

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
September 16, 2008

City Commission Work Session

Mayor Stebbins presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

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

1. PARKING RATE INCREASES

Community Development Director Mike Rattray provided a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Rattray explained the lease, meter and parking fine revenues. The last parking ticket fine increase occurred 21 years ago, and the last meter rate increase occurred 27 years ago. Mr. Rattray provided projected revenue increases and parking expenditures. The proposed \$0.25 meter rate increase will increase revenue \$168,000. However, due to the missed revenue opportunity for the past four months, the budget will still have a deficit of approximately \$19,500 this fiscal year. The monies collected from the meters stay in the parking fund, and citation revenue goes into the general fund. Mr. Rattray stated that the City maintains 1,100 meters, two parking ramps, four lots and a surface lot. The City contracts with a private service to manage the parking program. The parking fund balance will get used quickly on maintenance costs of those lots. A survey conducted revealed that most Montana cities have \$0.50 meters, and the parking fines are \$3.00 or higher.

2. DOG PARK UPDATE

Park and Recreation Director Marty Masta provided a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Basta explained the history of the Animal Foundation, park development, and the responsibilities of the Animal Foundation and the City of Great Falls as outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding. The dog park is expected to open in the spring of 2009. The Animal Foundation will educate the public on the proper uses of the park. Mary Willmarth explained that Pacific Steel recently donated \$30,000. The name of the park may, perhaps, include their name. Mr. Basta added that a resolution naming the park will come before the Commission. Mayor Stebbins thanked everyone involved for their hard work.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Stebbins adjourned the work session of September 16, 2008, at 6:00 p.m.