

**JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS**  
**March 3, 2020**

Regular City Commission Meeting

Mayor Kelly presiding

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:00 PM

Commission Chambers Room 206

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL/STAFF INTRODUCTIONS:** City Commission members present: Bob Kelly, Tracy Houck, Mary Sheehy Moe, Owen Robinson and Rick Tryon. Also present were the City Manager Greg Doyon and Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson; City Clerk Lisa Kunz; Public Works Environmental Division Manager Paul Skubinna; Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond; Finance Director Melissa Kinzler; Assistant City Attorney Joe Cik; and, Police Chief Dave Bowen.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** City Manager Greg Doyon noted a date change on item 13 that is reflected in a revised agenda report. There were no proposed changes to the agenda by the City Manager or City Commission. The agenda was approved as presented.

**CONFLICT DISCLOSURE/EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

1.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

Commissioner Houck read a proclamation for Charles M. Russell Month (March 2020).

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

2. **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**John Hubbard**, 615 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, discussed trees with Dutch Elm Disease, and inquired where the disease came from. He also opined that the Coronavirus is caused by genetically engineered germs and suggested that the police investigate.

**Kellie Pierce**, Downtown Development Partnership (DDP), 318 Central Avenue, commented that the DDP is aware of the restorative work necessary on the Civic Center and is in support of that major project. However, the DDP is not in favor of using downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) dollars for the project. The DDP wants to continue to grow the TIF fund to allocate funds to projects that will contribute to the tax base. She concluded that the Civic Center is a non-contributing building to the tax base of the TIF fund.

**Jeni Dodd**, 3245 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, commented that she hasn't been able to find the answer as to why the public is required to give their address when they speak, noting that some members that have spoken out have been subject to vandalism.

Assistant City Attorney Joe Cik responded that he will research the inquiry and report back.

**Brett Doney**, Great Falls Development Authority, 405 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, Suite 203, member of the DDP, commented that the downtown TIF fund is currently at \$1.3 million, but over \$400,000 has

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already been allocated by the Commission with the support of the DDP to improve the downtown parking ramps. He suggested that tackling the Civic Center project all at once rather than piecemeal over several years would result in a lower cost.

He also invited everyone to attend the Mighty Mo tomorrow at 1:30 for an exciting announcement about an upcoming downtown project.

**Sherrie Arey**, NeighborWorks Great Falls, 509 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South, member of the DDP, added to the DDP's comments that she understands it is the Commission's right, but that it is not within the spirit of why those funds were created.

**Joan Redeen**, Business Improvement District, 318 Central Avenue, member of the DDP, concurred with the prior speakers' comments in opposition to use of the downtown TIF funds for the Civic Center project.

## NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

### 3. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

## BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

### 4. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

Commissioner Robinson reported that a message will be on the March utility bills and a flyer contained in the April utility bills will go out to 21,700 customers about the census. The Complete Count Committee applied for a grant to cover those expenses. At the conclusion of the census, it is the Committee's objective that zero dollars will have been spent by Cascade County taxpayers.

## CITY MANAGER

### 5. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

City Manager Greg Doyon reported on the following:

- The Planning and Community Development Department will be closed March 11-13, 2020, for new software training.
- There were 1,100 attendees at the Boards and Commission training by Dan Clark with the MSU-Local Government Center.
- An employee was promoted to the GIS Coordinator position in the IT Department, and a new Land Management Specialist hired.
- The best public resource for the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is the City County Health Department (CCHD). There is a dedicated page on the CCHD website to obtain up to date information.
- In response to Mr. Hubbard's inquiry, Dutch Elm Disease occurred in Great Falls in the early to mid-1980's, and believed it was from infected firewood that someone brought into

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the city. From 1987 to the present the City has removed approximately 13,000 infected trees citywide. There are approximately 2,000 Dutch Elm trees left.

**CONSENT AGENDA.**

6. Minutes, February 18, 2020, Commission Meeting.
7. Total Expenditures of \$1,224,590 for the period of February 1, 2020 through February 19, 2020, to include claims over \$5,000, in the amount of \$1,050,423.
8. Contracts List.
9. Award the construction contract in the amount of \$845,000 to Planned and Engineered Construction, Inc. for the Sanitary Sewer Trenchless Rehabilitation Phase 22, and authorize the City Manager to execute the construction contract documents. **OF 1675.1**
10. Adopt Resolution 10338, Certifying the Abatement of a Nuisance located at 804 4th Avenue SW, legally described as Great Falls 6th (GF6), Lot 5, Block 549, Cascade County, Montana Completed.

