

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 8:41 AM
To: 'Kelly McKeehan'
Subject: RE: Library funding

Thank you for your written public comments, Kelly. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration during the work session this evening.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz
City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

-----Original Message-----

From: Kelly McKeehan <mrmckeehan@charter.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 7:25 AM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Library funding

I'm writing to urge you to vote against the proposed changes to the library funding. We voters increased the library's funding because we see the library as a vital community center and function. We believe in the mission of the library as a key part of a healthy community and a key partner in the education of our citizens. Siphoning money from the library budget to shift it to public safety is contrary to the will of the people who have put you in your position of authority and I truly hope that there will be electoral consequences for the members of the commission proposing this action.

This also smacks of the outrageous and wrong minded culture war the right has decided to hang its hat on. Defunding public institutions, denigrating education and learning, and villainizing marginalized members of the community. I suspect some of you will be the first to throw books on the bonfire which seems like the ultimate outcome of your destructive campaign.

Kelly McKeehan
406-599-8742

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 8:39 AM
To: 'Kristen Inbody'
Subject: RE: Library levy

Thank you for your written public comments, Kristen. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration during the work session this evening.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz
City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

-----Original Message-----

From: Kristen Inbody <kristeninbody@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 8:15 PM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Library levy

I voted for the levy for the LIBRARY! I expect the funds to be used for that purpose only.
Kristen Inbody

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 8:39 AM
To: 'Michelle Patterson'
Subject: RE: Opposition to proposed budget adjustment

Thank you for your written public comments, Michelle. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration during the work session this evening.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz

City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

From: Michelle Patterson <chelle.cat.lover@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 7:52 PM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Opposition to proposed budget adjustment

Dear Mayor Reeves and Commissioners McKenney, Tryon, Wilson and Wolff,

As a fellow member of our community, I oppose the proposed reallocation of 7 mills that have been the base library funding for over 30 years.

Please respect the majority of voters who approved the library levy with the reasonable expectation that those 7 mills would be part of the library's budget. Please consider reallocating from across other parts of the budget rather than pulling from the library against the will of the people.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our city!

Michelle Patterson

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 8:39 AM
To: 'Jeff Patterson'
Subject: RE: Budget reallocation consideration for funding public safety

Thank you for your written public comments, Jeff. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration during the work session this evening.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz

City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

From: Jeff Patterson <jeffp@k12mt.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 7:40 PM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Budget reallocation consideration for funding public safety

Hello Mayor Reeves and City Commissioners:

I know some of you personally. My wife and I have built our businesses here. Our children went through the public education system here. We employ over 20 Montanans through K12 Montana. We love and want to believe in Great Falls.

Do not go down in history as the city leaders that defund public literacy.

You have difficult jobs. The burden of leadership is heavy. I implore you to be reverent and fair, not proud and autocratic.

If you must cut funding to some departments to shore up public safety, please do so by:

1. CUTTING EVENLY (as a percentage) across all non-safety departments
2. ENGAGE THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY WITH REVERENCE, especially those who recently passed the Library mill levy, and ask them for help with a public information campaign regarding city safety.

I have reviewed the 2025 proposed Great Falls budget, and I am sure you are aware there are other options for reappropriation of funds (other than the library general fund support, a traditional support of funds that was factored in as operational by the Library when seeking additional community support). You can apply a more level hand in reappropriations if that is the only option.

I am a citizen of Great Falls. We all want a safe and secure community. We also want reverent leaders who will follow the will of the citizens. To eliminate the 7 mills of historical support funding to the library and redirect them elsewhere via a budgeting technicality is squarely against the will of the populous. I encourage you to find a non-targeted way of balancing the tight budget.

I appreciate each of your willingness to lead. I do not envy your roles. As a citizen of Great Falls, I hold you accountable for being reverent and benevolent. Please do good for Great Falls.

Respectfully,

Jeff Patterson
President, K12 Montana Inc.
President, K12Panel.com
Grateful Citizen

--

Jeff Patterson, President
K12 Montana Inc.
(406) 468-1200 (Great Falls office) / (406) 788-7538 (c)
www.k12mt.com



find me on [linkedin](#)

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 8:37 AM
To: 'Ashlie Clark'
Subject: RE: Library levy

Thank you for your written public comments, Ashlie. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration during the work session this evening.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz
City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

From: Ashlie Clark <ashlieellen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 4:24 PM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Library levy

To whom it may concern,

As a voter and Great Falls resident of 12 years, I am reaching out to you to oppose the proposed reallocation of 7 mills (~\$842,000/year or 27% of the library budget) to support public safety deficits (request 31 million in the public safety bond+levy). I am not okay with the resulting effects to the library that loss of these funds will cause. I expect the commission to honor the will of the voters by maintaining the existing funding structure.

