

**JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS**  
**October 20, 2020**

Regular City Commission Meeting

Mayor Pro Tempore Moe presiding

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:00 PM

Civic Center Gibson Room 212

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL/STAFF INTRODUCTIONS:** City Commission members participated electronically via Zoom: Mary Sheehy Moe, Tracy Houck, Owen Robinson and Rick Tryon. Mayor Kelly was excused. Present were the City Manager Greg Doyon and Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson, City Clerk Lisa Kunz; Fire Chief Jeremy Jones; Park and Recreation Director Steve Herring; Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond; Public Works Director Paul Skubinna; City Attorney Sara Sexe; and, Police Captain Rob Moccasin.

The format of the City Commission meeting is being conducted in a virtual video-conferencing environment. In order to honor the Right of Participation and the Right to Know (Article II, Sections 8 and 9 of the Montana Constitution), public participation is welcomed as follows:

- 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 Commission Chambers according to applicable health guidelines.
- Provide public comments via email. Comments may be sent via email before 12:00 PM on Tuesday, October 20, 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 before final vote on the matter; and will be so noted in the official record of the meeting.
- Call-in. The public may call in during specific public comment periods at [406-761-4786](tel: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.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** There were no proposed changes to the agenda by the City Manager or City Commission. The agenda was approved as presented.

**CONFLICT DISCLOSURE/EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**1. PROCLAMATIONS**

Extra Mile Day (November 1, 2020), Red Ribbon Week (October 26 – October 30, 2020) and YWCA Week Without Violence (October 14, 2020).

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**2. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

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**Michelia Rivera-Acosta**, City resident, stationed at Malmstrom Air Force Base, submitted a proposal to change 2<sup>nd</sup> Street North to Mary Fields Street adjacent to the Post Office to honor her legacy as the first female, African-American mail carrier, not only in Great Falls but the entire United States. The renaming of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street North to Mary Fields Street will provide a piece of history and a sense of comfort for future military members, minorities, and residents, and will be a demonstration of the residents of Great Falls having always embraced diversity. If the proposal is not feasible, Ms. Rivera-Acosta suggested the placing of an honorary plaque on this street commemorating her legacy.

**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS**

**3. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

None.

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**4. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Commissioner Robinson reported that the 2020 Census count ended last Thursday. That put the Fort Peck Reservation in panic mode because it was closed down due to Covid. The reservation missed out on Covid funds for being undercounted 10-years ago. The reservation was opened to 400 renumerators that counted all but four households. The Montana count is almost at 100% and the chances of getting a second legislative seat is good.

Commissioner Robinson reported that four suggestions pertaining to Covid-19 were proposed at today's Board of Health meeting: status quo, Board of Health issued directive, Board of Health and Public Health Officer issued joint directive, or Public Health Officer directive. The call-in comments were contentious between people/businesses that either want less restrictions or more restrictions imposed. He thinks there will be at least two more public Board of Health meetings before decisions are made.

Mayor Pro Tempore Moe added that she attended that meeting and thought the information was helpful, and that it is important for people to be able to comment and express their concerns.

**CITY MANAGER**

**5. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

City Manager Greg Doyon made the following announcements:

- Jeremy Jones was appointed as the Fire Chief of Great Falls Fire Rescue. He has served the department since 1998.
- Board openings available to the community include the Board of Adjustment/Appeals, Ethics Committee, Audit Committee, Housing Authority Board, Parking Advisory Commission, and the Advisory Commission on International Relationships.

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- The Great Falls Public Library is open Tuesday – Saturday from 1:00-6:00 PM; and special hours for vulnerable persons on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 – 11:00 AM.
- Due to Covid-19, virtual platform for Commission meetings will continue until the Commission tells him otherwise.

Mayor Pro Tempore Moe encouraged people of all races to apply for the open board positions, noting that it would add to the diversity of those bodies.

**CONSENT AGENDA.**

6. Total Expenditures of \$2,785,332 for the period of September 16, 2020 through October 7, 2020, to include claims over \$25,000, in the amount of \$2,108,531.
7. Minutes, October 6, 2020, City Commission Meeting.
8. Contracts List.
9. Set a public hearing on Resolution 10375, establishing the rates, fees and penalties associated with Title 10 of the Official Code of the City of Great Falls (OCCGF) pertaining to the City’s parking system for November 4, 2020.
10. Approve the Amended Interlocal Agreement for the Montana Firefighter Testing Consortium (MFFTC) adding Frenchtown Rural Fire District and Kalispell Fire Department to the Consortium and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.

**Commissioner Houck moved, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, that the City Commission approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Moe asked if there were any comments from the public or any discussion amongst the Commissioners. Hearing none, Mayor Pro Tempore Moe called for the vote.

Motion carried 4-0.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

11. **LEASE AGREEMENT WITH ELECTRIC CITY ARCHERS OF GREAT FALLS FOR CITY OWNED PROPERTY WITHIN WADSWORTH PARK.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Moe declared the public hearing open and asked for presentation of the staff report.

