

**JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSIONS**  
**October 3, 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, Diane Jovick-Kuntz and John Rosenbaum. Also present were the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, City Attorney, Directors of Community Development, Planning, Public Works, Park and Recreation, Library, Fiscal Services, Police Chief, Fire Chief, and the City Clerk.

**1. HISTORIC 10<sup>th</sup> STREET BRIDGE**

City Preservation Officer Ellen Sievert explained that the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge was the last project Paris Gibson was involved in and the construction of the bridge resulted in the largest reinforced concrete bridge in the State of Montana. Approximately 12 years ago, the bridge was slated to be demolished and replaced with a newer bridge. A group of concerned citizens stepped forward and ultimately partnered with the National Historic Trust and saved the bridge from demolition. They committed to raise \$300,000 toward the renovation of the bridge and have met that funding goal. In 2002, the renovated bridge was integrated with the River's Edge Trail. The arches of the bridge have been renovated and one-fourth of the deck has been completed. The local preservation group, Preservation Cascade, was now requesting CTEP funding to complete the bridge lighting project, which they believed would enhance the bridge to the point where they could launch a capital campaign and raise the additional funding necessary to complete the deck work.

Commissioner Jovick-Kuntz asked who would be responsible for the lighting costs. Mrs. Sievert stated that Preservation Cascade would be.

Commissioner Beecher explained that he had not supported the restoration of the bridge. However, the project was underway and it was important that the Commission support it. He added that the plans proposed by Preservation Cascade made sense. Mayor Stebbins concurred.

**2. UTILITY RATE REVIEW**

Public Works Director Jim Rearden reminded the City Commission that at their last Work Session, he, along with consultants, reviewed the condition of the utility systems specifically focusing on the water utility and its capital improvement program. He explained that the average amount of money spent on Capital Improvements on the utility systems including storm water, sanitary sewer and water was approximately \$8.71 million per year. He projected that the CIP programs for the sanitary sewer and storm water utilities would average \$4.26 million between 2007 and 2011. He explained Staff resources limited the amount of CIP projects that could be completed each year. If the average was \$8.71 and staff projected capital needs of \$4.26 in the other utilities, that would mean there would be enough staff resources for approximately \$4.45 million annually for water related projects

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between 2007 and 2011. He stated that a 2.5 percent increase would provide approximately \$30 million in revenue for the CIP; a 4 percent increase would provide approximately \$36.7 million in revenue for the CIP; a 5 percent increase would provide approximately \$41.6 million in revenue for the CIP and a 7.5 percent increase would provide approximately \$55.1 million in revenue.

Commissioner Beecher stated he at this time he supported a 5 percent increase in the water utility fund but wanted more time to think about it. Commissioner Hinz concurred as long as the City had staff resources to get the projects done that were funded.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Stebbins adjourned the work session of October 3, 2006, at 6:47 p.m.