

**JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS**  
**September 3, 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, Joe McKenney, Rick Tryon, Shannon Wilson, and Susan Wolff. Also present were City Manager Greg Doyon, Public Works City Engineer Jesse Patton, Finance Director Melissa Kinzler, City Attorney David Dennis, Police Chief Jeff Newton, and City Clerk Lisa Kunz.

**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.

**MILITARY UPDATES**

**1. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE (MAFB).**

Airman Linton introduced himself and announced that he came to the United States from Jamaica in 2019. He performs vehicle maintenance for MAFB. He enjoys hiking and camping and that Great Falls has a big soccer community.

Lieutenant Foster introduced herself and announced that she moved here from Pennsylvania in 2022. She serves as the Convoy Commander for MAFB. She enjoys the hiking trails, Giant Springs State Park, Brush Crazy and attending local events in Great Falls.

Colonel Daniel Voorhies, Commander of the 341<sup>st</sup> Missile Wing, announced that since October 27, 1962, amazing men and women have been keeping ICBM's on alert at MAFB. Today, there are 131 men and women on alert at MAFB.

Col. Voorhies provided the following updates:

- Last week MAFB hosted a dinner with the Honorable Melissa Dalton, Under Secretary of the Air Force.
- Sentinel Town Hall meetings will be held September 4 in Lewistown and September 5 at the CMR High School.

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- 2.** Speaking in opposition to the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) recommendation to explore drawing back up to seven (7) mills from the Great Falls Public Library and/or opposition to the negotiations pertaining to a 1993 Agreement between the City of Great Falls and Great Falls Public Library were City residents **Jasmine Taylor, Alice Klundt, Fred Hashley, Cortni Harant,**

# JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

September 3, 2024

**Brittney Uecker, Berkely Rarose, Christoper Filipowicz, Sharon Stearns, Michael Yegerlehner, Amber Cherney, Brandon Fish, Bruce Corda, Pavo Hall, Michael Brainard, Donna Williams, Leila Graham, Molly Beck, Jeffrey Brainard, Gerry Jennings, and Rose Schuster.** They urged the City Commission to respect the will of the voters, and to keep the Library fully funded. Commenters noted that the Library is a safe place, helps to educate children, provides activities and services that many people need, and is an indispensable extension of social services.

Written public comments in opposition to the PSAC's recommendation to explore drawing back up to seven (7) mills from the Great Falls Public Library and/or opposition to the negotiations pertaining to a 1993 Agreement between the City of Great Falls and the Great Falls Public Library were received from: **Kelly McKeehan, Kristen Inbody, Michelle Patterson, Jeff Patterson, Ashlie Clark, Abigail St. Lawrence, Dana Kirkmeyer, Brooke Knowles, Heather Renfro, Annie Simkins, LeAnn Budeski, Nance Beston, Ezmay Newman, Ron Paulick, Gwen Nowak, Tiffany Aldinger, Marilyn Sheffels, Jared Anderson, Shyla Patera, Jim Duffy, Gordon Whirry, Julie Borgreen, Lynn Allison and Jim Heckel.**

**John "Jack" Beckman and Jenni Dodd,** City residents, read from and provided prepared statements in favor of the City removing the 7 mills from Library support to be redistributed to safety needs, and rescinding the 1993 Agreement. The City must fulfill basic obligations of water, sewer and public safety to residents, not wants.

**Coleen Stewart and Kathie Hansen,** Cascade County residents, spoke in support of rescinding the 1993 Agreement and terminating negotiations with the Great Falls Public Library Board of Trustees. The Library is needed, but not at the amount of taxes being given to the Library.

Written public comments in support of the PSAC's recommendation to explore drawing back up to seven (7) mills from the Great Falls Public Library, which could be redirected to public safety and court needs, were received from City residents: **Keith Duncan, Jim and Sharon Thompson, Ginny Rogliano and Liz Ambrose.**

Mayor Reeves called a recess at 8:01 p.m., and called the meeting back to order at 8:03 p.m.

## NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

### 3. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

None.

## BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

### 4. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

None.

## CITY MANAGER

### 5. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS**  
**September 3, 2024**

City Manager Greg Doyon made the following announcements:

- Great Falls Fire Rescue completed installation of a railcar for its hazardous training programs. Appreciation was expressed to Jimmy Filipowicz of Steel Etc., Rhett Hulett of M&D Construction, Sletten Construction and BNSF for facilitating the donation.
- The Great Falls Police Department will be holding a Memorial Ceremony for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Officer Shane Chadwick's line of duty death on September 7, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. at 721 1<sup>st</sup> Alley North.
- The City's free summer parking trial in the North Parking Garage concluded on September 1, 2024. The rates will revert to \$0.50 per hour compared to the \$1.00 per hour for on-street parking. Public parking remains free after 6:00 p.m., weekends and City holidays. The pilot project will be discussed at the October 1, 2024 work session.
- Meredith Dawson has been appointed as the City's new Communications Specialist effective September 9, 2024.
- Kiplinger Personal Finance ranks Great Falls in the top 25 among cheapest places to live in the United States taking into account the unemployment rate, average house price and median household income.
- The Montana Supreme Court recently upheld that communities must comply with state law allowing duplexes and accessory dwelling units in areas zoned for single-family homes.

**CONSENT AGENDA.**

6. Minutes, August 20, 2024, City Commission Meeting.
7. Total Expenditures of \$5,108,307 for the period of August 8, 2024 through August 21, 2024, to include claims over \$25,000, in the amount of \$4,515,156.
8. Contracts List.
9. Approve a Change Order #1 in the amount of \$29,728.60, to the construction contract awarded to United Materials of Great Falls on February 6, 2024 for the Lower Northside Street Reconstruction project and approve Final Payment in the amount of \$103,194.07 to United Materials of Great Falls and \$1,042.36 to the State Miscellaneous Tax Fund, and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents. **OF 1467.2**
10. Approve Change Order No. 8, in the amount of \$12,729.32, to the construction contract awarded to Swank Enterprises on November 2, 2021, for the Indoor Aquatics and Recreation Center, and authorize the City Manager to execute the change order documents. **OF 1770.0**

# JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

September 3, 2024

**Commissioner Wolff moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that the City Commission approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**

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

Motion carried 5-0.

## **CITY COMMISSION**

### **11. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Commissioner Wolff expressed appreciation to MAFB for hosting the dinner with the Hon. Melissa Dalton, Under Secretary of the Air Force, and other officers.

She also thanked the Public Works Department for completion of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street extensive curb cut project.

Commissioner Wilson encouraged local legislators to attend City Commission meetings to learn the struggles of local government and pay attention to what the City is going through.

Mayor Reeves announced that the City Commission would not be considering the PSAC recommendations until the second meeting in October at the earliest. What is frustrating him personally is whether this levy was put to the voters knowing the 7 mills were staying in place or if everyone knew the 7 mills could be renegotiated.

Commissioner Tryon commented that what the voters saw was the language that was on the levy ballot. The language does not mention the 7 mills.

He also noted that the City Commission would not be making any decisions until the Library Board meets on Thursday to vote on the negotiated agreement. It took him by surprise to learn that the Library Board added language to the agreement that was not discussed in the negotiations between the City's negotiating team and the Library's negotiating team the past four months.

### **12. COMMISSION INITIATIVES.**

None.

**JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS**  
**September 3, 2024**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Tryon moved, seconded by Mayor Reeves, to adjourn the regular meeting of September 3, 2024, at 8:16 p.m.**

Motion carried 5-0.

---

Mayor Reeves

---

City Clerk Lisa Kunz

**Minutes Approved: September 17, 2024**