

**JOURNAL OF CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION**  
**September 15, 2020**

City Commission Work Session  
Civic Center, Commission Chambers Room 206

Mayor Kelly presiding

**CALL TO ORDER:** 5:30 p.m.

**CITY COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Kelly, Mary Sheehy Moe, Rick Tryon, Owen Robinson and Tracy Houck.

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Greg Doyon and Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson, Assistant City Attorney Joe Cik, Finance Director Melissa Kinzler, Library Director Susie McIntyre, and Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea.

Due to the COVID-19 health concerns, the format of the City Commission meeting may be modified to accommodate Commission member attendance in person, via a remote location/virtual meeting method, or to appear telephonically. In order to honor the Right of Participation and the Right to Know (Article II, Sections 8 and 9 of the Montana Constitution), modifications have also been made for public participation. Public participation is welcome in the following ways:

- Attend in person. Refrain from attending in person if you are not feeling well. The City will require social distancing at the meeting, and may limit the number of persons in the meeting room according to applicable health guidelines.
- Provide public comments via email. Comments may be sent via email before 12:00 PM on Tuesday, September 15, 2020, to: [commission@greatfallsmt.net](mailto:commission@greatfallsmt.net). Include the agenda item or agenda item number in the subject line, and include the name and address of the commenter. Written communication received by that time will be shared with the City Commission and appropriate City staff for consideration during the agenda item and will be so noted in the official record of the meeting.
- Call-in. The public may call in during the public comment period at 406-761-4786. All callers will be in a queued system and are asked to remain on hold and be patient. Calls will be taken in the order in which they are received. Callers will be restricted to customary time limits. We ask for your patience in the event there are technical difficulties.
- The agenda packet material is available on the City's website: <https://greatfallsmt.net/meetings>. The Public may view and listen to the meeting on government access channel City-190, cable channel 190; or online at <https://greatfallsmt.net/livestream>.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Kevin Westie**, 602 35<sup>th</sup> Street North, discussed issues he has with Governor Bullock that were not within the jurisdiction of the City Commission.

**1. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL UPDATES – NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #3.**

Sue Dickenson, Council 3 Chair and Eric Peterson, Council 3 Secretary reviewed and discussed the attached PowerPoint presentation covering NC #3 area, council members, what makes our district unique, what our council members believe, recent council activity, goals for 2020-2022, communication tools we have created and NC #3 brochure. A video was reviewed and discussed.

Council 3 Secretary Peterson reported that Communications Specialist Lanni Klasner helped facilitate a visions and goals session with Training/Development Coordinator Mark Willmarth. Neighborhood Councils 3's concerns include the following: crime, condition of rental properties, lack of fire stations, speeding, abandoned and recreational vehicles parked on streets, and potholes. He expressed appreciation to the Public Works Street Department for being responsive with regard to repairing potholes.

Council 3 Chair Dickenson expressed appreciation to Training Coordinator Willmarth for his efforts with regard to NC 3 visions and goals session. She offered NC 3's assistance to other Neighborhood Councils with regard to visions and goals.

Mayor Kelly commented that he received a request from a citizen in the NC 3 district to have speed bumps installed.

Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson explained that Communications Specialist Klasner is also the Neighborhood Council Coordinator. She has been assisting other NC's with vision and goals via Training Coordinator Willmarth. NC 3 is the first Council to have a Facebook page and Communications Specialist Klasner would assist other Neighborhood Councils with regard to setting up a Facebook page.

## **2. GREAT FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY UPDATES.**

Library Director Susie McIntyre reviewed and discussed the attached PowerPoint presentation covering current services, safety precautions, strategic plan update, vision, mission, goals and strategies, what we have accomplished: infrastructure, security cameras, lighting, safety, staffing, reducing barriers, Montana Shared Catalog, MontanaLibrary2Go, wireless printing, programming, remodel public meeting spaces, new bookmobile and community engagement marketing.

Mayor Kelly requested that Library Director McIntyre provide the PowerPoint to the Commission, and to notify the Commission once all of the improvements are complete so they can tour the Library.

Commissioner Houck received clarification that a reader board at the Morony Natatorium will not work for the library because the board is unable to hang on the building.

Referring to the PowerPoint presentation, Commissioner Moe inquired about strengthening the Library's relationship with the Great Falls first responders.

Library Director McIntyre responded that strengthening a relationship with the Police and Fire Departments was important for public safety and there is more police presence at the Library.

## **DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS**

Referring to a Non Discrimination Ordinance (NDO), City Manager Greg Doyon recommended that a proposed Resolution be added to the October 6<sup>th</sup> work session Topic List. Updates from the Maclean-Cameron Animal Adoption Center (MCAAC) and Great Falls International Airport Authority will be added to an upcoming work session Topic List.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly adjourned the informal work session of September 15, 2020 at 6:20 p.m.

## Great Falls Neighborhood Council 3



Representing the Valley View, Riverview, Skyline, and Eagles Crossing Neighborhoods of Great Falls, Montana

## Great Falls Neighborhood Council 3

### Council members

- **Sue Dickenson** – Chair (Riverview)
- **Kathy Gessaman** – Vice Chair (Riverview)
- **Sharron Mashburn** (Riverview)
- **Eric Peterson** – Secretary (Valley View)
- **Joanne Thompson** (Skyline)

Our members live in three of the four neighborhoods that make up the district of Neighborhood Council 3

## Great Falls Neighborhood Council 3

### What makes our district unique?

- Combination of 1960/1970's style homes in lower Riverview and Valley View area
- New homes expanding in Skyline, upper Valley View and Eagles Crossing areas
- Many single-family homes and retirees in area
- Only council to have a high school, middle school and three elementary schools in its district
- Neighborhood includes the refinery, Walmart, Sams, and North 40
- No fire station despite continued expansion to north

