

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
January 6, 2009

City Commission Work Session

Mayor Stebbins presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

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

1. PUBLIC LANDS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT PRESENTATION

Keith Gebo and Richard Fisher, members of the Montana Wilderness Association, provided a PowerPoint visual tour and information regarding the Rocky Mountain Front. They believe that tourism is the next best sustainable future and hope to spur economic growth along the Rocky Mountain Front.

A Coalition entitled “Save the Front” was organized consisting of ranchers, hunters, anglers, outfitters, guides, local business owners, Blackfoot Tribal members, public officials, conservationists and Montanans. Their goal is to keep the Front the way it is now – open and accessible for Montanans and others to enjoy – while emphasizing traditional uses of the Front such as horse and foot travel.

The Coalition believes protecting the Front is economically beneficial for Montana families and communities because it preserves existing local jobs in ranching, outfitting, hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation. Further, the Coalition believes the best way to encourage sustainable local economies is by keeping the traditional uses of the Front and expanding economy around conserving special places to develop.

In conclusion, they urged the support of the citizens of Great Falls, as well as City and County Officials, in realizing the impact on everyone by preserving the Front for future generations. They will come back with a proposal for support prior to urging Montana’s congressional delegation to help retire existing leases along the Front to assist in reaching their goal.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Stebbins adjourned the work session of January 6, 2009, at 6:52 p.m.