

**JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION**  
**January 20, 2009**

City Commission Work Session

Mayor Pro Tempore Bronson presiding

**CALL TO ORDER:** 5:30 p.m.

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

**1. PARK & RECREATION SURVEY**

Park and Recreation Director Marty Basta and Deputy Director Patty Rearden provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding a recent Park and Recreation survey and discussed what they learned from the results of that survey. A total of 847 completed surveys were returned. Respondents were questioned about activities and programs, beautification and open space, local parks, utilized facilities and events sponsored by the Park and Recreation Department or other organizations. The community appreciates the events the Park and Recreation Department puts on annually. Bicycle lanes ranked highest for additional facilities wanted, and playgrounds ranked highest for facilities to be improved or repaired.

Staff will be working on meeting the needs expressed by the community. The results of the survey will be used for budget planning. Recommendations were discussed for choices of funding from establishing a Park District through voter approval to land being donated to the City.

**2. UTILITY RATES-WATER, SEWER, STORM DRAINS**

Public Works Director Jim Rearden provided a PowerPoint presentation of the 2009 utility rate analysis. Mr. Rearden discussed future capital needs for water mains and water main replacements, storage tank repairs and additional storage tanks, water plant upgrades, upsizing sewer mains, sewer main lining and the WWTP lift station. The recommendation made was for 5% increases in water and sewer service rates, and zero percent increase in storm drain rates annually from 2009 through 2013. The proposed rate adjustments would result in \$1.03 and \$0.71 increases, respectively, per month in 2009. With the 5% increase, Great Falls would still be the seventh lowest in rates comparing other major cities in the state.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Pro Tempore Bronson adjourned the work session of January 20, 2009, at 6:30 p.m.