

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

January 2, 2024

Regular City Commission Meeting

Mayor Reeves presiding
Commission Chambers Room 206

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL/STAFF INTRODUCTIONS: City Commission members present: Cory Reeves, Shannon Wilson, 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; City Attorney David Dennis; Police Captain Rob Moccasin; and Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea.

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

MILITARY UPDATES

1. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MALMSTROM AIRFORCE BASE (MAFB).

Colonel Barry Little, 341st Missile Wing Commander, provided the following updates:

- There is construction on the south side of MAFB for the new weapons generation facility that will replace the current storage for nuclear weapons. Runway lights and infrastructure from the airfield were removed to provide a road that will allow the Army Corps of Engineers access to a portion of the south side of MAFB.
- Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) Director of Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Modernization Brigadier General Colin Connor, Director of Strategic Plans, Programs and Requirements Major General Ty Neuman and Director of Logistics and Engineering Colonel David Miller visited MAFB in December 2023 to advocate for the LGM-35 Sentinel missile and MH-139 Grey Wolf helicopters. There will be a series of town hall meetings including one in Great Falls on January 25, 2024 and Lewistown on January 24, 2024. The Grey Wolf helicopter is scheduled for delivery in March 2024.
- General Lutton was promoted to the Deputy Commander of the AFGSC.
- A Change of Command Ceremony for General Huser, the new incoming 20th Air Force Commander, will be on January 5, 2024.

Mayor Reeves expressed appreciation to MAFB for its efforts with regard to the new projects and economy boost they will bring to the community.

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2.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Jeni Dodd, City resident, opined that Library Director Susie McIntyre is incompetent and should be removed from her position. Ms. Dodd commented that financial support should be removed from the library and the 7 mills under the 1993 Agreement should be utilized for public safety. Ms. Dodd expressed concern with regard to Library Director McIntosh not taking personal responsibility for two failures. Ms. Dodd commented that Library Director McIntosh had stated that she did not fully understand the extent that the library fund would need to be built up to prevent future cash flow problems; however, Library Director McIntyre was advised by City staff of the need for reserve funds. Ms. Dodd further commented that Library Director McIntyre had stated that the library expenses were significantly higher than expected when the original budget was made; however, City Manager Greg Doyon had mentioned quite a while ago that electrical costs would be tripling. Library Director McIntyre used false statistics of \$19 per capita support before the levy was passed, when the Montana State Library indicated that it was \$25 per capita. Ms. Dodd expressed concern about a statement that Library Director McIntyre made to the media that the library would close if the levy did not pass and never setting the media straight with that statement. Ms. Dodd further expressed concern about the December Library Board meeting agenda packet being removed from the internet after it had been posted.

Referring to Ms. Dodd's comments, **Susie McIntyre**, Great Falls Public Library Director, responded that the library calculated the funding at \$19 per capita based on its operational funding. There would be no way for the Montana State Library to separate out funding given from foundations, donations and operational funding.

John Hubbard, 615 7th Avenue South, expressed concern about the increase in property taxes and the cost of living.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

3. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

None.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

4. APPOINTMENT TO THE CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH.

Mayor Reeves reported that Mayor Kelly served as the representative on the Board of Health since January 2022 and his term of office as Mayor has now expired. This appointment would replace Mayor Kelly as the City of Great Falls' elected official representative on the Board of Health and the position can be filled by either the Mayor or his/her representative.

Commissioner Wolff moved, seconded by **Commissioner Tryon**, that the **City Commission** appoint **Commissioner Shannon Wilson** to the **City-County Board of Health** as the **Mayor's** representative effective **January 2, 2024**.

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

Commissioner McKenney suggested that the 1975 Agreement be updated in the near future because it is outdated and the City had a different form of government when it was entered into.

Mayor Reeves received clarification that the 1975 Agreement has not been amended because negotiating between two governing bodies is difficult. If one part of the agreement is amended, the parties involved would more than likely amend all aspects of the agreement, which would have a financial impact.