Thank you for your time,

Ashlie Clark

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 8:37 AM
To: 'Abigail St. Lawrence'
Subject: RE: Seven mills for library

Thank you for your written public comments, Abigail. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration during the work session this evening.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz
City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

-----Original Message-----

From: Abigail St. Lawrence <abigail@stlawrencelawfirm.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 4:14 PM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Seven mills for library

Dear City Commissioners-

I am writing to ask you to oppose the proposed reallocation of the 7 mills and let the mills go back to the library to address basic needs. These 7 mills are the base library funding established in 1993 and were calculated into the library levy budget. The loss of these funds would result in the reduction of hours of operation/services and staff layoffs.

I use the library every week for large-type books since I had my stroke 2 years ago. I also am a volunteer at the library weekly to do shelving. Having reduced hours and services would make it that much harder for me to get my books from the library. Also I might not be able to be a volunteer because I would not be able to work as a volunteer on reduced hours.

I expect the commission to honor the will of the voters by maintaining the existing funding structure. Please honor the will of the voters by maintaining the existing funding structure. Thank you.

Abigail St. Lawrence
Attorney at Law and Lobbyist

This message may contain confidential privileged material, including attorney-client communications and attorney work product. This electronic transmission does not constitute a waiver of privilege. Please contact sender immediately if you have received this message in error. Thank you.

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 8:36 AM
To: 'KEN KIRKMEYER'
Subject: RE: Opposition to the proposed reallocation of 7 mills

Thank you for your written public comments, Dana. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration during the work session this evening.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz

City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

From: KEN KIRKMEYER <kirkmeyer@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 3:50 PM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Opposition to the proposed reallocation of 7 mills

I oppose the proposed reallocation of 7 mills (~\$842,000/year or 27% of the library budget) to support public safety deficits (request 31 million in the public safety bond+levy). These 7 mills are the base library funding established in 1993 and were calculated into the library levy budget. The loss of these funds will result in the reduction of hours of operation/ services and staff layoffs. I expect the commission to honor the will of the voters by maintaining the existing funding structure.

Please listen to the will of the voters.

Thank you.

Dana Kirkmeyer
kirkmeyer@msn.com

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 8:36 AM
To: 'Brooke Knowles'
Subject: RE: Opposing library levy reallocation

Thank you for your written public comments, Brooke. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration during the work session this evening.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz
City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

-----Original Message-----

From: Brooke Knowles <brookemknowles@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 3:21 PM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Opposing library levy reallocation

To whom it May concern,

As a voter and Great Falls resident of 15 years, I am reaching out to you to oppose the proposed reallocation of 7 mills (~\$842,000/year or 27% of the library budget) to support public safety deficits (request 31 million in the public safety bond+levy). I am not okay with the resulting effects to the library that loss of these funds will cause. I expect the commission to honor the will of the voters by maintaining the existing funding structure.

Sincerely,
Brooke Knowles

Sent from my iPhone

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 8:36 AM
To: 'A Renfro'
Subject: RE: Library levy

Thank you for your written public comments, Heather. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration during the work session this evening.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz
City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

-----Original Message-----

From: A Renfro <heather_renfro@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 2:23 PM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Library levy

To whom it may concern,

I have read over the proposal to cut the library's 7 levies to 3.5. I have concerns that the library will be under funded and I believe it is in the communities best interest to keep the library open and running as many free programs as possible. Furthermore, as a professional serving the school age children of this community, I know that we have an incredible amount of difficulty with literacy and more the program that that library is starting to improve early literacy is exactly what our community needs. I voted for the library to stay open and I would like my vote to be heard and to mean something. Reneging on your promise does not set well with me and seems extremely unprofessional.

There are a number of scientific studies that indicate that the best way to reduce crime is to improve early childhood services. Please for the betterment of our community, discontinue the thought that the money should be taken from the community service of the library. I use the library and its services frequently, take my children there, and use it for my work. Having the library open 7 days a week is extremely beneficial to me. Working with early childhood literacy in my work, I have access to a number of books and resources that I wouldn't have otherwise.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

A. Heather Renfro

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 8:32 AM
To: 'Annie Simkins'
Subject: RE: Urgent: Support for Maintaining Library Funding in Great Falls

Thank you for your written public comments, Annie. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration during the work session this evening.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz

City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

From: Annie Simkins <simkins.ann@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 2:18 PM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Urgent: Support for Maintaining Library Funding in Great Falls

Dear Great Falls City Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for keeping the 7 mills that have been allocated to the Great Falls Public Library since 1993. These funds, amounting to approximately \$842,000 annually and representing 27% of the library's budget, are crucial for the library's continued operation. The recent passing of the levy does not justify reallocating these essential funds, as they were already factored into the library's budget planning.