**Commissioner Moe moved, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, that the City Commission approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public or any discussion amongst the Commissioners. Hearing none, Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

11. **ORDINANCE 3200, REPEALING AND REPLACING TITLE 17, CHAPTER 36 OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS (OCCGF) PERTAINING TO PARKING, AND RESERVING CHAPTERS 33 THROUGH 35.**

Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond reported that staff has been working diligently to streamline and otherwise improve the development landscape in Great Falls. One element that staff would field concerns about is the City's parking ordinance.

Staff approached their review of the parking standards with multiple priorities. First, staff wanted to gauge where Great Falls was in comparison to other communities. He noted personally that he doesn't put too heavy of an emphasis on this aspect as every community has different cultures, values, goals and priorities. Staff did place a fairly heavy emphasis on experiences here in Great Falls, and learned from it.

The primary focus with the proposed changes is to provide a significant amount of developer flexibility, reducing requirements that will provide cost savings to developers and to simplify the code by removing old, unused or unnecessary code language.

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Staff has presented its findings and recommendations to the community and has received favorable comments to this point.

Mayor Kelly asked if the Commission had any questions of staff.

Commissioner Robinson received clarification that no changes were being made to accessible ADA parking space requirements, only removing language that is duplicative.

Mayor Kelly declared the public hearing open.

No one spoke in opposition to Ordinance 3200.

Speaking in favor of Ordinance 3200 were:

**Terri Thompson**, Great Falls Association of Realtors, 401 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, commented that the Association is appreciative of staff's recommendation of lessening parking requirements in many of the instances to allow shared parking areas to be 1,000 feet from a business rather than only 400 feet, and to allow a business to prove that it needs less parking than the formula requires. She requested clarification on the internal sidewalk requirements.

**Daniel Hartzell**, 601 Central Avenue, suggested removing parking meters on Central Avenue, and that Alluvion sell the building it owns on Central back to the City so that the City can tear it down and make it a parking lot.

**Brett Doney**, Great Falls Development Authority, 405 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, Suite 203, complimented the City in terms of keeping reasonable standards and adding in more flexibility.

In response to Ms. Thompson, Director Raymond referred to OCCGF 17.36.1.030, noting that it depends if it is a new use, the same use, increase in intensity of use, or whether it is a complete change in use. He also noted that the mentioned internal sidewalk requirements are a requirement of the building codes for pedestrian access to the public rights-of-way.

Mayor Kelly closed the public hearing and asked the will of the Commission.

**Commissioner Robinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Moe, that the City Commission adopt Ordinance 3200.**

Mayor Kelly asked if there was any further discussion amongst the Commissioners. Hearing none, Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

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**12. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH CASCADE COUNTY TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE A VIOLENT CRIME PREVENTION TASK FORCE.**

Police Chief Dave Bowen reported that this item is an Interlocal Agreement between Cascade County and the City of Great Falls to establish and operate a Violent Crime Prevention Task Force. The purpose of this task force is to target, dismantle and disrupt organizations with an emphasis on apprehending felony offenders that operate in the city and county. This agreement is intended to clarify the terms and conditions under which the Police Department and Sheriff's Office will operate. It will delineate responsibilities of the task force to include personnel, planning, equipment and training. It is the Police Department's and Sheriff's Office belief that combining resources to focus on those individuals who commit violent crime in its jurisdictions will benefit the community. This agreement is necessary to articulate the relationship between the agencies involved and the task force, and maximize inter-agency cooperation. Both agencies will be relying on current funding mechanisms to operate the task force.

**Commissioner Houck moved, seconded by Commissioner Moe, that the City Commission approve the Interlocal Agreement with Cascade County to establish and operate a Violent Crime Prevention Task Force.**

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public. Hearing none, Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Tryon reiterated there was no fiscal impact to the City.

