

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
March 2, 2021

Regular City Commission Meeting

Mayor Kelly presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

Civic Center Gibson Room 212

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Due to the COVID-19 health concerns, the format of the City Commission Meeting was held in a virtual video-conferencing environment.

ROLL CALL/STAFF INTRODUCTIONS: City Commission members participated electronically via Zoom Webinar: Bob Kelly, Owen Robinson, Rick Tryon, Mary Sheehy Moe and Tracy Houck. City Staff participating electronically were: Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson; Finance Director Melissa Kinzler; City Attorney Sara Sexe; Park and Recreation Director Steve Herrig; and Public Works Director Paul Skubinna. City Manager Greg Doyon, Fire Chief Jeremy Jones and Police Captain Rob Moccasin were present in the Gibson Room, and City Clerk Lisa Kunz was present in the Commission Chambers.

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 as follows:

- Attend in person. The City will be following the Cascade County Board of Health and the Public Health Officer Orders. Masks will be required and social distancing will be enforced. Public following these directives may view and participate in the meeting from the Gibson Room. Please refrain from attending in person if you are not feeling well.
- Attend the virtual meeting utilizing Zoom Webinar. Attendees must register in advance for the Commission Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZuKuPj5oQsyaUFUpUEPOGA. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar by Zoom.
- Participate by phone. Attendees must register in advance for the Commission Meeting using the link above. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar by phone. If you do not have internet access, you may contact the Great Falls Public Library by 5:30 p.m. the day of the meeting at 453-9706 and they can assist with registration.
- Provide public comments in writing. Submit comments via mail addressed to City Clerk's Office, PO Box 5021, Great Falls, MT 59403 or by email to: commission@greatfallsmt.net by 12:00 PM the day of the meeting.
- 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 cable channel 190, or online at <https://greatfallsmt.net/livestream>.

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.

PROCLAMATIONS: Mayor Kelly read Community Week of Compassion and Fast (March 7-13, 2021).

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MILITARY UPDATES

1. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Colonel Anita Feugate Opperman, Malmstrom Air Force Base, provided the following update:

- Due to lower Covid numbers and increase in vaccine availability, base restrictions were lowered.
- Last month Malmstrom hosted Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne Bass for three days. It was her first exposure to the ICBM mission, Malmstrom, and the Great Falls community.
- No updates or changes in future missions. The first MH 139 helicopter is expected this fall, and GBSD planning for new construction will take place the next couple years.
- Events are scheduled at the base in recognition of Women's History Month.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS/NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS/ BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

2. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Jeni Dodd, City resident, read a prepared statement that, in summary, expresses her frustration with the sanitation manager, her neighbor periodically filling her and other neighbors' garbage dumpsters with demo/construction materials, a private business that parks/stores business vehicles and equipment at a City park near her home in violation of City Code, and what she perceives as the City's practicing of favoritism in the application of City Code and awarding of grants and contracts.

3. REAPPOINTMENT/APPOINTMENT TO THE GREAT FALLS PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD/ZONING COMMISSION.

Commissioner Robinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Moe, that the City Commission reappoint Tory Mills and appoint Lindsey Bullock to the Great Falls Planning Advisory Board/Zoning Commission for three-year terms through December 31, 2023.

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public. Hearing none, Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Mayor Kelly expressed appreciation to Pete Fontana for his service since 2015.

Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Robinson reported that it will be announced tomorrow after the City County Health Department meeting whether or not Covid-related restrictions will be lifted; and that the Census numbers will come out on March 6, 2021.

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Commissioner Moe reported that the Parking Advisory Commission is getting ready for implementation of the new parking system, including a possible advertisement to make people aware what will be involved; and the Library Board is working through its new naming policy and will be seeking feedback from the community about renaming the Library.

