

**JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION**  
**November 15, 2022**

City Commission Work Session  
Civic Center, Gibson Room 212

Mayor Kelly presiding

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

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

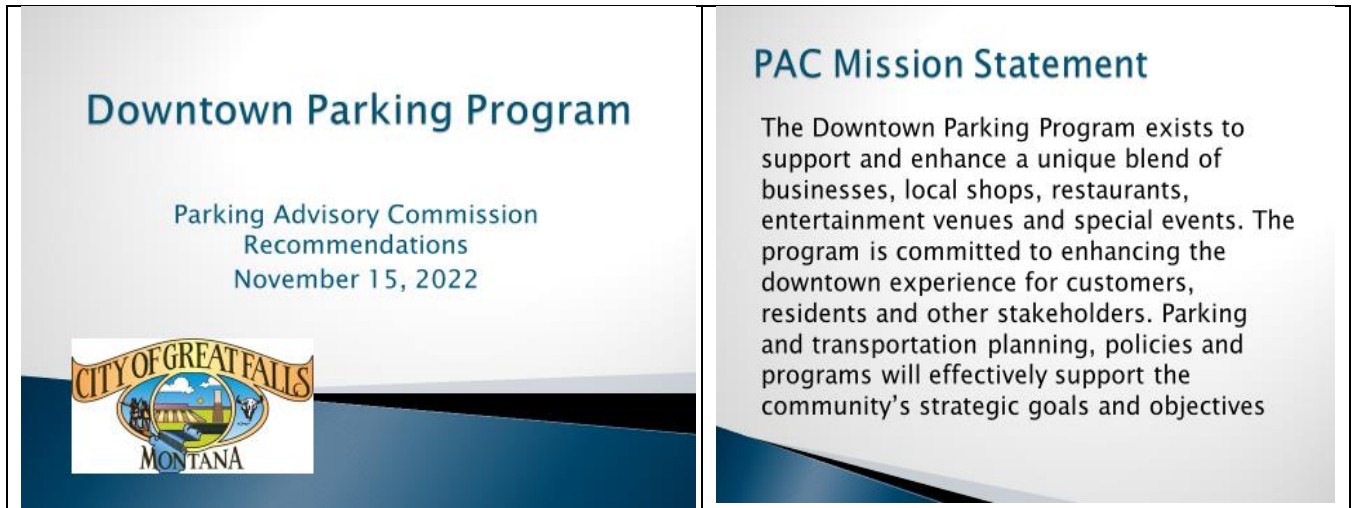
**STAFF PRESENT:** Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson; Interim City Attorney David Dennis; Finance Director Melissa Kinzler; Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond; and, City Clerk Lisa Kunz.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**1. DOWNTOWN PARKING UPDATE – REVIEW OF HOURS ENFORCEMENT**

Planning and Community Development Director reviewed and discussed the following PowerPoint:



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### Staff & PAC Proposal

- Revise Ordinance to reflect 24-7 operations of garages only at this time
- Other Ordinance housekeeping
- Add automated gates or replace old obsolete equipment & add pay stations
- Add License Plate Recognition (LPR) equipment in garages

### Operational Changes



### Existing Condition



### New Equipment



### Primary Benefits

- Reduce customer and neighbor complaints regarding unauthorized vehicles racing up and down the ramps at all hours
- Capture and manage evening hourly customers (contribute to repairs & maintenance)
- Automate garage operations and re-allocate staff hours to walk-in customer service and other administrative duties

Questions?

Director Raymond responded to inquiries and clarified:

- The parking garages currently have LED lighting and new cameras.
- Part of the ordinance housekeeping includes removing language about downtown residential

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parking.

- Downtown evening entertainment has increased the parking garage usage.
- Adding License Plate Recognition (LPR) equipment in the parking garages would provide enforcement technology without having to add staff.
- The City already utilizes LPR Technology and there are statutes that cover privacy concerns.

Mayor Kelly commented that the equipment for the parking garages would need to have a value factor for visitors, such as being well lit, having proper signage, and being safe and appealing.

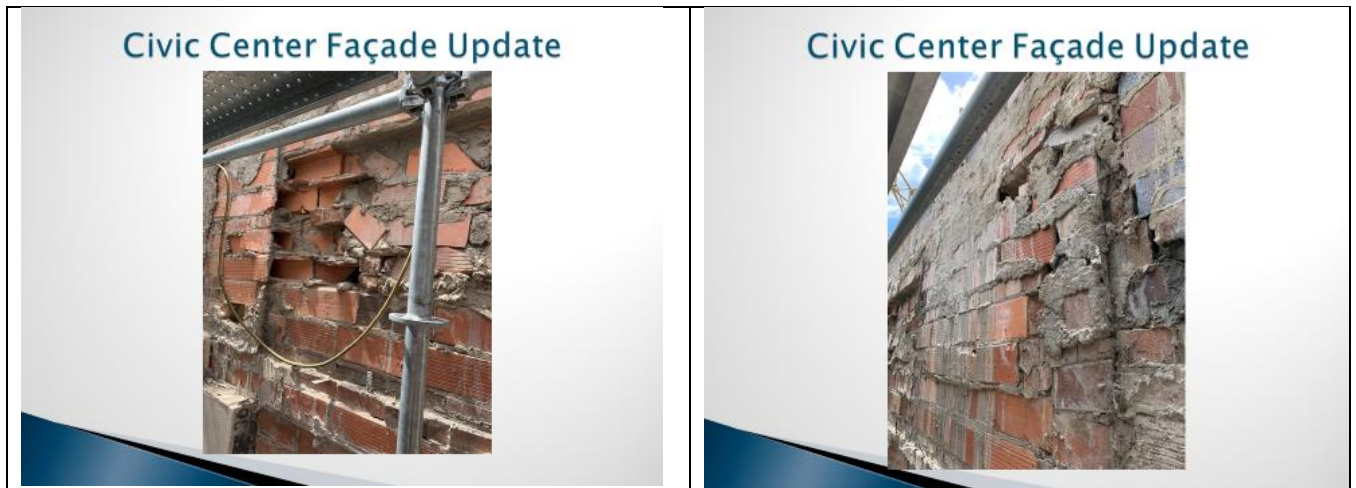
Director Raymond noted there is a lot of wall space to either add murals or sell advertising space in the garages.