Chief Bowen responded affirmatively, adding that he is assigning one of his detectives to this task force and the Sheriff is doing the same.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

**13. RESOLUTION 10334, REQUESTING A MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED MADISON FOOD PARK SLAUGHTERHOUSE PROPOSAL.**

Commissioner Moe reported that six weeks ago all nine Neighborhood Councils came to the City with petitions presented by Neighborhood Council 5 Chairman Eric Ray asking the City to do a study on various impacts of the Madison Food Park proposal. The Commission responded at that time that, regrettably, because the City has no involvement in the decision making process along the lines of approval of any aspect of that program, that any study that the City conducted would have to be funded by the City and, most importantly, would not have to be considered by those making the decision. However, the Commission did think there were a couple of avenues to explore.

The first proposal before the Commission this evening deals with a State process – the Montana

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Environmental Protection Act (MEPA). The Act was created nearly a half century ago to ensure that the environmental consequences of a particular development are identified and addressed before a project is approved. Often a State agency addresses only a segment of the proposal. For instance, the Department of Transportation would assess how roads would handle increased traffic. That also is provided for in MEPA. But, with a project of significant scope and potential impacts a higher level of review is called for in the environmental impact study. That study requires a coordinated, comprehensive study of the cumulated impacts of multiple aspects of the proposed project, not just on the physical environment but on what MEPA calls the human environment, which includes biologic, economic, cultural and aesthetic factors. Those are the very factors that the neighborhood councils identified as concerns six weeks ago.

With Resolution 10334, the City of Great Falls speaks on its own behalf and on behalf of the Neighborhood Councils and the residents that both represent to call for that higher level of review. She strove to be factual in the description of the proposed development and in the description of the assets that the city enjoys that could be affected by a project of this size and scope. She strove to make the logical connection between these concerns and the MEPA process. Above all, she strove not to pre-judge the project, but to simply ask that the State use its highest level of MEPA review to make sure that in this instance we look before we leap.

**Commissioner Robinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Tryon, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10334.**

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public.

**Eric Ray**, 3401 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Neighborhood Council 5 Chairman and the Official Delegate for the Council of Councils, implored the Commission to act positively on behalf of the Councils and all of those people the Councils represent, and then take the resolution expeditiously to the Governor's Office of the State of Montana.

**Troy Lane**, 1200 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Neighborhood Council 7, spoke in support of the Resolution. He commented that there could also be potential impacts, both socially and environmentally, to surrounding counties.

**Richard Hopkins**, 80 Hawk Drive, spoke in support of the Resolution. He expressed concerns about Madison Food Park's piecemeal proposals, and that the social economic impacts have not been looked at for this project. If adopted, those impacts will be covered under the environmental impact statement.

**Katie Kotynski**, 3440 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, spoke in support of the Resolution. As a long time citizen of Great Falls, she loves this city for its proximity to outdoor activities, clean air, quiet life, lack of traffic, and clean water. She does support planned growth for Great Falls, but believes the Madison Food Park facilities would significantly disrupt their way of life.

**Nate Kluz**, 597 Armington Road, Belt, commented that what is concerning is that very little information has been provided about the project since it was proposed three years ago. He noted that Madison proposed processing 9,200 hogs, 18,000 cattle, and 135,000 chickens per day that equates to about 1.5 billion pounds of protein, and 30,000 trucks coming in. According to the USDA 2017 Agricultural

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Census there is only 16% of the confined animal feeding capacity for that as of now. That whole industry will ramp up around the area as close as possible. Earlier in the project Madison talked about 10,000 people moving into the area. He concluded that it is important to look at all of the cumulative effects on city services; the environmental, social, and economic impact; and how this project will affect the reputation of this city.

**Myrl Nardinger**, 812 13<sup>th</sup> Street North, commented that his Canadian friend told him that, looking at the food plants in Brooks and High River, Alberta, Canada, this study is really warranted.

**Tom Kotynski**, 3440 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Neighborhood Council 5 Vice-Chairman, spoke in support of both Resolutions regarding the Madison Food Park studies. He agrees with Commissioner Moe's comment about leaping before you look without doing studies such as this. He supports growth, but not this kind. He believes even the talk of major industrial slaughterhouse development near Great Falls will have the effect of discouraging recruitment of professionals, particularly in the health fields. How could such a development enhance this city's reputation as a nice place to live, or even visit. A thorough study would address those fears.

**Jeni Dodd**, 3245 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, commented that she has some limited experience with federal environmental impact studies and the environmental assessment process. She likes the idea of the proposal, but has concerns about it. She thinks that in order for the State to do a study it would need to see a solid proposal from Freisen, and she doesn't think that has happened yet.

