

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

June 20, 2023

Regular City Commission Meeting

Mayor Kelly presiding
Commission Chambers Room 206

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL/STAFF INTRODUCTIONS: City Commission members present: Bob Kelly, Eric Hinebauch, Joe McKenney, Rick Tryon, and Susan Wolff. Also present were City Manager Greg Doyon and Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson; Public Works Director Chris Gaub; Interim Planning and Community Development Director Tom Micuda; Finance Director Melissa Kinzler; City Attorney David Dennis; Police Captain John Schaffer; and City Clerk Lisa Kunz.

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

CONFLICT DISCLOSURE/EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PROCLAMATIONS: 33rd Annual Lewis & Clark Festival, 25th Anniversary of the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center [June 30-July 2, 2023] and LGBTQ+ Pride Month [June 2023]

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

1. COMMUNITY HEALTH UPDATE FROM CITY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Health Officer Abigail Hill reviewed and discussed a Montana Central Tumor Registry Annual Report covering 2016-2020 cancer in Montana, including statistics pertaining to obesity-associated cancer, cancer among American Indians, breast cancer, prostate cancer, lung cancer, colorectal cancer and melanoma. Resources are available on the State's and City-County Health Department's websites.

2. **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Jeni Dodd, City resident, expressed opposition to City government, funded by taxpayers, engaging in discrimination by elevating one group of people over another. She suggested that the mayor support the LGBTQ+ community on his own time. The LGBTQ+ movement equates celebrating a sex-based political agenda to tolerance, and that is a false equivalency. No amount of propaganda or coercion by a cultist movement and no City proclamation from a biased, leftist mayor will change that for her.

Shay Simpson, City resident, commented that she identifies as a pansexual, non-binary person. To her, those labels don't really matter. What matters to her is that people see her as "Shay," a person who matters.

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Marcie Marceau, City resident, doesn't agree with the mayor proclaiming June as Pride Month. There is no need to exalt one group of people over another. People with integrity, good character and virtues should be celebrated every month. Inalienable rights weren't just for a few, but for all.

Kathie Hansen, 4601 Flood Rd, agreed with the prior speaker's comments. She added it is a person's choice, but it should not be something that people are trying to influence other people in to. She believes all people should be treated equal, and valued for what they do and how they help their community and people around them.

Kelly Quick, City resident, applauded Mayor Kelly for taking this historic step in signing the proclamation. As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, she wanted to correct the record - it is not a choice. She did not choose to be gay. If she had not internalized homophobia from the society around her, she would have realized she was gay much sooner than at age 40 and saved herself heartache and pain. The Stonewall Riots were an important, empowering activity and journey. Pride Month is just another way of saying LGBTQ+ History Month. Celebrating the history of a group is not exalting one group over another.

Carrie Parker, City resident, commended Mayor Kelly for taking a position that may not be popular among some residents. She commented that he may have saved a life tonight. As a Christian, she urged everyone to love one another and thy neighbor. As the Director of Helping Hands, she sees a disproportionate number of homeless people who are LGBTQ+, and a disproportionate number of children who are committing suicide because they are not recognized or are condemned.

Xavier Mercado, City resident, quoted a past President: "We should never forget what has made America great, which is our morality" and "If we ever forget that we are one nation under God we will be a nation gone under." He is seeing society unraveling.

Jasmine Miller, City resident, thanked Mayor Kelly for making her feel seen, loved, and welcomed in her home town.

Beth Simpson, City resident, reported statistics from The Trevor Project. She provides her children love and recognition. However, not every LGBTQ+ youth has that available to them. The fact that the City is willing to make a proclamation to show them that they are seen, welcomed and accepted for being no more than who they are is appreciated.

Jaxon Mart, City resident, commented that she almost became one of those statistics from The Trevor Project. She appreciates what Mayor Kelly has done for the City.

Lisa Hudecek, commented she is not a member of LGBTQ+, but is here as an ally. Two kids have left thank you notes under her doormat saying they feel seen and feel safe and a neighbor delivered Christmas cookies for having a Pride flag in her front yard. A lot of kids are struggling with their identity. This proclamation has allowed people to see that they have a place in this city.

