

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.

PRESENTATIONS: The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the City of Great Falls for its annual budget for the 16th year. On behalf of the City Commission, said award was presented to Melissa Kinzler and Krista Artis of the budget office.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

1. There were no miscellaneous reports or announcements from neighborhood council representatives.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed use of funds for inclusion in the appropriate Annual Action Plan accepted, and public hearing set for April 7, 2009, on the Proposed Annual Action Plan.

2. CDBG AND HOME PROGRAM PROPOSED USE OF FUNDS AND PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR HUD REQUIRED ANNUAL ACTION PLAN.

CDBG Administrator Chris Imhoff reported that the funding recommendations of the Community Development Council were presented during the Work Session and are summarized in the agenda. Staff recommends the City Commission (1) accept recommendations for funding 2009/2010 Community Development Block Grant projects and CDBG funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, (2) accept funding recommendations for the HOME program projects; and (3) set April 7, 2009, as the public hearing date for the Proposed 2009/2010 Annual Action Plan.

Commissioner Jolley moved, seconded by Commissioner Bronson, that the City Commission accept the proposed use of funds for the 2009/2010 Community Development Block Grant Program, for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and for the 2009/2010 HOME Program for inclusion in the Annual Action Plan and set the public hearing for April 7, 2009, on the 2009/2010 Proposed Annual Action Plan.

Mayor Stebbins asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners or inquiries from the public. No one responded. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS**Great Falls Area
Transportation Plan -
2009 adopted.****3. GREAT FALLS AREA TRANSPORTATION PLAN – 2009 WITH
INCLUSION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

Senior Transportation Planner Andrew Finch reported that in 2003, after a year-long effort, major updates were made to the Great Falls Area Transportation Plan. What is before the City Commission for consideration now is minor updates made to that plan to be in conformance with new federal transportation planning requirements. Mr. Finch pointed out that three new sections were included as a result of the new Federal Transportation Act – a security element, a safety element, and an environmental mitigation element. There was also increased emphasis on fiscal constraint.

After a public hearing held March 10, 2009, the Great Falls Planning Board recommended that the City Commission approve the Great Falls Area Transportation Plan-2009, with inclusion of public comments. The Cascade County Planning Board is a partner in the process. That Board has recommended adoption of the plan that the County Commission will consider at its next meeting. The Transportation Advisory Committee has approved the plan and recommended that the Policy Coordinating Committee approve the plan.

Mayor Stebbins asked if there were any questions for Mr. Finch.

Commissioner Beecher asked for clarification of the fourth public comment. Mr. Finch explained projects taken out of the plan are moved into the Transportation Improvement Plan (capital improvement program) to move forward on project development. The project costs and estimates can then be more refined.

Commissioner Jolley inquired if the supplemental informational packet containing recommended textual edits to the Great Falls Area Transportation Plan-2009 was also included in what the Commission was voting on. Mr. Finch answered affirmatively.

Commissioner Jolley moved, seconded by Commissioner Beecher, that the City Commission approve the Great Falls Area Transportation Plan – 2009, with inclusion of public comments.

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

Kerry Gray, 2201 47th Avenue SW, discussed traffic issues at various locations. Mr. Gray disagreed with the plan's recommendation of the south arterial and suggested the City Commission look at the north arterial

feasibility study.

Motion carried 5-0.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

Ord. 3032. Accepted on first reading and set public hearing for April 7, 2009.

4. ORDINANCE 3032, TO ASSIGN CITY ZONING TO EAST RIDGE ADDITION, PHASE 5.

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 12th Avenue South and 47th 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.

The Zoning Commission, at the conclusion of a public hearing held February 10, 2009, passed a motion recommending the City Commission assign City zoning to East Ridge Addition, Phase 5, as provided in Ordinance 3032.

Mr. ~~Rangel~~ Walters requested that the City Commission accept Ordinance 3032 on first reading, and set a public hearing for April 7, 2009, when the subdivision plat and annexation documents will also be considered.

Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Rosenbaum, that the City Commission accept Ordinance 3032 on first reading, and set public hearing for April 7, 2009.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Res. 9819. Adopted. SILD 1303.

5. RESOLUTION 9819, AUTHORIZING THE LOAN AGREEMENT WITH THE MONTANA BOARD OF INVESTMENTS FOR \$36,346 TO FUND THE INSTALLATION COST OF EIGHT CITY-OWNED STREET LIGHTS IN BOOTLEGGERS ADDITION-PHASE I.

Fiscal Services Director Coleen Balzarini reported that on November 18, 2008, the City Commission approved the creation of this special lighting district. A.T. Klemens was the lowest bidder for installation of the lights. The funding source is a loan from the Montana Board of Investments at a variable interest rate. This year the rate on this loan is 3.25%.

