INTENT TO ANNEX BNSF RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY AND SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF UPPER/LOWER RIVER ROAD WATER & SEWER DISTRICT.**

**10B. ORDINANCE 3033, ESTABLISHES CITY ZONING TO PROPERTY.**

Interim Planning Director Bill Walters reported that, with the recent completion of some necessary surveys and property descriptions, annexation of Service District No. 2 of the Upper Lower River Road Water & Sewer District is underway. Service District No. 2 consists of a 6,900 foot segment of the BNSF right-of-way, segments of Lower and Upper River Roads, and 81 parcels involving 54 property owners.

At the conclusion of a public hearing held March 10, 2009, the Planning Board passed a motion recommending the City Commission annex Service District No. 2 and the Zoning Commission passed a motion recommending the City Commission assign City zoning to Service District No. 2 as provided in Ordinance 3033.

Mr. Walters requested that the Commission adopt Resolution 9820, which is an expression of intent to annex the involved BNSF right-of-way, and to accept Ordinance 3033 on first reading and set a public hearing for May 5, 2009, when a final resolution to annex the BNSF right-of-way and a second resolution to annex the balance of Service District No. 2 will be considered.

**Commissioner Rosenbaum moved, seconded by Commissioner Beecher, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 9820.**

Mayor Stebbins asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners or inquiries from the public. No one responded.

Motion carried 5-0.

**Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioners Beecher and Rosenbaum, that the City Commission accept Ordinance 3033 on first reading, and set a public hearing for May 5, 2009.**

Mayor Stebbins asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners or inquiries from the public. No one responded.

Motion carried 5-0.

Consent Agenda Items 11-20, 22-23 were approved. Consent Agenda Item 21 was pulled and tabled for further review.

### CONSENT AGENDA

11. Minutes, March 17, 2009, Commission meeting.
12. Total expenditures of \$2,109,853 for the period of March 12-April 1, 2009, to include claims over \$5,000, in the amount of \$1,889,840.
13. Contracts list.
14. Lien Release list.
15. Set public hearing for April 21, 2009, on Resolution 9827, Swimming Pool fees.
16. Approve professional service agreement with Thomas, Dean & Hoskins, Inc. in the amount of \$68,349 for the design of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South Water Mains Replacement. **OF 1447.**
17. Award construction contract to United Materials of Great Falls of Great Falls, Inc. in the amount of \$306,644.50 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Northwest Roadway Improvements-Phase 2. **OF 1488.**
18. Award construction contract to United Materials of Great Falls, Inc. in the amount of \$736,695 for the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South Water Main Replacements. **OF 1570.**
19. Award construction contract to Planned and Engineered Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$185,940 for the Sanitary Sewer Trenchless Rehabilitation, Phase 13. **OF 1566.**
20. Award construction contract to Dick Anderson Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$36,235 for the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge North Railing Improvements. **OF 979.5.**
21. Award bid for one new 2009 Asphalt Distributor to Tri-State Truck & Equipment of Great Falls in the amount of \$125,748.
22. Approve Addendum Agreements for Eagle's Crossing Addition, Phases II & III.
23. Review Memorandum of Understanding with Cascade County and set public hearing on the Justice Assistance Grant recommendation for May 5, 2009.

City Manager Doyon requested that the Commission pull and table Item 21 for further review.

**Commissioner Rosenbaum moved, seconded by Commissioner Bronson, that the City Commission approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with the elimination of Item 21 for further review of the overlay and chip seal policies.**

Commissioner Jolley requested that Item 20 be pulled for discussion. Commissioner Rosenbaum accepted Commissioner Jolley's amendment, and Commissioner Bronson concurred.

Commissioner Jolley explained that Item 20 was the result of a successful grant application obtained by Preservation Cascade through Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

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

**Kathy Gessaman**, 1006 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, inquired why the wire transfer to SME on Item 12 was an even amount. Fiscal Services Director Coleen Balzarini answered that the payment process was changed. There will be two payments per month to SME, with the first payment always being \$650,000.

Commissioner Jolley asked how the deposit would be noted. Ms. Balzarini answered that it is reflected as cash held by others on the balance sheet. Commissioner Jolley asked how she would know how much was sent each month for the cash deposit. Ms. Balzarini responded that could be added.

