

**JOURNAL OF CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION**  
**Virtual Meeting by Zoom**  
**October 19, 2021**

City Commission Work Session

Mayor Kelly presiding

**CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM**

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

**ROLL CALL/STAFF INTRODUCTIONS:** City Commission members participated electronically via Zoom Webinar: Bob Kelly, Tracy Houck, Mary Sheehy Moe, Owen Robinson and Rick Tryon. City Staff participating electronically were: City Manager Greg Doyon, Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson and City Attorney Jeff Hindoien. 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.

To attend and participate in the virtual meeting utilizing Zoom, attendees must register in advance for the Commission Meeting at : [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_dfhwq\\_8\\_SbWW4yQw4T4\\_8A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dfhwq_8_SbWW4yQw4T4_8A).

For all other participation options, please see **Public Participation Guide for City Commission Meetings**.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Participating via Zoom was:

**Kevin Westie**, City resident, discussed negative impacts of controlled, slow growth in communities and that it has been a disaster for Great Falls.

**1. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #6 UPDATES.**

None.

**2. DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED LARGE VEHICLE PARKING ORDINANCE.**

City Attorney Jeff Hindoien reported that this item is discussion of possible amendment motions for Commission consideration. Based on the Commission's discussion at the September 7, 2021 meeting and subsequent individual input, he drafted amendment language as set forth in the agenda report. The first amendment is to change the effective date of the ordinance.

Commissioner Moe commented that thirty (30) days is too soon to reasonably get those moves made, and suggested February 2022 for the effective date.

Commissioner Robinson suggested a delayed effective date of March 15, 2022.

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Commissioner Tryon concurred, adding that after the holidays and the New Year would be a more appropriate effective date.

Commissioner Houck also concurred with a delayed effective date to provide for due notice to residents to make other accommodations.

City Attorney Hindoien reported that the second amendment pertains to the allowable parking time period.

Commissioner Moe commented that the end goal is increased safety. She has been persuaded by feedback from the community that 36-hours is too short.

Mayor Kelly inquired about timing of a complaint and when the clock starts.

City Attorney Hindoien clarified that the clock under the ordinance as presently crafted for a citation to be issued would not start until somebody did not heed the 24-hour removal notice.

Mayor Kelly commented that the guiding purpose of this rule is to give the Police Department the ability to act on and enforce the ordinance.

Commissioner Robinson suggested calendar days instead of hours would make it easier to enforce.

Commissioner Tryon commented that 36-hours is not enough time to load/unload campers and suggested 72-hours is more reasonable.

City Attorney Hindoien reported that the third amendment pertains to an exception for construction/service activities in the location where the trailer is parked.

Mayor Kelly inquired if a sticker on the trailer might go hand in hand with the building permit process administered by the Planning and Community Development Department.

City Manager Greg Doyon responded that the administration of it still needs to be worked out. Complaints will be going into the Police Department and, although Planning and Community Development Department deals with parking, it is primarily in the downtown area.

Discussion continued about the exception for construction/service activities and extension of time period by permit. The exception would be limited to a commercial service provider and the extension is one that would be an extra exception for additional time when the owner is able to demonstrate that the need for the extension is unavoidable and unlikely to recur. There is a blank in the drafted amendment because there is uncertainty on how that would be administered and what department would be in charge of that.

Mayor Kelly suggested that, if the extension of time period by permit is considered by the Commission at the regular meeting, the term "appropriate" department would be used so that decision could be made at a later time.

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Manager Doyon commented that the logical department is the Police Department. If information is split between two departments, there will be issues with communications.

Police Chief Jeff Newton expressed concern with the drafted amendment language pertaining to the extension of time period by permit. The onus of this is falling on the backs of the Police Department. He has concerns about staffing and who is going to manage extended time permits. This process is complaint driven. Year to date the Police Department has dealt with 1058 abandoned vehicles, not including the large vehicle ordinance that is being proposed. That work is being done by a volunteer coordinator and five volunteers. Potentially, now, doing extensions is going to become unmanageable and end up frustrating the community members and at the Commission level.

Commissioner Moe commented that she initially suggested the extension of time period by permit. If the 72-hour time limit passes, she is less concerned about the need for an extension particularly when exception language was added about construction.

Commissioner Tryon commented that the more complicated the ordinance becomes with extensions and variances, the harder it becomes for him to justify the original purpose of this. Maybe there is a way to incorporate some of this into what staff is already doing without adding more layers of administration and enforcement. He would like to keep it simple and define what constitutes a safety issue to cut down on the grudge complaints and frivolous complaints.

Commissioner Robinson noted that a neighbor fixed the problem by parking his RV in his driveway.

Commissioner Houck noted that not all neighborhoods have driveways. She inquired if other ordinances would need to be amended to accommodate where people can park their campers. She has heard that storage is full.

Mayor Kelly responded that there have been accommodations made already, and another one is on this evening's agenda to set a public hearing.

City Attorney Hindoién reported that if the Commission were inclined to adopt the ordinance, the fees would be set by separate resolution. The current parking resolution establishes a \$20 fine for non-specified Title 10 parking violations. If the Commission wanted a fine structure that was greater than that or progressive for second or subsequent violations, the Commission could amend the existing parking resolution.

Mayor Kelly noted the original fine structure for violation of the cell phone ordinance was considered by many as the cost of doing business as there were no consequences for repeat offenders or escalation in fines.

City Attorney Hindoién commented that, if the Commission adopts the ordinance with a delayed effective date, staff would have ample time to draft a fee resolution for discussion at a future work session. He concluded by discussing parliamentary procedures for adopting the ordinance with amendments during the regular meeting.

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**DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS**

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that the November 2, 2021 work session includes a Special Work Session for an update on the opioid litigation, and then an update from Neighborhood Council 1 and recommendations from the Crime Task Force. He thinks the Commission will need more than one work session to discuss the Crime Task Force recommendations. November 16 will include an update from Neighborhood Council 8 and a presentation from Public Works Director Skubinna regarding change orders and alternate project delivery. There may be some time at the December 7 work session to add ARPA discussion.

Mayor Kelly noted that the special meetings pertaining to litigation would go into closed session.

Commissioner Moe hopes the Crime Task Force recommendations can be wrapped up with sufficient efficiency before her and Commissioner Robinson's terms end.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly adjourned the informal work session of October 19, 2021 at 6:27 p.m.