Commissioner Rosenbaum moved, seconded by Commissioner Bronson, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 9819.

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.

Kathy Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, asked if the lights would be night sky friendly. Ms. Balzarini responded that the lights contain a downward shield to somewhat deflect the light.

Motion carried 5-0.

**Consent Agenda.
Approved.**

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Minutes, March 3, 2009, Commission meeting.
7. Total expenditures of \$1,076,360 for the period of February 26 through March 11, 2009, to include claims over \$5,000, in the amount of \$895,701.
8. Contracts list.
9. Set public hearing for April 7, 2009, on Resolution 9818, Conditional Use Permit to allow an animal shelter at 826 25th Avenue NE.
10. Award professional services contract in the amount of \$122,580 to Merrick & Company for the Digital Imagery and Topographic Mapping of the City of Great Falls and surrounding area. **OF 1572.**
11. Approve the 3rd Avenue Northwest Memorandum of Understanding. **OF 1488.** (The reference to Cascade County in this MOU is being superseded by a separate Land Exchange Agreement for consideration April 7, 2009.)
12. Award bid for two new 2009 ¾ ton extended cab trucks with utility bodies to Bison Ford of Great Falls in the amount of \$53,759.62.

Commissioner Jolley moved, seconded by Commissioners Beecher and Bronson, with the exception of Item 8, that the City Commission approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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.

Ron Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, stated he had questions regarding Items 7, 10 and 12. Mr. Gessaman pointed out that the numbers do not add up to the total on Item 7. Fiscal Services Director Coleen Balzarini responded that, without adding, the range used to calculate the total might have missed something. With regard to Item 10, Mr. Gessaman suggested that the various departments pay for this expense instead of charging the full cost to the storm drain fund. With regard to Item 12, Mr. Gessaman inquired why there was an upgrade to larger trucks. Park and Recreation Director Marty Basta responded that the trucks carry the Park and

Recreation mowing crews and equipment. Previously, some crew members had to ride in the box of the trucks. For their safety, the trucks were upgraded to extended cabs. Additionally, the trucks are pulling larger mowing equipment and a larger size truck will add longevity.

With regard to Item 8, Commissioner Jolley inquired if Payne Financial was paying the City the amount of \$5,000 as an Ice Breaker sponsor. Mr. Basta responded affirmatively and added the cash is for advertising during the Ice Breaker.

Commissioner Jolley moved, seconded by Commissioner Bronson, to amend her prior motion and recommend that the City Commission approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion as amended carried 5-0.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

**Robin Baker
reappointed and
Shannon Newth
appointed to the
Advisory Commission on
International
Relationships.**

13. APPOINTMENTS, ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

Commissioner Jolley moved, seconded by Commissioner Beecher, that the City Commission reappoint Robin Baker for a three-year term through March 31, 2012, and appoint Shannon Newth for a three-year term beginning April 1, 2009, and ending on March 31, 2012, to the Advisory Commission on International Relationships.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

**Joella Bloomgren
appointed to the Native
American Local
Government
Commission.**

14. APPOINTMENT, NATIVE AMERICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION.

Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioners Beecher and Rosenbaum, that the City Commission appoint Joella Bloomgren to the Native American Local Government Commission for a four-year term through August 1, 2013.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

15. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

CITY MANAGER**16. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

City Manager Gregory T. Doyon reported that staff participated in a table top exercise this morning concerning a 6.0 magnitude earthquake in Augusta. He thanked the Fire Department for taking staff through the exercise that demonstrated the need to be prepared and work together through a disaster in the community. Staff also continues to attend NIMS training.

With regard to the stimulus monies, Mr. Doyon reported that projects that have collaboration between State, County and Local entities will receive a more favorable response in terms of receiving an allocation. Also, there has been a shift into talking with state legislators.

Park and Recreation Director Marty Basta reported that representatives from the City, County, and School District met with Neighborhood Council 5 regarding noxious weed control within the City. The City relies on state law and Cascade County Weed Control to control those weeds. The parties came up with an innovative approach to noxious weed control within the NC 5 district that involves a weed pull day that would be supported by the City, County and the School District. If successful, he hopes other Neighborhood Council districts will want to take on a similar project.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**17. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Mayor Stebbins opened the meeting to Petitions and Communications.

***Tribune* articles.**

17A. Ron Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, discussed two articles reported in the *Tribune* on Monday entitled “City, critics debate security of investment” and “City, accountant debate energy figures.”

Taxes.

17B. John Hubbard, 615 7th Avenue South, stated his opposition to any new taxes and emphasized that the country is in a recession.

CITY COMMISSION**18. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Beecher moved, seconded by Commissioner Bronson, that the regular meeting of March 17, 2009, be adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**

Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Stebbins

City Clerk

Minutes Approved: April 7, 2009