

JOURNAL OF CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
March 15, 2022

City Commission Work Session
Civic Center, Gibson Room 212

Mayor Kelly presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

CITY COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Kelly, Susan Wolff, Eric Hinebauch, Rick Tryon and Joe McKenney.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Greg Doyon and Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson; City Attorney Jeff Hindoién; Finance Director Melissa Kinzler and Grant Administrator Tom Hazen; Municipal Court Judge Steve Bolstad; and, Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Bjork, City resident, submitted written comments via email suggesting that the Commission create and publish a prioritized ordered list of the Crime Task Force recommendations that it plans to consider during the course of future Work Sessions, with a running measure of what has already been discussed.

Kevin Weste, City resident, commented that the Gibson Flats potential arson fire turned into a conflagration because the Fire Department was defunded.

1. SEMI-ANNUAL LITIGATION UPDATE.

City Attorney Jeff Hindoién recommended that this portion of the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Mont. Code Ann § 2-3-203(4)(a) to discuss strategy to be followed with respect to a pending litigation matter because an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the City's litigating position. The meeting will be re-opened at the conclusion of the litigation strategy discussion.

Mayor Kelly moved, seconded by Commissioners Tryon and Wolff, to close the meeting from the public to discuss pending litigation in executive session pursuant to Mont. Code Ann § 2-3-203(4)(a).

At 5:35 p.m., the meeting continued in executive session in the City Manager's Office with the City Commission, City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Attorney and Deputy City Clerk, for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and strategy.

- EXECUTIVE SESSION - -

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The meeting reconvened into an open meeting. Mayor Kelly called the regular meeting back to order at 6:30 p.m.

City Attorney Hindoien reported that discussion included updates and strategy with regard to pending litigation and claim matters against the City by private litigants. Discussing litigation matters that involve public entities does not require a closed session.

City Attorney Hindoien reported that there is a pending declaratory judgment action against Cascade County regarding the dispute as to the composition of the new governing body entity required as part of the joint City-County Health Department structure. The County has filed a Response to the City's Complaint and the City will be working with its legal counsel to develop a motion seeking to resolve this dispute. The County disagrees with the City that a member of the City Commission can serve as a member of the governing body in the same capacity as a County Commissioner. The County may also assert that this is not a justiciable dispute for purposes of jurisdiction of the court.

2. CRIME TASK FORCE FOLLOW UP.

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that there is no additional information to provide to the Commission; however, Police Chief Jeff Newton could provide an update at an upcoming work session.

2. ARPA FOLLOW UP.

City Manager Greg Doyon suggested that the Commission consider the following Civic Center upgrades:

1. Commission Chambers – IT upgrades
2. Gibson and Missouri Rooms – audio and visual upgrade and installation
3. Municipal Court – acquisition of additional space proximate to the Civic Center and remodel
4. Fire Department – replace doors at fire stations
5. Planning and Community Development – boiler system upgrade (approximately \$623,000) and HVAC System upgrade (approximately \$528,000)

Finance Grant Administrator Tom Hazen reported that the grant application process has been open for a few weeks and that one application was received. There has been communication with numerous organizations in the community that includes a wide range of topics, eligibility and programs. He reported that there would be an ARPA application process Q&A Session on March 24, 2022 in the Gibson Room and that it would be recorded and posted.

Commissioner Tryon inquired if all of the applications received, as well as the list of eligible City projects would both be considered and prioritized or if a predetermined amount of money would be set aside for community partners.

Mayor Kelly suggested that the cost be determined for the Civic Center upgrades that Manager Doyon recommended, as well as setting aside approximately \$4 million for community partners. He explained that if the community partner projects are not eligible, then the money set aside for them could be utilized for additional City projects.

Commissioner Tryon received clarification that the \$4 million is an arbitrary percentage that Mayor Kelly expects would represent an incredible opportunity for programs from a variety of community partners. Commissioner Tryon expressed support of considering all of the applications and City projects as a whole rather than setting aside a certain amount of money for the community partners.

Commissioner Hinebauch inquired about the deadline and process of the applications.

Finance Grant Administrator Hazen responded that the application deadline is July 15, 2022 and that City staff from different departments would evaluate the applications based upon the scoring scale, build a list of recommendations for review by Manager Doyon and to the Commission for approval sometime this fall.

Manager Doyon added that some City projects that have costs determined could be considered with regard to the budget process.

Commissioner McKenney commented that Manager Doyon has the expertise and is aware of the City's maintenance and improvement needs. He supports Manager Doyon's recommendations for the Civic Center upgrades and requested that it be discussed at the April 5, 2022 Work Session.

Commissioner Wolff suggested that the Commission notify Manager Doyon if there is anything on the prioritized list that it believes is important.

DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS

Due to a lack of time, there was no discussion about upcoming work session topics.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly adjourned the informal work session of March 15, 2022, at 6:50 p.m.