Kenton Miller, City resident, commended Mayor Kelly for the proclamation and making LGBTQ+ folks feel safe. He lives in downtown Great Falls. Never has anyone knocked on his door trying to

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convert his kids to be LGBTQ+. However, he has had numerous political or religious people knock on his door trying to convert him with what they had to offer.

Barry Dardis, City resident, commented he thinks the city is headed down a slippery slope. He discussed his dad being molested as a teenager, how that affected him, and that his dad always had a relationship with another man. It was a nightmare for his dad to have a wife, four children and a boyfriend. He can't image the anguish his dad must have felt at church trying to have a firm, spiritual program and living that life of contradiction. He does not have animosity toward the gay community, but inquired where does the Commission draw the line. He encouraged the Commission to look up Washington SB 5599.

Rev. Lynne Spencer Smith, commented that First Congregational United Church of Christ is an open and affirming congregation, welcoming of everybody, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or race. She commented that Pride Month is as much for her as it is for the LGBTQ+ community. Her life is expanded and richer because of her affiliation with members and friends in the LGBTQ+ community. She encouraged everyone to embrace and learn more about what the struggles are in the lives of all our neighbors.

Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway, County resident and business owner within City limits, invited the Commission to the 4th of July parade as VIPs to ride at the front of the parade. She expressed concern about the cost of insurance to conduct the parade, and also requested support in enforcing the ordinance pertaining to parades.

David Saslav, City resident, suggested that people replay the videos wherein the Commission deliberated a non-discrimination ordinance that failed on a 2-3 vote. He concluded the last three years would not have been lived by this community the way that it has been had that non-discrimination ordinance passed.

Written communication in opposition to the Pride Month Proclamation was received from:

Joyce Ranum, City resident, **Tony & Karen Rausch**, 608 Beth Drive, **Beth McDonough**, **Brian Cayko**, 44 34th Avenue NE, **Beth Cooper**, **Mike Wipf**, **David Saenz** and **Ginny Rogliano**, 343 Flood Rd.

Mayor Kelly applauded the respect and concern that citizens expressed and have for the community. It is something we all admire about living here.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

3. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

None.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

4. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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None.

CITY MANAGER

5. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

City Manager Greg Doyon reported the following updates:

- The Cascade County Commission conducted the canvas and confirmed the votes pertaining to the passage of the Library mill levy.
- Brock Cherry was appointed as the Planning and Community Development Director. Brock is currently serving as the Community Development Director of Mountain Home, Idaho. He has served as a Planner in Twin Falls and Meridian, Idaho. He will be moving here with his family to begin work on August 3, 2023.
- CDBG is moving out of Planning and Community Development to the Finance Department as of July 1st to enable the City to focus on outside revenue sources under one department.
- Great Falls Police Department Detective Kevin Kelsey was promoted today to Master Police Officer.
- Public Works Department recently held its quarterly awards and recognized Jack Pierre, Jeff Butler, Mike Deshayes, and Randy Steffenson.
- The first Public Safety Town Hall was held June 14, 2023 and was attended by 100+ people. The link to the recording of the meeting can be found on the City's Facebook page. The next Public Safety Town Hall will be held on September 18, 2023. There will be more presentations and information along the way, and there is an opportunity for folks to ask questions on the City's website – safetyninthefalls.com. Responses will be provided within 3-5 days.

Police Captain John Schaffer explained the extent of the Great Falls Police Department's involvement in the incident that took place last week at Highwood Creek Outfitters:

On Friday the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requested GFPD's assistance with a standby to provide scene security on a search warrant they were going to execute on Wednesday, June 14th. GFPD was not told the location or contents of the search warrant. On the morning of the search warrant GFPD was told the location. GFPD responded with two uniformed officers in a marked squad car to provide scene security. The officers were there for a total of one-half hour and then released by the IRS.

In response to Commissioner Tryon, Captain Schaffer clarified that GFPD gets requests for assistance from partners at the State, Local and Federal level.

Commissioner Tryon inquired if there were State statutes applicable to that situation.

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Captain Schaffer responded not necessarily the situation, but depends on the agency asking for assistance. If it involves Federal firearms laws, there are State statutes GFPD has to follow when it comes to whether or not GFPD will get involved.

Commissioner Tryon inquired if GFPD knew the warrant was for a firearms store.

Captain Schaffer responded that the IRS asked GFPD for help and GFPD did not know the location.

CONSENT AGENDA.

