

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSIONS
July 17, 2007

City Commission Work Session

Mayor Dona Stebbins presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL: City Commissioners present: Mayor Stebbins, Bill Beecher, Sandy Hinz, Diane Jovick-Kuntz and John Rosenbaum. Also present were the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Public Works, Fiscal Services, Directors of Community Development, City Attorney, Assistant City Attorney, Planning, Fire Chief, Acting Police Chief, Park and Recreation, Library, City Clerk and Acting City Clerk.

1. ANACONDA COPPER COMPANY CULTURAL LANDSCAPE STUDY

Ellen Sievert discussed the Anaconda Company and historic sites. She stated the nine person preservation commission is charged with identifying resources, evaluating and protecting historic resources that make Great Falls special. She discussed the National Preservation Act and federal funding. A recent issue she discussed involved preventing placement of a cell tower in a historic district at the General Mills site.

Mayor Stebbins inquired who was funding this study and how long it would take to complete it. Ms. Sievert stated Horizon Tower, Inc. would take approximately six months to complete.

2. HOOP JOURNEY

On behalf of the Montana Re-Entry Coalition, Tommy Stiffarm presented "The Journey of the Sacred Hoop in Montana" slide show. He explained that their mission was to reduce recidivism, reduce relapse, and assist those returning from treatment or incarceration to re-enter their families and communities. The Montana journey will be their largest ever in one state, consisting of 13 stops. He expressed the need for community support and that the communities need to come together to heal. Mr. Stiffarm went through the schedule of events for Friday, August 24, 2007. Mayor Stebbins volunteered to be a speaker during the Wellbriety Movement Events.

Robert Benton spoke on behalf of the Warrior Down program. He stated that the Department of Corrections reports that only 3% out of the prison system make it. He expressed that the community needs to get involved for success. He hoped that after 10 years with this program, the 3% figure will change. He stated this program is a one year program designed to assist the offender emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually after being released from incarceration.

At the recommendation of Commissioner Rosenbaum, Mayor Stebbins stated a proclamation would be prepared in their behalf and presented at the August 7th meeting.

3. **DUI POLICY**

Assistant City Attorney Chad Parker discussed the rising concern of DUI's in Great Falls and the shortage of manpower to prosecute. Judge Luth, the City Attorney's Office and Al Recke believe this is due to a cultural problem in Great Falls. The number of DUI cases in Great Falls is on par with cities double our population. Montana has the highest fatality rate. The growing number of DUI cases takes away from the City Attorney's Office prosecuting other cases as it should. He discussed the City Attorney's policy regarding pleading down DUI charges.

Mayor Stebbins recommended, if the budget allowed, to expand the Court and add another judge. All agreed it is a money question. It is important to do it right if additional staff is brought in to ensure even distribution to prosecute other cases. Commissioner Jovick-Kuntz asked what the comparison was with other cities. Mr. Parker stated the money comes from different sources in different towns. His goal is to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Great Falls and to fulfill that mission.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Stebbins adjourned the work session of July 17, 2007, at 6:45 pm.