Park and Recreation Director Steve Herrig reported that this item is a renewal of a lease with the Electric City Archers of Great Falls for a term of five-years with an option to renew for an additional five years at the City’s sole discretion. Electric City Archers has leased this property since 2005, and the archery lease agreement has been in place since 1971. The annual fee is \$150.

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Mayor Pro Tempore Moe asked if the Commission members had any clarifying questions.

Commissioner Tryon inquired if there was ever any other interest in leasing the property for any other purpose. Director Herrig responded not to his knowledge.

Mayor Pro Tempore Moe inquired the amount of time the Electric City Archers held this lease. Director Herrig reiterated the lease has been with the Electric City Archers since 2005; prior to that it was the Great Falls Archers since 1971.

Mayor Pro Tempore Moe asked if there were any public comments in support of or in opposition to a lease agreement of City owned property located in Wadsworth Park with Electric City Archers of Great Falls.

Hearing none, Mayor Pro Tempore Moe closed the public hearing and asked the will of the Commission.

**Commissioner Robinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Houck, that the City Commission approve a lease agreement of City owned property located in Wadsworth Park with Electric City Archers of Great Falls.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Moe asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commission members.

Hearing none, Mayor Pro Tempore Moe called for the vote.

Motion carried 4-0.

**12. LEASE AGREEMENT WITH RIVER CITY HARVEST FOR CITY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED IN COMMUNITY HALL PARK.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Moe declared the public hearing open and asked for presentation of the staff report.

Park and Recreation Director Steve Herrig reported that River City Harvest shares a location within Community Hall Park with Sunburst Unlimited for vegetable gardens and fruit orchards for the community. The proposed lease with River City Harvest would be for a term of five years for an annual fee of \$1.

Mayor Pro Tempore Moe asked if the Commission members had any clarifying questions.

Commissioner Robinson received clarification pertaining to the location of Community Hall Park.

Mayor Pro Tempore Moe asked if there were any public comments in support of or in opposition to a lease agreement of City owned property located in Community Hall Park with River City Harvest.

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Hearing none, Mayor Pro Tempore Moe closed the public hearing and asked the will of the Commission.

**Commissioner Tryon moved, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, that the City Commission approve a lease agreement of City owned property located in Community Hall Park with River City Harvest.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Moe asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commission members. Hearing none, Mayor Pro Tempore Moe called for the vote.

Motion carried 4-0.

**13. LEASE AGREEMENT WITH SUNBURST UNLIMITED INCORPORATED FOR CITY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED IN COMMUNITY HALL PARK.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Moe declared the public hearing open and asked for presentation of the staff report.

Park and Recreation Director Steve Herrig reported that the proposed lease with Sunburst Unlimited Incorporated would be for a term of five-years with an annual fee of \$1. The leased property described as Community Hall Park is located at 410 16<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Great Falls, Montana. Sunburst Unlimited is a 501(c)3 program that developed a network of vegetable gardens and fruit orchards called FRESH Food Farms located in Community Hall Park since 2012. Items that are grown are dedicated to local groups such as the Boys & Girls Club, Meals on Wheels, Head Start, and low to moderate income families.

Mayor Pro Tempore Moe asked if the Commission members had any clarifying questions.

Hearing none, Mayor Pro Tempore Moe asked if there were any public comments in support of or in opposition to a lease agreement of City owned property located in Community Hall with Sunburst Unlimited Incorporated.

Hearing none, Mayor Pro Tempore Moe closed the public hearing and asked the will of the Commission.

**Commissioner Houck moved, seconded by Commissioner Tryon, that the City Commission approve a lease agreement of City owned property located in Community Hall Park with Sunburst Unlimited Incorporated.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Moe asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commission members.

Commissioner Houck commended the City for being open to these lease agreements and applauded the partnerships in making this happen.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Pro Tempore Moe called for the vote.

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Motion carried 4-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

**CITY COMMISSION**

**14. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Commissioner Tryon discussed his experience as a ride-along with the Great Falls Police Department last Thursday. Great Falls has a lot to be thankful for in its first responders. He applauded them and expressed appreciation to all first responders for what they deal with every day.

Mayor Pro Tempore Moe discussed information from the Board of Health public meeting with regard to the effects of the pandemic on the community. She is impressed by and grateful for the work of so many people, businesses, non-profits and professionals in this community to keep everybody safe at a dangerous time. She encouraged everyone to be kind to the people they interact with and to support one another.

**15. COMMISSION INITIATIVES.**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Robinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Tryon, to adjourn the regular meeting of October 20, 2020, at 7:53 p.m.**

Motion carried 4-0.

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Mayor Pro Tempore Mary Sheehy Moe

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City Clerk Lisa Kunz

**Minutes Approved: November 4, 2020**