There being no one further to address the Commission, Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Tryon thanked Commissioner Moe and the Neighborhood Councils for their work on this proposal. He supports the proposal and thinks that the citizens of Great Falls deserve full transparency with factual information about the potential impacts of the proposed food park.

Even though the approval process is outside of the purview of what the City Commission does, it is his understanding that Freisen would have to go through a MEPA study once they submit a solid proposal. It's his understanding that, rather than a narrow scope, the Commission is asking for a full-range MEPA study and that costs money. The way he reads the agenda report is that there will be no fiscal impact to the City of Great Falls. He inquired, then, would it be up to Freisen to pay for the expanded study were they to come forward with a solid proposal. Another concern he has is whether or not there would be any possibility that the City would be forced to participate in any legal proceedings as a result of Freisen contesting any impact study that is beyond what is State required.

Assistant City Attorney Joe Cik responded that his inquiries are asking him to speculate on whether or not Freisen will actually have to pay more based on this request that the Governor assign an official administrative agency to do a MEPA in this matter. As far as legal action is concerned, the Commission would be acting within the course and scope of its duties as an elected body.

Commissioner Robinson also thanked Commissioner Moe and the Neighborhood Council representatives for their work on the matter.

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Commissioner Houck noted her support of the resolution and the dialogue that has occurred. She added that it is also in line with the Commission's fiduciary duty to its citizens in regards to how this project will impact infrastructure, streets, public safety and other services.

Mayor Kelly asked Commissioner Moe to explain the process of what happens next should the Commission adopt the resolution, and what is expected from the Governor's office going forward.

In response to Ms. Dodd, Commissioner Moe commented that the initial proposal was filed in 2017, and there was an amendment that looks like a notice to amend that was made May 1, 2018. Pieces of the original proposal have gone forward, which goes to Resolution 10335.

In response to Mayor Kelly, Commissioner Moe commented that she hopes the Governor will recognize that this is important and is a big deal to Great Falls. The resolution will be delivered to the Governor and asked that he delegate it to the appropriate bodies when and if that proposal advances. The reason that it hasn't advanced so far is that the current proposals are underneath the levels at which the State would need to respond.

Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

14. **RESOLUTION 10335, REQUESTING THAT CASCADE COUNTY REQUIRE A COMPREHENSIVE AND CUMULATIVE STUDY OF THE IMPACTS ON THE CITY OF THE ENTIRE PACKAGE OF THE MADISON FOOD PARK PROPOSALS.**

Commissioner Moe reported that originally, when she came before the Council of Councils, she only had the MEPA proposal. People suggested that there were ways to advance a proposal to Cascade County as well. She explained that much of the information is the same as in the MEPA proposal, but is directed to what Cascade County can do. It shows a basis for concern, and that there is some logical connection with the concerns and with what Cascade County can do about it. The County does, in fact, have zoning regulations in place that put the burden of proof on the applicant for a Special Use Permit to show, among other things, that they have met the objectives of the County's Growth Policy. There are five standards in the Growth Policy of Cascade County. Arguably, this works very well for one of them, although she thinks the agricultural community is divided on that issue. It may work well or ill for at least three of the others.

**Commissioner Houck moved, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10335.**

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public.

**Richard Hopkins**, 80 Hawk Drive, thinks there are multiple players that Freisen has not disclosed, and that these two studies will cause that to come forward. He commented that there are a lot of LLC's which are Hutterite Colonies that support this project. He and his rancher friends do not support this because it is not something they would be interested in. It is more to the benefit of the LLC's and the Colonies. If that is true, it needs to come out in the open so that everyone understands the players being



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dealt with. He also doesn't think that the money generated from the project will stay in the United States. The big money will go to Canada because of the LLC's and the Hutterite Colonies. County residents are also concerned about piecemealing which is already happening. There is a cheese factory that will probably go in, and now they are trying for a distillery. The cheese factory will be supported by the Hutterite Colony LLC's with its milk. Mr. Hopkins also expressed concern about the water it will take. Freisen has said it doesn't need a permit from the DEQ for wells because they will be individual wells. A cheese factory and a distillery will use more water than an individual would use. The County wanted a meter put on the wells to see how much water was being used and Freisen fought that due to the jurisdiction issue. All of the cumulative impacts need to be looked at.

