

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSIONS
November 21, 2006

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 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, Public Works, Park and Recreation, Fiscal Services, Police Chief, Fire Chief, and the City Clerk.

1. PRE-HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CARE SYSTEM EVALUATION

Fire Chief Randy McCamley introduced Jon Chin, Abaris Group, who reviewed the evaluation of the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care System in Great Falls. He explained that the purpose of the study was to evaluate the safety and stability of pre-hospital emergency care in Great Falls. Overall, he stated, the components were functioning well, however Great Falls lacked a system making the City vulnerable and fragile. The solutions, he said, were simple yet significant and encompassed developing a system infrastructure and contracting for ambulance services.

Mr. Chin explained that some components the Commission needed to be aware of included: possession statutory authority to enact ordinances that were deemed necessary; there was an operationally functional system in place; and currently there was a contentious relation with the ambulance provider.

The Abaris Group found twelve principle findings resulting in three primary recommendations. The findings were as follows:

- Lack of Formal Regional Leadership
- No Established EMS System Infrastructure
- Poor working relationship with GFES/MCA
- GF EMS Influences Regional EMS
- Limitations in City Ordinance
- 2 Ambulance Companies yet 1 Operation
- No Standardization and Consistency of Data
- Role and Responsibility of the Medical Director
- Quality Assurance vs Quality Improvement
- Transfer of Care at Scene is not Optimal
- Dispatch Practices are not Optimal
- Potential for Additional Ambulance Revenue

Of those twelve findings, three issues surfaced that involved infrastructure, leadership and system management. After reviewing the findings and the issues, Abaris Group recommended

(11/21/06)

that the City plan an inclusive EMS summit to clarify and define the purpose of the system and to establish its priorities and direction. Following the summit, the City should create an infrastructure and support systems using the City's statutory authority, establishing performance standards, policies, practices, and procedures and identifying essential external resources. He also recommended the City establish a performance based ambulance transportation contract with a single provider either through a franchise process or through a public/private partnership.

Specifically, he listed the following tasks for City staff to consider:

- Revise and expand City EMS Ordinance
- Establish local/county/regional EMS council or committee
- Explore and define the role of the Medical Director
- Revise dispatch protocols to allow for tiered response and promoting EMD
- Implement comprehensive clinical and operational data
- Enter into a service contract for ambulance transportation that is performance based incorporating established Industry standards. The contract should be with a single provider and either be an ambulance franchise or a public private partnership.

In closing, Mr. Chin stated that this was a window of opportunity and the City had options to consider.

2. ELECTRIC CITY POWER UPDATE.

Fiscal Service Director Coleen Balzarini presented an un-audited draft of the Electric City Financial Reports and notes.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Stebbins adjourned the work session of November 21, 2006, at 6:55 p.m.