6. Minutes, June 6, 2023, City Commission Meeting.
7. Total Expenditures of \$5,149,661 for the period of May 25, 2023 through June 7, 2023, to include claims over \$25,000, in the amount of \$4,484,444.
8. Contracts List.
9. Lien Release List.
10. Approve the annual bid award for asphaltic concrete material to Great Falls Sand & Gravel, Inc. of Great Falls for \$979,150.
11. Approve the annual purchase of 250 tons of Liquid Asphalt CRS-2P from Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, Inc., of Butte for \$182,500.

Commissioner Tryon moved, seconded by Commissioners Hinebauch and Wolff, that the City Commission approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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 and Commissioner McKenney complimented Public Works Director Gaub on the costs savings with regard to Items 10 and 11.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

12. **RESOLUTION 10504, CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR TOURO UNIVERSITY PARKING LOT ADDITION ON THE PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 2801 18TH AVENUE SOUTH.**

Mayor Kelly declared the public hearing open and asked for presentation of the staff report.

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Interim Planning and Community Development Director Tom Micuda reported that Resolution 10504 is a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) request from Touro Medical College to expand its parking above code required levels. Based on the number of students and classrooms proposed for the new medical college building, the maximum parking allowed by code is 145 parking spaces. Now that Touro has a much better understanding of year one, staff numbers and student enrollment, they have proposed to add parking in front of their building along 26th Street South to bump the parking up to 189 spaces. The 44 parking space increase is over the 20% allowance and requires a CUP.

Touro's large property can easily accommodate the additional spaces and, if the CUP is approved, Touro will be required to demonstrate that they can add landscaping to meet code standards and show that storm water runoff can still be controlled.

Staff recommends approval of Resolution 10504. The project is beneficial for the college and for the community.

Touro representative Aaron Wall commended Interim Director Micuda and his staff for helping this project come to fruition. This is a great project. Touro will be opening in July.

Mayor Kelly asked if the Commissioners had any questions of staff. Hearing none, Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public in support of Resolution 10504.

Jolene Schalper, Great Falls Development Authority, commented that Montana's first medical school will be opening July 15th and Touro is expecting 125 medical students the first year. That is phenomenal for the community. She expressed appreciation to Touro for investing in this community.

Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway, County resident, commented that a lot of effort was put into this project. She is proud Great Falls was chosen by Touro.

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public in opposition to Resolution 10504.

Hearing none, Mayor Kelly closed the public hearing and asked the will of the Commission.

Commissioner Wolff moved, seconded by Commissioner Tryon, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10504 subject to the applicant fulfilling the listed Conditions of Approval.

Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner McKenney commented that the City staff and Commission are using common sense and not holding back development for simple landscaping issues.

Commissioner Wolff expressed appreciation that parking was not going to be on the main street where there is a lot of student activity and driving.

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

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Motion carried 5-0.

13. RESOLUTION 10508, REQUEST FROM THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO USE UP TO \$400,000 OF DOWNTOWN URBAN RENEWAL DISTRICT TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE CIVIC CENTER RESTORATION PROJECT. UNIVERSITY PARKING LOT ADDITION ON THE PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 2801 18TH AVENUE SOUTH. OF 1525.2

Mayor Kelly declared the public hearing open and asked for presentation of the staff report.

Interim Planning and Community Development Director Tom Micuda reported that Resolution 10508 is a request from Planning and Community Development to receive up to \$400,000 of funds from the City's Downtown TIF fund to finish contractor payments for the Civic Center façade restoration project. The Civic Center façade project was approved in 2021 for bond funding in the amount of \$5,500,551.75. Immediately after, Talisman Construction Services was awarded the bid to construct the project for \$5,411,682. The net difference of approximately \$88,000 left almost no contingency. The project has proceeded smoothly and is scheduled to be completed in October of this year.

In 2021, two change orders just exceeding \$280,000 were approved by the Commission. At that time, staff was under the mistaken impression that the project was bonded for \$6 million, rather than the actual amount of \$5.5 million. Resolution 10508 is proposed to increase project funding by \$400,000, to allow the project to be funded at \$5.9 million dollars, and to make final payments, including the amount of the approved change orders. Staff expects one more change order to come before the Commission before the project is completed to cover treating the front columns.