Commissioner Jolley inquired if the travel expenses in the amount of \$5,900 were for the City Manager to travel to Washington, D.C. Assistant City Manager Cheryl Patton explained that the BASE trust account covered the travel expenses of three individuals for that trip.

Commissioner Jolley inquired if the payment from the Central Garage fund to the HSCC for three animal trucks would be credited to the Police Department fund. City Manager Doyon explained that, due to the expiration of a lease agreement, he authorized the use of those funds to purchase the cages and trucks to continue operation of animal control. Ms. Balzarini clarified that each year \$250,000 from the general fund goes to central garage fund to make purchases for those entities that operate out of the general fund. The Animal Shelter is out of those entities.

**Ron Gessaman**, 1006 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, stated his opposition to the extension of time for development activities in Item 22.

With the exception of Item 21, the Consent Agenda was approved.

Motion carried 5-0.

## **BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

**Todd Humble appointed to the Design Review Board.**

### **24. APPOINTMENT, DESIGN REVIEW BOARD.**

**Commissioner Rosenbaum moved, seconded by Commissioner Jolley, that the City Commission appoint Todd Humble to the Design Review Board for a three-year term through March 31, 2012.**

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

Rosenbaum commented that the Commission was blessed with many qualified applicants. He thanked those that applied.

Mayor Stebbins asked if there were inquiries from the public. No one responded.

Motion carried 5-0.

**25. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**CITY MANAGER**

**26. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

City Manager Gregory T. Doyon reported that Jim Rearden had an announcement. Public Works Director Jim Rearden invited everyone to attend the third annual E-rase your E-waste event combined with the annual Earth Day celebration to be held at MSU-COT on April 25, 2009. Mr. Rearden also thanked the sponsors that helped keep the fees for disposal fairly low. In the last two years this event has helped divert twenty tons of e-waste from the City's landfill.

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**27. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Mayor Stebbins opened the meeting to Petitions and Communications.

**Federal building, taxes  
and Pine Beetles.**

**27A. John Hubbard**, 615 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, believes the new Federal building should be a museum. He stated his opposition to any new taxes. Mr. Hubbard discussed the Pine tree in his yard and asked if the City was going to do anything about the Pine Beetles.

**ECP.**

**27B. Stuart Lewin**, 615 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North, discussed Tim Gregori's presentation at the ECP Board meeting. He believes the City is in an interesting position regarding energy development. Mr. Lewin stated he wasn't against the ECP Board, just some members on the Board. He doesn't believe the City should give up public power that works.

**Water meters.**

**27C. Ron Gessaman**, 1006 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, inquired if the City was revamping water meter wiring and monitoring devices. Public Works Director Jim Rearden answered that the City has been in the process of converting the old meters. The process is part of a seven year program that has been accelerated recently because the meters are becoming quickly obsolete. Mr. Gessaman inquired how it was being funded. Mr. Rearden responded that it was part of the water rate process.

**Weed & Seed program.**

**27D. Jim Kjeldsen**, 1502 2<sup>nd</sup> West Hill Drive, introduced himself as the new Weed & Seed Director for the City of Great Falls.

**Great Falls' Economy.**

**27E. Brett Doney**, Great Falls Development Authority, residing at 3048 Delmar Drive, reported that the City of Great Falls was named the 11<sup>th</sup> best housing market in the United States, and the 23<sup>rd</sup> best place to open a restaurant. Mr. Doney updated the Commission with regard to construction projects. He also discussed six new prospects that he has been in contact with in the past few weeks. He reported on his trip to Kansas for the American Wind Energy Association transmission meeting that great progress was being made to develop a plan to move wind power out to the markets that want it.

**CITY COMMISSION****28. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Mayor Stebbins extended personal invitations to the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on April 15, 2009, and the Fur Ball fund raising event on April 18, both to be held at the Heritage Inn.

**ADJOURNMENT****Adjourn.**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Rosenbaum, that the regular meeting of April 7, 2009, be adjourned at 8:47 p.m.**

Motion carried 5-0.

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Mayor Stebbins

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City Clerk

Minutes Approved: April 21, 2009