CITY MANAGER

4. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

City Manager Greg Doyon provided updates on the following:

- With regard to the Aim High Big Sky Recreation Center (OF 1770) the current focus is coordinating with Malmstrom on the NEPA environmental impact statement, as well as mechanical and schematic designs. A meeting was held last week with the Montana Department of Transportation (DOT) to discuss ingress/egress off 10th Avenue South and how to remedy and address concerns from the neighborhood and minimize traffic interruption on 10th Avenue South. The local DOT administrator was very receptive, supportive of the project, and wants to be helpful.
- Parking pay stations are expected to be installed in March, and paid parking is anticipated to begin in April.
- CDBG grants were awarded to Alluvion Health and the YWCA from Covid funding provided to the City.
- The City received an annual Historic Preservation grant for 2021.
- Civic Center façade project bids are due tomorrow.
- Civic Center Events division is starting to see an uptick in bookings including an upcoming Broadway show in November, and several weddings.
- The Legal Department has two position openings for a Prosecutor and a Paralegal.
- A fire at the Public Works garage resulted in the total loss of a street sweeper.
- He met with new Cascade County Commissioner Don Ryan last week.
- He also met with the dispatch supervisors with regard to the Police Chief recruitment. Next steps include updating the job description and putting together a brochure.

Mayor Kelly spoke highly of DOT Regional Director Jim Wingerter's leadership. He and two members of his staff attended the Aim High Big Sky Recreation Center design team meeting and were outstanding in their effort and their offer to help the City make this project a reality. It's great to hear that cooperation between the City and the State.

Commissioner Tryon inquired if it was anticipated the Civic Center project bids would come in higher than expected.

Manager Doyon responded that bids are due tomorrow. The concern always with a large, historic project is whether the bids will be competitive and within budget.

With regard to the aquatics/recreation project, Commissioner Robinson commented that the bus system is not going to be an easy change and it might take several years. Route changes are done in Helena. There is a bus stop at Anderson Pharmacy on 10th Avenue South. He suggested

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discussing with DOT the possibility of installing a street light at that location for people to exit the bus and cross the street to the new facility.

CONSENT AGENDA.

5. Minutes, February 16, 2021, City Commission Meeting.
6. Total Expenditures of \$2,192,140 for the period of January 30, 2021 through February 17, 2021, to include claims over \$25,000, in the amount of \$1,663,911.
7. Contracts List.
8. Grants List.
9. Approve the application for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant for safety and decontamination equipment to remove products of combustion from equipment utilized in the performance of firefighting and wellness equipment to complement Great Falls Fire Rescue's mental health and wellness program.

Commissioner Moe moved, seconded by Commissioners Houck and Robinson, that the City Commission approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public or discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Mayor Kelly commended the Fire Department for seeking out grants. With regard to Item 9 the Fire Department is obligated to put up less than a 10% match of the total grant request, that the Department has already budgeted for.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

CITY COMMISSION

10. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Houck reported that the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is meeting on Thursday to discuss changes to its bylaws and moving forward with projects. The Committee is made up of City, County, and Malmstrom representatives, and other key stakeholders for the purposes of planning and training in the event of emergencies such as hazmat spills, flooding and other natural disasters.

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Commissioner Moe inquired if the LEPC kept data for a historical record of the disaster responses and associated costs and for purposes of future planning.

Commissioner Houck responded that the State has some data that the LEPC uses, but the LEPC does not have nor spend money as a committee.

Commissioner Tryon inquired the Commission's thoughts about conducting meetings in the Civic Center Chambers again, or if there was criteria or a timeline to start meeting again in the Chambers.

Mayor Kelly suggested that the Commission members each address their thoughts or concerns about meeting in person in the Chambers to the City Manager, and to think about under what conditions those meetings would resume.

Commissioner Robinson noted the passing of resident and friend, Robert Darnell. He did all of the stained glass work in Gibson Park, and he also worked for the City as a painter for 17 years.

11. LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES.

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Tryon moved, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, to adjourn the regular meeting of March 2, 2021, at 7:45 p.m.**

Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Bob Kelly

City Clerk Lisa Kunz

Minutes Approved: March 16, 2021