

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
March 17, 2009

City Commission Work Session

Mayor Stebbins presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

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

1. PRESENTATION ON CDBG ANNUAL PLAN

CDBG Administrator Chris Imhoff discussed the process that she and the Community Development Council (CDC) go through from the application process that began on November 21, 2008, to making the recommendations to the City Commission. At an orientation meeting held February 5, 2009, Ms. Imhoff learned the City would be receiving \$248,841 of stimulus monies for shovel ready projects. The CDC has recommended three projects for the stimulus funding.

Dale Schwanke reported that he has been on the council for four years. The members of CDC have varied backgrounds and all have a keen sense of obligation to the community. The CDC review began with the orientation process. Mr. Schwanke explained the review process involves following HUD requirements, City Commission policy, and sticking with priorities as the council goes through the scoring process.

The parties discussed two projects that were not funded. One project that did have some merit, Mr. Schwanke explained that the application had insufficient information, and it was not readily apparent the entity could accomplish what it set out to accomplish.

Ms. Imhoff explained that this stage was not the end of the award. She is mandated by HUD to monitor the projects through completion.

2. FINANCIAL INDICATORS AND REVENUE FORECAST

Fiscal Services Director Coleen Balzarini presented a PowerPoint slide show and discussed 2004-2008 trends. By looking at the five year trends in the areas of revenue, expenditures, operating position, debt and capital, a thorough picture of the City's financial condition can be assessed. Ms. Balzarini explained that the property tax revenues stayed pretty steady at approximately 50% of the general fund revenues. The revenue shortfalls will even out when property taxes are paid in 2009. She reported that public safety is the biggest governmental expense.

The parties discussed the golf course fund. City Manager Doyon reported that he would provide a memo with options regarding the golf courses to the Commissioners in the Friday packet.

Ms. Balzarini reported that four out of the last five years, the general fund reserves have been dipped into. However, some were planned draw downs and spending is still within the budget.

The parties discussed the parking fund. Ms. Balzarini reported that there was not enough cash to take care of long term needs of the parking facilities. Community Development Director Mike Rattray reported that parking citations were down substantially.

The swim pool fund was discussed. Ms. Balzarini explained that this fund was being subsidized by the general fund to keep fees and rates down for the youth. Park and Recreation Director Marty Basta reported that pool utilization was up since the pool improvements and operating costs were down.

The sanitation fund was reported to be a challenge. Public Works is looking at options to take into account and fund depreciation to replace trucks. The parties discussed the recycling center. Public Works Director Jim Rearden explained that there were cameras inside and outside of the City's Recycling Center. He reported that 60% of the recycling center usage was people other than City residents.

With regard to Electric City Power, Ms. Balzarini reported that fund is operating at a deficit, but anticipates improvement in 2009.

Ms. Balzarini discussed investments. She explained that the short term investment pool was money set aside for cash flow and Montana Department of Transportation projects.

In conclusion, the City's general government operations are in stable financial condition.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Stebbins adjourned the work session of March 17, 2009, at 6:46 p.m.