## Great Falls Neighborhood Council 3

### What our council members believe

- Increasing a sense of community makes a better neighborhood
- Citizen engagement enhances democracy
- We take pride in our neighborhood
- We treat and interact with our neighbors in a respectful, positive way
- We reduce neighbor's anxiety and tension by providing answers, direction or information on how local government processes work to help them solve problems
- We follow up with neighbors who come to us for help

## Great Falls Neighborhood Council 3

### Recent council activity

- Responded to neighbor requests for assistance with issues including an abandoned car, potholes in city streets, and an obstructed driver's view at intersection
- Held two vision/goal setting special meetings with Mark Willmarth
- Participated in NeighborWorks CommUNITY Cleanup event September 12
  - All five members of the council participated
  - Cleaned Riverview fields located near Walmart
  - XX trash bags filled and taken to landfill

## Great Falls Neighborhood Council 3

### Our goals for 2020-2022

- 1) Increase communication and engagement with our neighbors
- 2) Listen, support and assist neighbors with city resources to help solve their problems

## Great Falls Neighborhood Council 3

### Communication tools we've created

- Social Media - built the first Facebook page for a Great Falls neighborhood council
  - Launched March 2
  - 139 page likes; 144 people follow the page
  - Messages from residents provide an additional mode of communication to the council
- Developed short informational video
  - Posted to Facebook
  - Can be shown to PTA, civic/service organizations
- Created Neighborhood Council 3 brochure
  - Shared during neighborhood walks
  - Distributed during neighborhood events

### Neighborhood Council 3 brochure - front

#### MEET YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Sue Dickenson** has lived in Riverview since 1970 and raised and educated her three children in the neighborhood that's situated between Sacajawea Elementary and Norm Middle Schools.

Her experience includes teaching school as both a full-time and substitute teacher, working as a program supervisor at The Rainbow, volunteering for many community organizations, and serving eight years as a representative in the Montana House of Representatives.

She presently serves as the chair of Neighborhood Council 3 and considers serving on the council a real privilege. You can contact Sue at 453-5274.

**Kathy Gessaman** lives in the house she and husband, Ron, built in Church Edition east of Riverview in 1986; they both served on Neighborhood Council 3 in 2012 and Kathy continues to serve.

A retired chemical engineer, she also volunteers as secretary for Cobble for Clean Energy, Inc., and is also active in helping out at Corpus Christi Parish. Kathy enjoys gardening, her house projects, and reading.

She can be reached at 452-7106.

**Sharon Mashburn** and her husband are transplants to Great Falls, after living too long in the hot desert!

She and her husband completed their teaching careers and they moved to the greener, mountainous, and river-rich views of Montana. They now consider themselves lucky to live in Riverview.

Sharon serves as a docent for the C.M. Russell Museum and is a member of the Art Association of Montana.

You can contact Sharon at 452-5071.

**Eric Peterson** lives in the Valley View neighborhood of Neighborhood Council 3. He was elected during the November 2019 general election and serves as secretary of the council.

Eric retired in 2018 after having served 37 years with the Montana Air National Guard. He is a volunteer for the Great Falls Police Department and the Montana Veterans Memorial Association.

You can reach him by telephone at 454-8913, or send him an email at nci.eric.peterson@gmail.com.

**Joanne Thompson** was elected to Neighborhood Council 3 in 2019 and lives in the Skyline neighborhood of the area. She retired from working at the Great Falls Transition Center as a correctional treatment specialist in 2017.

Joanne enjoys helping residents solve problems they may encounter in their neighborhoods and is excited about serving as a member of your council.

You can reach Joanne at 781-8255.



Left to right: Eric Peterson, Sharon Mashburn, Sue Dickenson, Joanne Thompson, and Kathy Gessaman. The five members of Neighborhood Council 3 thank you for helping keep our Great Falls, GREAT!



## Neighborhood Council 3 brochure - back

### WHO WE ARE

Neighborhood Council 3 is made up of five members representing residents living in the Riverview, Valley View, Skyline and Eagles Crossing neighborhoods of Great Falls, Montana. The five council members are elected by voters living within the district during regularly scheduled city general elections for two-year terms.



A Montana Air National Guard F-16 Fighting Falcon flies over the Valley View and Riverview neighborhoods in 1990.

### WHAT DO WE DO?

Neighborhood Council 3 provides advice and recommendations to the City Commission, City Manager, and other City advisory bodies on issues, affairs, and services that may impact any of our four neighborhoods.

Topics and issues the council may be involved with include public finance, public works, public safety, social services, transportation, planning and zoning, economic development, public health and sanitation, parks and recreation, and environmental issues.

As you can see, there probably aren't any issue or problem affecting you in your neighborhood that your neighborhood council can't help you resolve.

### THE DISTRICT OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL 3



### WHEN AND WHERE WE MEET

Neighborhood Council 3 meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the music room of Riverview Elementary School, during the months that the Great Falls Public Schools are in session.

Riverview school is located at 100 Smelter Avenue Northwest.



If you have neighborhood problems you would like help with, or would just like more information on Neighborhood Council 3, please come to one of our meetings at Riverview School.

### LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

You can keep up with Neighborhood Council 3 activities by liking our official Facebook page. In addition to posting our meeting agendas, we'll also include interesting information concerning your neighborhoods on this page.

You'll receive road construction alerts and features on our wonderful parks and schools. If it happens in our district, we'll try to include that information on our Facebook page.

To find us on Facebook, search for Great Falls Neighborhood Council 3. You'll also find neighborhood council information at the following web address: <https://greatfalls.net/neighborhoodcouncils>.

## Great Falls Neighborhood Council 3

Thank you for your time!

# Questions?