

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSIONS
June 19, 2007

City Commission Work Session

Mayor Stebbins presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 P.M.

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

1. PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 7.

City Clerk, Peggy Bourne, and Cable 7 Chairman, Randy Barrett, presented an overview of Cable 7's past and present working relationship with the City of Great Falls. After leaving MSU College of Technology, Cable 7 set up in a small room in the Civic Center and more recently had moved to the KTGF Building. Funding for the Public Access Channel has been provided by the City's financial assistance of an estimated \$15,000 to \$18,000 per year, in-kind contributions and programming contracts.

Ms. Bourne further presented to the Commission that the Public Access Channel relied heavily on volunteers for staffing. Kevin Manthey, a City employee, was responsible for airing the programming, maintaining the readerboard and producing any local shows.

It was noted that the equipment originally purchased in 1992 was in need of repair or replacement. The technology being used for the public access television was out-of-date.

Kevin Manthey presented a list of 2006 airings, emphasizing the variety of programs available to the public. Mr. Manthey also noted the importance of public access television to the community as a whole, but especially to the elderly.

To date there were three active members of the nine-member Cable 7 Board.

The Commissioners discussed the possibilities of adding a second public access line and the use Community Development Block Grant Funding for equipment purchases. Bresnan Cable would be contacted for demographic information and a report made back to the Commission at a later date.

2. BUDGET PRESENTATION.

City Manager John Lawton presented the Proposed Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2007/2008 to the City Commission. He reported that the process took into account an emphasis on public safety, as requested by the Commission; resolution of swim issues; as well as higher inflationary costs in gasoline, construction and insurance.

Mr. Lawton further reiterated that this Budget was developed with the priorities set by the City Commission of :

- Encouraging Growth
- Support Economic Development
- Stabilizing Energy Future
- Keeping Neighborhoods Safe
- Improving City Parks
- Maintaining City Facilities

Budget Officer Melissa Kinzler gave breakouts for the FY 2007/2008 Budget Total Revenue of \$86,651,380 and Total Expenditures of \$88,749,602; and the FY 2007/2008 General Fund Total Revenue of \$21,640,517 and General Fund Total Expenditures of \$21,637,876.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Stebbins adjourned the work session of June 19, 2007, at 6:35 pm.