**Bill Boland**, 3401 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, inquired what would happen if the County says no to the comprehensive study.

**Jeni Dodd**, 3245 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, inquired if the County could ask Freisen to pay for the study of potential impacts as part of the permit process. With regard to the adoption of Resolution 10334, she commented that the State would bear the cost of that study, not Freisen, under the Montana Environmental Protection Act.

**Carolyn Craven**, 101 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, thanked Chairman Ray for the Neighborhood Council resolution, and Commissioner Moe for not only listening to the Neighborhood Councils but for responding and taking action. She commented that we are at a critical turning point in our community. This resolution is timely and needed. As a greater community we all have a vested interest in maintaining the quality, quantity and sustainability of our water and our quality of life. It is the collective responsibility as citizens and government officials to be well informed before making decisions.

**Troy Lane**, 1200 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, NC 7, noted that 70% of the population is within the city limits of Great Falls. He believes it is relevant to take into account that many people in this community will be impacted by a decision made at the county level.

**Laura Hodges**, 2204 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North, noted a concern of hers is that she has never heard of any suggestion of remediation if any of the systems fail that Freisen is offering. Would Freisen be responsible for pollution or be required to pay for damages.

**Brett Doney**, Great Falls Development Authority (GFDA), 405 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, Suite 203, commented that GFDA has always supported studies. One flaw he sees in this resolution is that it refers to the entire package. If the Madison Food Park moves forward incrementally as it has done with the first two projects, every time it proposes a project it will be looked at by the State and by the County Planning Department on a cumulative basis to that point.

There being no one further to address Commission, Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Tryon read Mont. Code Ann. § 85-2-124(1) pertaining to the applicant paying for the impact statement. Commissioner Tryon noted that Cascade County could say no to part 1 of

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the resolution requesting an impact study and/or part 2 about the City appointing two people to sit on a scoping committee.

Commissioner Houck noted the resolution will be on record with the County setting forth how citizens feel.

In response, Commissioner Moe commented that it is her understanding that the State covers the environmental assessment. But, when it is a broad and comprehensive study that requires an environmental impact statement the applicant covers the expenses. Yes, the County and the Governor can just say no. But, we are speaking as a community that this is a big deal to us, we want it to be considered, and we think that there are ways that it can be considered. She is casting no aspersions on the County or on the Zoning Board. On file right now is the original proposal that was amended but, as noted, nobody knows what exactly is coming down the pike. The notice to amend was filed on May 21, 2018, 652 days ago. Neither of these proposals makes anybody do anything. It simply says that we, as the City of Great Falls and nine Neighborhood Councils, have concerns about the impacts of this proposal and we want to know what they are before they are approved. We believe the County and the State have mechanisms to do that, and we are asking that they do that.

Mayor Kelly pointed out that mitigation of pollution or clean up would be part of what the environmental impact study addresses.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

**15. RESOLUTION 10336, DISSOLVING THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS DESIGN REVIEW BOARD AND ASSIGNING THE FUNCTIONS OUTLINED IN TITLE 17, CHAPTER 28 TO PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STAFF.**

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that under Commission Initiatives at the February 4, 2020 Commission meeting, Commissioners Tryon and Robinson requested that staff draft language for a resolution to dissolve the Design Review Board (DRB). There wasn't any objection by the other Commission members. Resolution 10336 addresses the dissolution of the DRB. He concluded that the elimination of the DRB does not eliminate or remove any City standards that the City Commission has adopted in its codes. It removes the process for developers to get approval by an advisory board for a particular project.

**Commissioner Tryon moved, seconded by Commissioner Houck, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10336.**

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public.

**Jeni Dodd**, 3245 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, spoke in support of the motion, and adding that the DRB added another layer of bureaucracy.

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**Terri Thompson**, Great Falls Association of Realtors, 401 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, agrees the DRB should be dissolved. She discussed historical information pertaining to the intent of the DRB. It started as free design assistance to a position of authority mandating requirements that oftentimes resulted in thousands of additional dollars, additional meetings, and untimely delays to developers and business owners. Additionally, members of the DRB are professionals competing against other professionals in town for the same business. She added that business owners and developers hire their own design professionals, and why should they pay a fee to a public volunteer board to scrutinize the work of the professionals they already hired.

