

From: [Lisa C. Kunz](#)
To: [Cory Reeves](#); [Joe McKenney](#); [Rick Tryon](#); [Shannon Wilson](#); [Susan Wolff](#)
Cc: [Greg Doyon](#); [Charles Anderson](#); [Krista Artis](#); [David Dennis](#); [Susie McIntyre](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment--April 16 Commission Meeting
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 11:36:38 AM

FYI

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 11:35 AM
To: 'jeni@jenidodd.com' <jeni@jenidodd.com>
Subject: RE: Public Comment--April 16 Commission Meeting

Good Morning Jeni – thank you for submitting written comments for item 17 on this evening’s Commission agenda. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz

City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

From: jeni@jenidodd.com <jeni@jenidodd.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 11:29 AM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Public Comment--April 16 Commission Meeting

Please enter the following comments into the public record for the April 16, 2024, City Commission Meeting and distribute them to the city commission. Please indicate receipt of my comments. Thank you.

Agenda Item #17 Library Remodel Design Contract

I oppose the City of Great Falls’ contract with Cushing Terrell for the Library Remodel Design Services.

Why isn’t this contract between the Library Foundation and Cushing Terrell? Why is the City of Great Falls signing this contract?

The Library Foundation is NOT part of the City of Great Falls and instead is a private nonprofit 501 (c) (3). Why would the city sign a contract obligating the city to guarantee payment for a **PRIVATE NONPROFIT**? It is far outside the scope of city responsibilities to do this and I wonder if it is even legal.

There's no signed legal agreement between the Foundation and the City of Great Falls that would obligate the Foundation to pay. Therefore, the city is ultimately responsible for paying this contract and taxpayers are ultimately on the hook for payment of this contract with their taxes.

In fact, here's the language from the contract — ***City agrees to pay Consultant at the hourly rate(s) set forth in the Scope of Services, for a total not to exceed amount of EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY EIGHT DOLLARS (\$873,158.00) for services performed pursuant to the Scope of Services.***

Again, and I can't emphasize this more, it states — ***CITY AGREES TO PAY....***

As a Great Falls taxpayer, I don't agree with potentially being on the hook for this contract. I would opine that I am one of many in Great Falls who feel this way.

Also not found in the contract is a schedule of payment. The narrative on the agenda item states the following:

The Library currently holds \$117,000 in Library funds designated to the remodel project. As Cushing Terrell submits invoices, the Library will use existing funds and then request dedicated funds from the Foundation as needed to pay the invoices.

What does it mean — “the Library currently holds \$117,000 in Library funds designated to the remodel project? I thought it stated the Library Foundation was paying for the remodel design.

But again, there is nothing in the city's contract with Cushing Terrell that states the firm will submit invoices and that the Library Foundation will pay those invoices.

Further, the Library Foundation fund balance was just north of \$400,000, as last reported in the city budget information. So, given those funds, how does the Library Foundation propose to pay the rest of the bill?

By the way, just why does the city holds funds for a private nonprofit?

Jeni Dodd
Jeni

"He who is not angry when there is just cause for anger is immoral. Why? Because anger looks to the good of justice. And if you can live amid injustice without anger, you are immoral as well as unjust" ~ Thomas Aquinas