

**JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION**  
**September 2, 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, 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 and Public Works, the Assistant City Attorney, Fire Chief, Police Chief, and the City Clerk.

**1. ANIMAL FOUNDATION UPDATE**

Animal Foundation of Great Falls Trustee, John Gilbert, provided a PowerPoint presentation that updated the Commission on where the Foundation is at with regard to funding, land and design work. Mr. Gilbert explained that the Foundation has always planned to partner with the City of Great Falls for its animal control function. The Foundation has never received a response from the County to its requests to participate. The parties discussed the Staton report, projected construction costs and licensure fees. In conclusion, Mr. Gilbert asked the Commission for a time frame for a decision from the City with regard to what it was willing to do.

**2. BOZEMAN, BILLINGS, MISSOULA VIRTUAL ANIMAL SHELTER TOUR**

City Manager, Gregory T. Doyon, provided a virtual tour of animal shelters in Missoula, Bozeman and Billings, as well as Great Falls. Mr. Doyon explained the locations, storage issues, the importance of the mechanical room, the do's and don'ts expressed from shelter staffs, and how each facility was managed. Mr. Doyon stated that the animal shelter costs were not budgeted for this year and reminded the Commission that the City needs to explore its options. The parties discussed the size of those shelters and gathering information on-line regarding those cities' license fees.

All agreed that the current Great Falls facility was an embarrassment and that it was not feasible to put money into the existing facility. Commissioner Rosenbaum suggested a construction committee put together a model within the next few months. Bob James suggested a management plan similar to the Library to run the shelter after it was built.

In conclusion, the Commission's direction to the City Manager was to rescind the prior resolution creating an animal ordinance/shelter operations advisory committee, talk with the County, talk with Coleen Balzarini regarding revenue projections, and explore a relationship for animal shelter construction.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Stebbins adjourned the work session of September 2, 2008, at 6:45 p.m.