Staff recommends approval of Resolution 10508. The City has over \$4 million dollars in the Downtown TIF fund. The Downtown Development Partnership (DDP) discussed the project, reiterated some concerns about the original use of TIF funds for this project, but voted in favor of this request.

Mayor Kelly asked if the Commissioners had any questions of staff.

Mayor Kelly clarified that the source of these funds being requested is from the same pool of funds paying the current debt service on the bonds.

Mayor Kelly commented that the City doesn't issue that much debt. What caused the confusion between the \$5.5 million and \$6 million value of the bonds.

Interim Director Micuda responded the confusion was strictly on the department's end. He received clarification from Finance.

Mayor Kelly inquired the actual issuance of the bond.

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Finance Director Kinzler responded \$5.6 million dollars and included the costs of proceeds.

Commissioner Tryon inquired if additional funds from other sources would be needed.

Interim Director Micuda responded that the fiscal impact is to the TIF fund alone. The TIF fund is still healthy and there is more than enough money to pay for this project and other projects forthcoming.

Commissioner Hinebauch inquired the balance of the Downtown TIF.

Interim Director Micuda reported \$4.3 million dollars.

Mayor Kelly inquired how much of that \$4.3 million was already committed.

Interim Director Micuda responded the low end of \$2 million dollars.

Director Kinzler reminded the Commission that every year the Downtown TIF receives about \$1.3 to \$1.5 million dollars.

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public in support of Resolution 10508. Hearing none, Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public in opposition to Resolution 10508. Hearing none, Mayor Kelly closed the public hearing and asked the will of the Commission.

Commissioner Wolff moved, seconded by Commissioner McKenney, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10508.

Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner McKenney received clarification that adoption of the Resolution is for an amount up to \$400,000.

Commissioner McKenney noted that the Civic Center project was called out during the legislative session for pushing the envelope for how TIF funds should be used. It was difficult preserving TIF with this legislature and suggested being cautious going forward.

Commissioner Hinebauch commented that TIF funds come from downtown property owners within the district. Due to the TIF issues this legislative session, he is going to oppose the Resolution because he doesn't believe the funds should be used for City projects.

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

Motion carried 4-1 (Commissioner Hinebauch dissenting).

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14. TOURISM BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (TBID) FY2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT.

Mayor Kelly declared the public hearing open and asked for presentation of the staff report.

Tourism Business Improvement District Director Rebecca Engum reported that the Commission approved the 2022/2023 TBID Budget and Work Plan on July 19, 2022. The actual amount of assessments levied was lower than the approved budget.

Two major efforts the TBID had planned would happen did not materialize this fiscal year so funds were reallocated. Funds have been allocated for the recruitment of a low-cost air initiative. The funds were not needed this fiscal year so were removed from the budget. The funds are still available for this effort and are reflected in the upcoming FY24 budget. Great Falls Montana Tourism had also hoped to recruit a signature event to Great Falls, however, all the leads for this would not have been possible in FY23.

Great Falls Montana Tourism was presented a unique marketing partnership opportunity with Montana's newest concert venue, The Newberry, which provided Great Falls Montana Tourism with tickets to The Newberry events to use with our owned and paid media. The Board of Directors approved the partnership.

In a previous audit of the Great Falls Tourism Business Improvement District, the auditor delivered one finding related to increased expenses over the approved budget. This finding noted that an amendment to the budget was not submitted to the City of Great Falls, even though presented and approved by the TBID Board.

To prevent any future findings, the TBID Board approved budget amendment is presented to the City of Great Falls for approval. There is no fiscal impact to the City of Great Falls. The budget amendment reflects a 11% decrease, decreasing the total budget from \$1,133,693 to \$1,003,344.

Mayor Kelly asked if the Commissioners had any questions of staff.

Mayor Kelly asked TBID Director Engum to explain the decrease in the total budget.

TBID Director Engum responded that the TBID assessments that is levied by the City and provided to the TBID to operate is done so through transient travelers paying either a \$2 or \$1 dollar assessment per room night to lodging properties in the community. The lodging properties pay those funds after the assessment is levied. The reduction in the total budget is because the TBID did not receive as many assessments as previously expected. She believes that is connected to the 30+ day stays. That assumption is based on the fact that there was an increase in room demand.

Mayor Kelly commented that the 30+ day stays were primarily by Calumet laborers for temporary housing.