Commissioner Wilson explained that she is up to the appointment because of her previous experience as a research engineer and working with EPA tag groups that examined human health risks.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

5. APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT TO THE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD.

Mayor Reeves reported that on March 7, 2023 the City Commission appointed Terry Thompson to replace Anthony Aretz who was appointed by the County Commission to serve as one of their board representatives as he lives outside the City limits. Ms. Thompson completed the term through December 31, 2023 and is interested in serving her first full three-year term. Todd Timboe was appointed to the Board in 2018 and has served two full terms making him ineligible to serve another term. City staff began advertising for citizen interest. The City received applications from Alan Scanlon, Todd “Cameron” Swathwood Jr. and Atreyi Pramanik. The Airport Authority and the Airport Authority Board has decided not to make recommendations on appointing or reappointing Board Members.

Commissioner Wolff moved, seconded by Commissioner Tryon, that the City Commission reappoint Terry Thompson and interview the three applicants for the other position.

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

Commissioner Tryon inquired if there was another way to proceed with the motion.

City Attorney David Dennis responded that the proper procedure was being followed.

Commissioner McKenney commented that he agreed with the motion; however, because the Regional Airport Authority Board and Library Board are both governing bodies, the Commission should interview new applicants. He inquired if the two newly elected officials, Mayor Reeves and Commissioner Wilson, would want to interview Terry Thompson as well.

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Mayor Reeves responded that he is comfortable with the motion as presented that Ms. Thompson fulfill the term.

Commissioner Wolff added that having served on the Regional Airport Authority Board and observing Ms. Thompson in her role, she is an honorable and productive member on the board.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

6. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

None.

CITY MANAGER

7. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

City Manager Greg Doyon announced that:

- Great Falls Fire Rescue (GFFR) Jason Fur was promoted to the Deputy Chief of Training, Colton Walter was promoted to Battalion Chief, Chris Newman was promoted to Captain, Maren Reilly was the first female to be promoted as Captain and Joseph Adam Jordan was promoted to Lieutenant.
- Tyrell Foran, Tyler Bartelt, Quinton Spring, Kolter Lund, Rocky Vance and Graydon Irish completed their probationary period and all training requirements to be officially sworn in as Great Falls Firefighters.
- GFFR Battalion Chief Jeff Jackson (31 ½ years), Deputy Chief of Training Nolan Eggen (21 years), Captain Dan Cherry (27 ½ years) and Engineer Ben Zietzke (20 years) celebrated their retirement from the GFFR.
- GFFR is working with the Great Falls Police Department (GFPD) to find the arsonists responsible for starting fires over the Christmas weekend. Citizens are urged to contact the GFPD if they have any information.
- The Planning and Community Development Department and Downtown BID will be hosting a Downtown Group Roundtable on January 10, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the NeighborWorks Learning Center, 509 1st Avenue South to discuss Downtown matters, Tax Increment (TIF) and parking.
- The Planning and Community Development Department is accepting bids and proposals until March 15, 2024 for the 2023 Growth Management Policy.
- Planning and Community Development Deputy Director Tom Micuda will be retiring February 2, 2024 after eight years of service. Mr. Micuda is one of the hardest workers in the City and will be greatly missed.
- There was a GFPD Swearing in Ceremony on December 27, 2023 for Joshua Meyer, Malik Ray and Andrew Paradise.
- Todd Feist was hired as the new Information Technology (IT) Director and has many years of IT experience in both the public and private sectors. Mr. Feist most recently served as the Technical Operations Manager of SCC Inspection Services in Great Falls, MT and was

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the Data and System Manager for the City of Indio's Water Authority. Mr. Feist will complete his Bachelor of Science in Information Technology in February 2024 and holds many IT-specific professional certifications that will serve as a great asset to the City and community.

