

Regular City Commission Meeting

Mayor Stebbins presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PRESENTATION: Jon Chin, Abaris Group, summarized the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care System Evaluation. He provided an in-depth review of the study during the Work Session held immediately prior to the Commission meeting.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

- ACTION program.**
1. **Tim Austin (NC 3)** and **Tawny Newt (NC 5)** reported to the City Commission about a new program called ACTION which means Advocates Coming Together Improving our Neighborhoods. This program is the result of a new partnership between Neighborhood Housing Services, the Neighborhood Councils and Neighborhood Watch.

Mr. Austin also thanked the voters for approving the swimming pool bonds.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Res. 9557, Utility rates. Adopted.**
2. **RESOLUTION 9557, ESTABLISHING WATER, SEWER AND STORM DRAIN RATES AND FEES.**

Public Works Director Jim Rearden explained that at the Commission meeting held September 19, 2006, staff demonstrated the need for utility rate and fee increases, as well as the effect on the public, should the increases be adopted. The proposed rate changes were 5 percent for water, 5 percent for sewer and no increase for storm drain services.

The public had been notified of the public hearing and the proposed rate changes through legal ads and inserts sent in the utility bills the end of October and the first part of November. Staff requested the rates be effective January 1, 2007.

Mayor Stebbins declared the public hearing open. No one appeared to speak in support of or opposition to Resolution 9557. Mayor Stebbins declared the public hearing closed and asked for direction from the

Commission.

Commissioner Beecher moved, seconded by Commissioner Rosenbaum, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 9557.

Commissioner Hinz thanked staff for providing a list of needed capital improvement projects for each of the utilities. She explained that the rate increases were necessary to keep the utility systems operational.

Motion carried 4-0.

Res. 9620, Cost Recovery, GF 3rd Add., B176, L14. Adopted.

3. RESOLUTION 9620, COST RECOVERY, GF 3RD ADDITION, BLOCK 176, LOT 14 (509 15 STREET NORTH).

Community Development Director Mike Rattray reported that property owners Alfred and Naomi Kleinert were issued a "Notice of Hearing" to appear at 7 p.m., November 21, 2006 before the City Commission to show cause why they should not be liable for costs incurred in razing and cleanup of a structure at 509 15th Street North. Staff incurred expenses in the amount of \$7,987.30 and requested the City Commission to adopt Resolution 9620 which would provide staff the tools necessary to recover the costs.

Mayor Stebbins declared the public hearing open. No one appeared to speak in support of or opposition to Resolution 9620. Mayor Stebbins declared the public hearing closed and asked for direction from the Commission.

Commissioner Rosenbaum moved, seconded by Commissioner Hinz, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 9620.

Motion carried 4-0.

Res. 9622, Cost Recovery, NRT 6th Addition, B6, L10. Denied.

4. RESOLUTION 9622, COST RECOVERY, NRT 6TH ADDITION, BLOCK 6, LOT 10 (609 36TH AVENUE NE).

Community Development Director Mike Rattray reported that property owner Sangchan Sirpundon, was issued a "Notice of Hearing" to appear at 7:00 p.m., November 21, 2006 before the City Commission to show cause why the owner of the property should not be liable for the costs incurred in abating the property. Staff incurred expenses in the amount of \$429 cleaning up the property. Mr. Rattray added that the property owners paid the \$429 in full therefore it was not necessary for the Commission to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Rosenbaum moved, seconded by Commissioner Hinz, that the City Commission deny Resolution 9622.

Motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

5. THIS ITEM WAS PULLED FROM THE AGENDA.

**Consent Agenda.
Approved as
printed.**

CONSENT AGENDA

- 6. Minutes, November 8, 2006, Commission meeting.
- 7. Total Expenditures of \$539,903 for the period of October 30 through November 3, 2006, to include claims over \$5000, in the amount of \$374,433.
- 8. Contracts list.
- 9. City Manager Employment Agreement.
- 10. Set public hearing for December 5, 2006, to accept citizen comments on CDBG/HOME Community Needs.
- 11. Construction Contract award to NewMach Companies, St. Paul, Minnesota, for the Contract 02—General Construction for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Cogeneration Project in the amount of \$1,143,000. (OF 1404).
- 12. Amended Plat of Lot 15, Riverview Tracts Addition to subdivide the property to separate the two existing commercial buildings.

Commissioner Hinz moved, seconded by Commissioner Beecher, that the City Commission approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion carried 4-0.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

**Native American
Local Government
Commission.
Reappoint
Devereaux.**

13. REAPPOINTMENT, NATIVE AMERICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION.

Henry Devereaux was appointed to the Native American Local Government Commission on August 8, 2002. His term expired on August 1, 2006; therefore, it was necessary to reappoint him to the Commission.

Commissioner Hinz moved, seconded by Commissioner Rosenbaum, that the City Commission reappoint Henry Devereaux to the Native American Local Government Commission for a four-year term through August 1, 2010.

Motion carried 4-0.

CITY MANAGER**Skate Park Update.****15. SKATE PARK VANDALISM**

Park and Recreation Deputy Director Patty Rearden reported that the Skate Park was the target of a significant amount of graffiti. She added that this was a continual problem since the skate park opened. She cited the following examples of some of the vandalism that had taken place since the park opened: the fence had 25 panels replaced; the rules sign was replaced several times and staff was continually cleaning off graffiti. Additionally, two to three fires were started in rest rooms each fall. In July, extensive damage was done to women's rest room caused by a fire which actually burned through a wall.

She said that the current round of graffiti will cost approximately \$1000 in graffiti remover and between \$1,065 and \$1,776 in manpower to clean it up.

Staff was currently exploring options as to how to effectively deal with this problem. Some of the choices included leaving the graffiti which would eventually fill in completely; host an artistic spray-on art event which would most probably be covered by graffiti over time; paint the spray park battleship gray which makes the surface slippery and less desirable; or fence and man the skate park which may require the City to charge admission.

In checking with other communities, Mrs. Rearden reported that Helena and Billings have given up and allow graffiti. One out-of-state park invites people to paint artistic spray-on art. No one currently has their skate park fenced, manned and charges admission.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**Pre-Hospital
Emergency Care.**

17A. Dave Kuhn, Great Falls Emergency Services, thanked the City and the staff from Abarais Group for their work on the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care study. He supported the idea of a summit and asked those who would attend it to keep open minds and not have pre-determined ideas. He encouraged the City to take the time necessary to develop the right system for the community.

Skate Park.

17B. Steve White, 820 3rd Avenue North, suggested staff work with Paris Gibson Square and turn the skate park into an outdoor art project.

Adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the regular meeting of November 21, 2006, adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Mayor Dona R. Stebbins

Peggy Bourne, City Clerk