

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSIONS
May 15, 2007

City Commission Work Session

Mayor 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, City Attorney, Directors of Community Development, Park and Recreation, Fiscal Services, Public Works, Acting Planning Director, Police Chief, Fire Chief and the City Clerk.

1. POLICE DEPARTMENT HONOR GUARD.

Captain Tim Shanks explained that many police departments have honor guards. Great Falls did not have one until the deaths of the Mercy Flight crew this past year. He stated the Police Department was asked to do a gun salute and agreed to do it. It was that request that spurred interest within the Police Department to create the Honor Guard. He showed a moving video of the training the volunteers making up the Honor Guard went through and of the ceremonies they were asked to participate in.

2. CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE.

City Engineer Dave Dobbs provided an overview of anticipated construction projects for the next several years. Mayor Stebbins explained that she receives complaints about retention/detention ponds. Mr. Dobbs and Public Works Director Jim Rearden explained that staff was reviewing the technology and design of the ponds in order to mitigate mosquito issues.

3. SANITATION SERVICE FEES.

Marty Basta, Public Works Operations Division, explained that due to increased gasoline, equipment and landfilling costs, staff requested a 4.5 percent increase for all sanitation services this next year. Commissioner Jovick-Kuntz asked if staff was reviewing other types of equipment that could reduce costs. Mr. Basta stated that staff was reviewing all options and were reviewing the entire operation from equipment to routes to reduce costs.

Commissioner Hinz asked Mr. Basta to explain some of the proposed changes to the recycling program. Mr. Basta explained that Public Works was partnering with Cascade County, Montana Waste Systems and other outlying communities to create a state-of-the-art recycling and transfer station. He added that staff was in the process of appraising the land and structure at the existing recycling center which will give them a better idea of the capital contribution the City could make to the new center.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Stebbins adjourned the work session of May 15, 2007, at 6:22 pm.