He also noted that there are TIF funds available from a prior allocation that are budgeted to pay for the equipment.



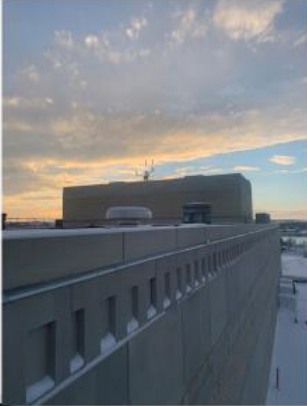

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission that Director Raymond proceed with obtaining the costs involved to report back to the Commission.

**2. CIVIC CENTER FAÇADE PROJECT UPDATE**

Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond reviewed and discussed the following PowerPoint:



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<p><b>Civic Center Façade Update</b></p> 	<p><b>Civic Center Façade Update</b></p> 
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<p><b>Civic Center Façade Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Original scheduled completion date was February 2023</li><li>- Revised schedule to include winter shutdown<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Shutdown January 19<sup>th</sup> - March 3<sup>rd</sup> (weather dependent)</li><li>- New Substantial Completion July 13<sup>th</sup></li><li>- Clean-up and punch-list July 14<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup></li><li>- Demobilization August 3<sup>rd</sup></li></ul></li></ul>	<p><b>Questions?</b></p>

**3. CRIME TASK FORCE UPDATES/SAFETY LEVY DISCUSSION**

Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson provided and discussed a draft Good Better Best Potential Safety Levy Options handout that included Fire, Police, Legal and Municipal Court.

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Mayor Kelly received clarification that the \$10 million to \$12 million cost range of the “Good” option is an annual assessment and that the cost ranges for the Good, Better, Best options encompasses Municipal Court needs and personnel. He further received clarification that the primary purpose of the County Safety Levy was for salary maintenance and was for approximately \$2.4 or \$2.6 million. He requested that the Commission determine a cost that would be presented to voters versus consideration that these are the things necessary to accomplish the Crime Task Force recommendations.

Mayor Kelly commented that the “Good” option would bring Fire, Police, Legal and Municipal Court up to basic standards; “Better” would be about future staffing; and “Best” would have a top-notch organization.

Commissioner Wolff expressed appreciation to City staff for its efforts with regard to the Good, Better, Best scenarios for a potential Safety Levy.

Commissioner McKenney commented that he considers the “Good” option to be horribly lacking, “Better” would be insufficient and “Best” would get the job done after 50 years of being static. He added that the community is changing and growing, and prior City Commissions have “kicked the can down the road.” Commissioner McKenney suggested starting with the “Best” option.

Commissioner Tryon concurred with Commissioner McKenney’s comments. He added that public safety was not a priority of prior Commissions and now this Commission is being forced to “catch the can.” The “Best” option is a bare minimum of what the City needs to do. Commissioner Tryon expressed appreciation to City staff for its efforts with regard to bringing forth a draft Good, Better, Best package. He commented that the community needs to be prepared for change and growth and the stagnation for 50 years is about to come to a screeching halt. The number one responsibility of this Commission and City staff should be public safety and then public infrastructure.

Commissioner Hinebauch concurred with Commissioners Tryon and McKenney. He added that the community has already been discovered, is growing, and is at a critical point if nothing is done to address this now. It is going to cost the City and citizens of the community.

Commissioner Wolff added that there is already new business and residential growth and more growth will happen with the Sentinel Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) project. People who want to come here need to know that they are in a safe community. The education piece will help the community understand that the City needs to move forward.

It was the consensus of the Commission that Deputy City Manager Anderson determine definite amounts for the “Best” option.

Finance Director Melissa Kinzler provided and discussed a Potential Safety Levy Mill Calculations handout.

Commissioner Wolff received clarification that Director Kinzler could provide the Commission with a comparison to other communities in Montana with regard to tax levies.

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Commissioner Hinebauch explained that the taxable value is different from the market value.

Director Kinzler added that the taxable value of a home could be found on the Cascade County Website.

Commissioner McKenney added that doing the right thing takes courage. The Commission's responsibility is to explain the need to the community and the community decides on the Public Safety Levy. He inquired about the growing taxable value of the community affecting a levy.

Director Kinzler responded that just because there is growth does not mean there will be a huge taxable valuation increase. There are numerous variables, such as tax abatements, Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts and the legislature, that play into the taxable valuation of the City. She added that there are additional costs in the general fund that need to be sustained.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission that Finance Director Kinzler provide additional information about the commercial taxable valuation and percentage of non-profits comparable with other communities similar in size and taxable valuation as Great Falls.

**DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS**

Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson reported that an ARPA Application Scoring update will be a topic for a special work session on November 17, 2022. A Crime Task Force/Safety Levy and Quarterly budget Reviews/2022 Year End 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023 will be topics for the work session on December 6, 2022.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly adjourned the informal work session of November 15, 2022 at 6:45 p.m.