- Former Mayor Bob Kelly was the longest serving elected official appointed to the Commission, was a great ambassador for the City and will be greatly missed. He was appointed in December 2012 as a Commissioner for 3 years and then Mayor for eight years. Former Mayor Kelly spent countless hours working on behalf of the residents of Great Falls and for the betterment of the community. Some of the challenges and projects he tackled as a Commissioner/Mayor included: the Electric City Power, Animal Shelter operations, capital needs, parking, Morony Natatorium, ball park, major equipment needs, difficult community conversations, downtown parking, large vehicle ordinance, land use decisions and funding public safety needs.

Commissioner Wolff commented that she and Mayor Kelly attended a conference in Alabama and is honored to have had that experience with him.

Commissioner Tryon added that there is a Going Away Ceremony for Bob Kelly on January 3, 2024 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Newberry.

CONSENT AGENDA.

8. Minutes, December 19, 2023, City Commission Meeting.
9. Total Expenditures of \$2,989,580 for the period of December 7, 2023 through December 20, 2023, to include claims over \$25,000, in the amount of \$2,409,868.
10. Contracts List.
11. Grants List.
12. Approve Final Payment for the Valeria Way Storm Drain Lining to SJ Louis Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$23,581.10, and \$238.19 to the State Miscellaneous Tax Fund and authorize the City Manager to make the payments. **OF 1463.2**

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Commissioner Tryon moved, seconded by Commissioner McKenney, that the City Commission approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Referring to Agenda Item #11, **Ken Robison**, 315 Lamplighter Lane, explained that the grant would enhance the Saint Peter's area and church by having interpretive signs in a very historic part of Cascade County.

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

Referring to Agenda Item #12, Commissioner Wolff expressed appreciation to City staff for their efforts with regard to the final payment.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

13. RESOLUTION 10534, ESTABLISHING FEES FOR THE MANSFIELD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (MCPA) AT THE CIVIC CENTER.

Mayor Reeves declared the public hearing open and asked for presentation of the agenda report.

Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson reported that the Civic Center Events division operates the MCPA which promotes, coordinates, and provides affordable public event space and box office services. The landscape of the event space industry has changed, with more competing venues opening and providing services within the community. To compete with, and keep partnerships intact, the MCPA recently embarked on developing a new business model that allows for variations on how business had been previously conducted. The next component of the new business model is the introduction of the ability for fee negotiation and adjustment of the current fees as established in Resolution 10426. Specifically, the ability to negotiate fees will be handled if needed or required on a case-by-case basis with final approval authority residing in the City Manager's office. The Mansfield Events Manager would not have the ability to change fees. This component of the business model will enable the MCPA to better compete with other community venues by being able to obtain multi-room, year or event commitments. This change of the fees was discussed and supported from the City Manager and Finance Department. The proposed fee change would not result in a loss of revenue on any scheduled or booked event, as the wording in the fee resolution includes all costs associated with the service must be covered for each event.

Mayor Reeves asked if the Commissioners had any questions of staff. Hearing none, Mayor Reeves asked if there were any comments from the public in support of or opposition to Resolution 10534.

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

Commissioner Wolff moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to adopt Resolution 10534.

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

Commissioner Tryon inquired about the new business model component that would enable the MCPA to better compete with other community venues.

Deputy City Manager Anderson responded that the model would not be direct competition and would be more complementary. This facility is not replicated within the community; however, some aspects and rooms within the facility could be found elsewhere downtown. There would be some flexibility if an entity would want to negotiate a fee; however, a multi-year commitment would be considered to prevent a one-time opportunity for them to get that fee.

City Manager Greg Doyon added that the less the building is used in the areas that are rentable for the public, the more cost it would be on the taxpayer. The City does not have the capacity to promote as other entities do in the community, region and State.

Commissioner Wolff further commented that she looks forward to seeing what other ideas MCPA Manager Owen Grubenhoff comes up with. The building is citizen-owned and needs to be utilized to its full capacity.

