

JOURNAL OF CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL WORK SESSION
June 18, 2019

City Commission Special Work Session
Civic Center, Gibson Room 212

Mayor Kelly presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 4:15 p.m.

CITY COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Kelly, Bill Bronson, Mary Sheehy Moe, and Tracy Houck. Commissioner Robinson was excused.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Greg Doyon; Municipal Court Judge Steve Bolstad and Court Manager Jo Griner; Finance Director Melissa Kinzler; Park and Recreation Director Steve Herring; City Attorney Sara Sexe; and, Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

1. 2020 BUDGET PLANNING.

Municipal Court Judge Steve Bolstad reported that the Great Falls Municipal Court is the third busiest court in the state for courts of limited jurisdiction. Judge Bolstad provided a handout and discussed the Montana Courts of Limited Jurisdiction 2016, 2017 and 2018 Criminal Violations Filed, and Comprehensive Costs of Part-Time Judge. Judge Bolstad reported that 300 more cases have been filed since June, 2018, and noted there is only one judge.

Police Chief Dave Bowen commented that there is a need for a part-time judge; however, he explained that providing another part-time bailiff would be a challenge.

Commissioners' Houck and Bronson received clarification that a bailiff needs to be a sworn law enforcement officer for the protection of everyone involved, including Court and Legal staff.

Manager Doyon received clarification that Cascade District Court Judges are struggling with receiving additional bailiffs.

Mayor Kelly received clarification that the Legal Department recognizes a need for assistance in court, and that splitting court responsibilities between two judges would be beneficial to all.

Mayor Kelly further received clarification that night court would require a full-time clerk, bailiff and prosecutor. There are no revenue implications for a part-time judge.

Commissioner Bronson received clarification that Judge Bolstad would supervise the part-time judge position.

Commissioner Moe commented that the judicial component of law enforcement is important for the entire cycle to work, and expressed concern with regard to judicial component being broken

affecting the entire cycle. Referring to the jails, Commissioner Moe expressed concern with not choosing the best decision as opposed to the most expeditious one.

Referring to Commissioner Moe's comment regarding the jails, City Attorney Sexe responded that hiring a part-time judge would allow Judge Bolstad to focus more time on implementing a Mental Health Court.

Commissioner Houck received clarification that Municipal Court can no longer waive jury trials.

Judge Bolstad commended the Police and Legal Department for its efforts, and noted that they are definitely understaffed. Judge Bolstad explained that he is not trying to create more work for the departments, and indicated that hiring a part-time judge would make the process move more fluidly.

Mayor Kelly received clarification that property taxes are included in the valuations for this year.

Finance Director Melissa Kinzler provided handouts and discussed the General Fund Revenue Increase Detail, draft FY 2020 Above and Beyond Department Requested, Proposed General Fund Expenditure Increases.

Finance Director Kinzler reported that the approximate \$1.3 million increase in the general fund revenue does not include the protested taxes by Calumet. Referring to the proposed general fund expenditure increases handout, Finance Director explained that the Health Insurance is separate from the Worker's Compensation increase.

Manager Doyon explained that if there is support in pursuing a part-time judge, the budget will have to be adjusted or department heads will have to eliminate services requested from the above and beyond sheet. Manager Doyon commented that he is not willing to increase the subsidy currently provided to the aquatics fund, including the amount to operate the Mustang pool.

Park and Recreation Director Steve Herrig explained that there was a slow start with opening the Mustang pool, and the swim program was minimized due to the size of the pool.

Commissioner Moe requested month to month comparisons with regard to the number of adult swimmers at the Mustang pool. Director Herrig responded that he would provide those numbers to the Commission.

Commissioner Houck suggested that Park and Recreation Director Herrig also gather statistics from the Peak.

Manager Doyon inquired how long the current allocation for the Mustang pool could hold out if the modest numbers remain the same. Park and Recreation Director Herrig responded it depends on the summer season.

Mayor Kelly received clarification that the valuation from Calumet is included in the total revenue for this year.

Finance Director Kinzler explained that the City can request protest money; however, additional money must be levied from taxpayers.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly adjourned the informal special work session of June 18, 2019 at 5:20 p.m.