**Sherrie Arey**, NeighborWorks Great Falls, 509 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South, spoke in favor of this resolution. She attended the September 30, 2019 DRB meeting wherein they discussed options of the new process in coming back together. There was still a lot of misunderstandings in that the discussion included comments such as free advice, recommended requirements, and mandatory suggestions.

**Brett Doney**, Great Falls Development Authority (GFDA), 405 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, Suite 203, commented that the Commission can be proud of the projects that were under staff's approval in 2019. He supports adoption of the resolution.

There being no one further to address the Commission, Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Tryon commented that approval of this action has nothing to do with the members of DRB who volunteered, did a great job, and wanted to serve the community.

Mayor Kelly noted that written correspondence in opposition to Resolution 10336 was received today from **Christopher Ward**, 3621 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. He expressed a concern that there would be no way for the public to know what projects are being reviewed, what the issues are, and to provide input. Mayor Kelly noted that the projects would come before the Planning Advisory Board on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

Commissioner Moe commented she is opposed to this resolution. She suggested that if there is a problem with an advisory board that problem should be dealt with. She believes the DRB provides a good counterbalance to developers that gives the City a different point of view. She concluded that, what triggered this matter to come back before the Commission, was the realization that there were fees involved.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 3-2 (Commissioners Houck and Moe dissenting).

16. **RESOLUTION 10337, A REOLUTION TO SUBMIT THE PRINTINGCENTERUSA'S APPLICATION TO THE BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND PROGRAM.**

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that the PrintingCenterUSA along with Great Falls Development Authority (GFDA) is requesting the City to approve a grant submittal to the Big Sky

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Economic Development Trust Fund Program in the amount of \$82,500. GFDA proposes to manage all aspects of the grant. The Big Sky Economic Development program is designed to aid in the development of good paying jobs for residents and to promote long-term stable economic growth in Montana. The request comes before the Commission because the grant eligibility requires in part an incorporated city or town to make the application. PrintingCenterUSA is applying for a Category I funding which includes grants or loans to assist businesses in creating net new eligible jobs. The proponent indicates that the project will have a positive impact on the local, region, and state economy. By submitting this application PrintingCenterUSA will be submitting a match in the amount of \$661,548. That match fund can be separated into two categories for purchasing new printer equipment and software to run the new system. That new equipment will increase demand on the business and will result in the creation of 11 new jobs. The proponent expects business revenue to increase over \$100 million over the next five years due to this investment. There is no direct fiscal impact to the City of Great Falls other than some administrative duties.

**Commissioner Robinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Moe, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10337.**

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public.

**Jaime Bonilla**, 712 54<sup>th</sup> Street South, inquired if GFDA is a proper designation to manage the grant, and if the City would be indemnified if GFDA made any errors.

Manager Doyon responded that this isn't the first time the City has administered a grant of this nature for GFDA. Finance Director Kinzler explained that the Big Sky Economic Development department sends auditors out to scrutinize the process during the grant administration. In the past the auditors did find one error and the company that received funds had to pay the money back.

**Nathan Reiff**, Great Falls Development Authority, 405 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, Suite 203, commented that the PrintingCenterUSA is a company that sells a lot out of state and is looking for a lot of growth. This grant provides the company with the tools to grow as it invests in our economy. This is a good use of this grant fund in order to help support local businesses that are doing well and would like to expand.

Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Robinson commented that this is the kind of business that is really good for Great Falls because most of the money comes from out of Great Falls into Great Falls. Craig Barber started this printing center many years ago and took it from a highly competitive Great Falls area to a successful on-line business.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

**CITY COMMISSION**

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**17. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Mayor Kelly announced that the public safety town hall meeting is Thursday, March 5, 2020, in the Mansfield Theater, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Most of the information will be presented by Police Chief Dave Bowen and Cascade County Sheriff Jesse Slaughter about the current state of crime in the community.

Commissioner Houck referred to agenda Item 15, dissolution of the Design Review Board, and commented that the purpose of a board is advisory in nature, and that she does not take dissolving a board lightly.

**18. COMMISSION INITIATIVES.**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Moe moved, seconded by Mayor Kelly, to adjourn the regular meeting of March 3, 2020, at 8:53 p.m.**

Motion carried 5-0.

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Mayor Kelly

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City Clerk Lisa Kunz

**Minutes Approved: March 17, 2020**