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public in support of the TBID's FY2023 Budget Amendment. Hearing none, Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public

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in opposition to the TBID's FY2023 Budget Amendment. Hearing none, Mayor Kelly closed the public hearing and asked the will of the Commission.

Commissioner McKenney moved, seconded by Commissioner Tryon, that the City Commission accept the FY2023 Tourism Business Improvement District Budget Amendment.

Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners. Hearing none, Mayor Kelly called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

15. CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 – CENTRAL AVE/3RD ST DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1 PROJECT. OF 1779.0

Public Works Director Chris Gaub reported that on November 2, 2022 the City Commission awarded a contract for the referenced project to Ed Boland Construction. This project implements Phase 1 of the improvements recommended in the December 2020 9th Avenue South and Central Avenue/4th Street Drainage Basin Study prepared by Great West Engineering. The project adds storm drain inlets, increases underground piping capacity and better conveys storm water to the Missouri River.

During discussions with Tony Denio of Meadow Gold, open trench construction would cause Meadow Gold to incur additional expenses related to disinfection and delivery of raw milk to the holding tanks. The estimated fiscal impact to Meadow Gold is a minimum of \$4,600 per day. In the three to four days it would take to complete the construction across the access to the tanker receiving bay the minimum cost to the business would be between \$13,800 and \$18,400. Improper sanitation or incomplete evacuation of individual tankers could lead to over \$50,000 in additional costs or losses.

Proposed construction methods would restrict Meadow Gold's operations to receiving and washing only one truck at a time, which would set daily operations back approximately 4-5 hours per day. Adverse impacts to cleaning and sanitation operations could lead to the loss of 100s of gallons of milk per day and affect the quality of the milk. These daily setbacks would have a cumulative effect through the construction process and disrupt the trucking company's scheduled pickup times from producers. A disruption in pickup times would disturb producers' daily milking schedules and could lead to the dumping of raw milk onto the ground, costing producers thousands of dollars.

Additionally, the proposed construction methods would cause Meadow Gold to set up milk receiving operations outside their facility. This would require the renting of special safety equipment for fall protection standards for workers who have to get samples from the top of the tankers. This would also require special quality measures to be enacted or purchased to ensure that milk is being handled properly according to federal guidelines of the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO). Additionally, this would require alteration of their Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) and Spill Prevention Containment Control (SPCC) plan throughout the construction process, which would impact both operations and costs with associated permit fees.

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City Staff has been diligently working with Meadow Gold and the contractor to develop a solution that would work in the best interest of both parties. Through discussions two alternate construction methods were presented for consideration.

Option #1: Jack and bore the storm drain under the approach to the receiving bay as an alternate construction method. The scope of the proposed work change includes the following items: excavation of boring pits; jack and boring 24-inch steel encasement pipe; corrosion protection; inspecting and cleaning the casing pipe; furnishing and placing storm pipe; furnishing and installing casing spacers, and end seals; and all other work necessary for completion of the item. Construction activities could take place during regular work hours. This proposed method would allow Meadow Gold to continue to receive the raw product through their regular daily operations. The contractor's proposed additional cost for this work is \$16,094.

Option #2: Install the storm drain under the approach to the receiving bay after hours. This would involve night time construction. In conjunction with the standard construction equipment the proposed work change includes the following additional items to complete the work: use of generators and lighting sufficient to safely conduct construction activities at night; steel plating placed across the open trench during daily work hours so that Meadow Gold could continue to receive the raw product through their regular process; and variances to local ordinances and extra safety precautions. The contractor's proposed additional cost for this work is \$24,467.

Based on discussions, both options are acceptable; however, the jack and bore construction method (Option #1) is the most efficient and cost effective alternative in allowing delivery semi-trucks to get in and out of the facility. This alternate construction method will allow Meadow Gold to continue to receive raw product with minimal interruption to their operation.

Staff recommends approval of the change order to minimize disruptions and expenses to Meadow Gold's operations while allowing the contractor to move forward with construction. Staff is in discussions with Meadow Gold to determine if they would be agreeable to paying half of the costs of this work change directive.

Commissioner Hinebauch moved, seconded by Commissioner Wolff, that the City Commission approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$16,094 and increase the total contract amount from \$1,483,052 to \$1,499,146.

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public.

Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway, County resident, commented that her Dairy Queen product is made for the State of Montana in Great Falls at Meadow Gold. She noted the concern amongst business owners if they couldn't get their products in a timely manner.

There being no further comments, Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Tryon noted Meadow Gold would be a good neighbor if it paid half the amount after the change order was approved.

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Commissioner McKenney noted that when Director Gaub was appointed, he expressed his concern about infrastructure improvements in business districts. He is happy to see consideration given to the business owners providing the jobs, and the appreciation shown for the struggles that business owners go through.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

16. RESOLUTION 10507, SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, THE QUESTION OF ISSUING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$21,175,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING COSTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SALE AND ISSUANCE OF BONDS.

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that this originated back in November, 2022 when the Commission started to take a look at the “good, better, best scenarios” presented by Police, Fire, Court and Legal. By January, 2023 there was an awareness that the operational portion of a bond would have to be separated out from the full public safety continuum. This ask has been discussed a few times over the last six months or so. The conversations included needs and asks. More detailed discussions were held during the April 18, May 16 and June 6 work sessions. This resolution complements Resolution 10500 adopted by the Commission on March 7, 2023 that puts an operating levy before the voters. Two things involved prior to this action were (1) the mill levy and bond questions needed to be separate and (2) legislative changes that will need to be incorporated into the question.

The amount of the request that the Commission may be putting before the voters related to capital needs in the public safety continuum is \$21,175,000. The impact of that ask on a \$100,000 taxable valuation is about \$22.20/yr or up to a \$600,000 property is \$133.20/yr. The department breakdown of that capital needs request entails:

Department	Capital Needs
Fire Department	\$14,358,000
Police Department	\$6,500,000
Municipal Court	\$0
Legal Department	\$317,000
Total Request	\$21,175,000

The Fire Department capital needs request includes a one-time buy in for long term equipment/apparatus that includes an ambulance, water tender, two fire engines and related safety equipment, as well as a new proposed fire station #5. The Police Department capital needs request includes expansion/renovation to maximize operations and potential personnel additions if the

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operational levy were to pass. The Legal Department capital needs request includes office renovation/expansion relocation.

Commissioner Hinebauch moved, seconded by Commissioner Tryon, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10507.

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public.

Jeni Dodd, City resident, noted her prior admonishments for not using all of the Covid funds to take care of City needs first instead of distributing funds to non-governmental agencies; disappointment in the City using up to \$150,000 to hire the Wendt Agency to persuade taxpayers to further tax themselves; and, disappointment in the lack of transparency that the plan for some time has been to propose two public safety levies – operating and bond levy.

Ms. Dodd commented that she is generally supportive of law enforcement and the Great Falls Police Department in particular, but the recent IRS and ATF raid on local firearms has her questioning her support. There has been no news release or information relayed to the public on what Great Falls Police Department was doing at this raid until tonight. She opined that the seizure of the 4473 forms was unconstitutional. The on-line perception is GFPD should have stood up for the constitutional rights of Great Falls residents. She suggested GFPD issue a press release stating what their role was and, according to state law, what their role should be to clarify the rumors on Facebook.

Frank Speidel, City resident, commented he was in support of Resolution 10507.

Kathie Hansen, 4601 Flood Road, suggested using the current average home price in Great Falls of \$300,000 to inform people how much their property taxes would increase.

Mayor Kelly clarified that the language on the ballot includes home values of \$100,000, \$300,000 and \$600,000.

Steve Durkin, City resident, commented he was disappointed the first line in the Wendt brochure was deceptive stating that the community has grown 44% since 1969. He commented there is about 600 more people between the 1970 census and 2020 census. Businesses want to see Police get some extra money, but are not happy about the Fire Department requests.

Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Tryon clarified that the Commission is not making the final decision. The Commission is setting it up for the voters to decide on the safety levy and general obligation bond.

Commissioner McKenney commented the levy is staffing and the bond is building and equipment. People have asked why not do one now and one later. His thoughts are to let the voters know what the costs are going to be and make one decision.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

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CITY COMMISSION

17. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

None.

18. COMMISSION INITIATIVES.

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Tryon moved, seconded by Mayor Kelly, to adjourn the regular meeting of June 20, 2023, at 9:05 pm.**

Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Bob Kelly

City Clerk Lisa Kunz

Minutes Approved: July 5, 2023