Commissioner McKenney urged City staff to be cautious because it may get to the point that tax takers are competing with the taxpayers.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

CITY COMMISSION

14. APPOINTMENT, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE.

Mayor Reeves reported that Article III, Section 3, of the City Charter sets forth that “The Mayor Pro-Tempore shall serve in the absence of the elected mayor. The City Commissioners shall elect from among themselves a Mayor Pro-Tempore no later than one month after taking office. The Mayor Pro-Tempore shall serve a term of two years, or until the City Commission has held an election. Any vacancy in this office shall be filled by a special election among the remaining City Commissioners. Any person elected to fill such a vacancy shall serve the remaining portion of the

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term in which the vacancy occurred.” Mayor Reeves added that he had previously asked Commissioner Wolff if she would be willing to be the Mayor Pro-Tempore and she agreed.

Commissioner Tryon moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that the City Commission appoint Commissioner Susan Wolff to serve as Mayor Pro-Tempore, effective immediately, for a two-year term or until the City Commission has held an election.

Mayor Reeves asked if there were any comments from the public or any discussion amongst the Commissioners. Hearing none, Mayor Reeves called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

15.

APPOINTMENT, GREAT FALLS CITIZEN’S COUNCIL.

Mayor Reeves reported that the Great Falls Citizen’s Council was created to act as a forum to address issues of community wide concern and resolve disputes among the individual neighborhood councils. The members are comprised of one member from each neighborhood council and two members of the City Commission who shall be appointed by the Mayor. The council meets three times a year, usually in January, May and October. Last year, the Commission appointed Bob Kelly and Susan Wolff as their representatives for the January meeting, Rick Tryon and Joe McKenney for the May meeting and Eric Hinebauch and Susan Wolff for the October meeting.

This year’s meetings are scheduled for January 23, May 28 and October 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Gibson Room of the Civic Center.

Commissioner Tryon noted a correction to the Agenda Report that he and Bob Kelly were appointed to the October meeting, not Eric Hinebauch and Susan Wolff. Commissioner Tryon suggested appointing two members of the Commission to serve for the January 23, 2024 meeting first and determine which members of the Commission would be available to serve for the May 28 and October 22, 2024 meetings, as those dates get closer.

Commissioner Wolff pointed out that she would not be available for the May 28, 2024 meeting. She added that having the Mayor at the first meeting on January 23, 2024 would be beneficial for the neighborhood council representatives.

Commissioner Tryon moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that the City Commission appoint Mayor Reeves and Commissioner McKenney to serve on the Great Falls Citizen’s Council, also known as Council of Councils, for the January 23, 2024 meeting.

Mayor Reeves asked if there were any comments from the public or any discussion amongst the Commissioners. Hearing none, Mayor Reeves called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

16.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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Commissioner Wolff expressed appreciation to the Public Works Engineering Department for the tour of the Water Treatment Screw Press building. She further expressed appreciation to the Park and Recreation Department and all those involved for their efforts with regard to how the Morony Natatorium was deconstructed and for the way the site was left.

Commissioner Tryon welcomed newly elected Mayor Reeves and Commissioner Wilson.

Commissioner Wilson expressed appreciation to the Department Heads for their efforts with regard to the great tours of their departments. Commissioner Wilson commented that she would like to donate her salary to several organizations in the community that help the unhoused population and this year she is choosing Housed Great Falls. She explained that Housed Great Falls is located in the First United Methodist Church and the email is housedgreatfallsmt@gmail.com for those interested in learning more or volunteering.

Commissioner Tryon expressed appreciation to Commissioner Wilson for offering to donate her salary to Housed Great Falls; however, he commented that the Commission are not salaried employees of the City and receive a stipend.

Commissioner Wilson responded that she was under the impression it was a salary with a small stipend.

17. COMMISSION INITIATIVES.

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Tryon moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to adjourn the regular meeting of January 2, 2024, at 8:00 p.m.**

Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Cory Reeves

Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea

Minutes Approved: January 16, 2024