Reducing or eliminating this base funding would have severe consequences, including reduced hours of operation, diminished services, and potential staff layoffs. The library is a cornerstone of our community, providing vital resources and services that support education, literacy, and community engagement. Any reduction in its funding would be a significant loss to the residents of Great Falls.

I urge the commission to honor the will of the voters and maintain the existing funding structure for the Great Falls Public Library. Reallocating these funds to address public safety deficits, despite the separate request for \$31 million in the public safety bond and levy, undermines the library's ability to serve our community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I hope you will consider the long-term impact of these decisions on our community and support keeping the 7 mills allocated to the library.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Annie Simkins M. Ed.
3015 2nd Ave N
Great Falls, MT 59401
Sent from my iPad

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 8:29 AM
To: 'LeAnn Budeski'
Subject: RE: Library funding issue

Thank you for your written public comments, LeAnn. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration during the work session this evening.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz
City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

-----Original Message-----

From: LeAnn Budeski <bbudeski@bresnan.net>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 1:28 PM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Library funding issue

I OPPOSE the cutting of the 7 Mills for the Great Falls Public Library!
Sent from my iPhone

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 8:17 AM
To: 'Nance Beston'
Subject: RE: Library Funding

Thank you for your written public comments, Nance. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration during the work session this evening.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz

City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

From: Nance Beston <nancebeston@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 31, 2024 6:05 PM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Library Funding

Dear Great Falls City Commissioners,

I hope this message finds you well. I wish to express my deep concern regarding the potential reallocation of library funding to public safety. Last year's failed levy for public safety and the successful one for our library demonstrate the clear intent of our community to prioritize educational resources.

Taking funds away from the library undermines the voters' wishes and jeopardizes vital services that benefit all residents. This is simply not democracy if you're willing to change what voters, such as myself made very clear to you.

I hope you listen to the voters, who elected you into power, at this upcoming council meeting.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,
Nance Beston
406-781-7514
Nancebeston@gmail.com

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 8:17 AM
To: 'Free Little Library Project'
Subject: RE: Library funding.

Thank you for your written public comments, Ezmay. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration during the work session this evening.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz

City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

From: Free Little Library Project <freelittlelibraryproject@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 31, 2024 5:07 PM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Library funding.

Good evening,

My name is Ezmay and I am the founder and creator of the Free Little Library Project. I build and send libraries all over our state of Montana, I do this for free. And you might ask why, and it is because people need books, people need the resources that are locked away. What I cannot give them is a safe access to study materials, a quiet room to take a test, someone who can help them access archives, find law books, or run a lego club, programming club or Minecraft club but the library does.

The library is so much more than a place with shelves that houses books.

Continue to fund the library, give the monies you have promised. Your community deserves it. You deserve it. Do not deny your community such a valuable and irreplaceable source of knowledge.

Founder of the Free Little Library Project
Ezmay Newman

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 8:16 AM
To: 'R Paulick'
Subject: RE: 9/3/24 Commission Work Session: Public Safety Advisory Commission - City-Library 1993 Agreement

Thank you for your written public comments, Ron. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration during the work session this evening.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz

City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

From: R Paulick <rkpaulick@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 1, 2024 7:43 PM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: 9/3/24 Commission Work Session: Public Safety Advisory Commission - City-Library 1993 Agreement

Commenter: Ron Paulick, 708 56 St So, Great Falls

Comment:

Comment:

Thank you for this opportunity.

I was a supporter of both the 2023 Library and Public Safety mill levies.

It's possible that a more thorough discussion with public notification and input is needed regarding the 1993 Agreement between Library and City.

I feel there is a lack of understanding, in general, about agreements.

Possibly the City Attorney, at a timely Commission meeting, could briefly explain agreements like the 1993 one. The why, how, purpose, life, and process of changing might be part of that.

Restoring faith that the City Commission **is not against** supporting the Library is essential. It might be useful to briefly restate the city's changed situation regarding fire and police protection. Along with the repercussions resulting from the failed 2023 Safety Mill levy. Addressing the complexity and inadequacy of state funding also helps to inform the public.

Offering a simple statement might help. Such as:

We have a 1993 Agreement that due to years passing, has changed the governing process for both Great Falls and our Library. We now need to discuss alternative options for this Agreement so both parties can move forward. All of us understand the library, fire and police protection are all essential functions for a better society. So let's sit down and do the work as a team for Great Falls.

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 10:17 AM
To: 'Gwen Nowak'
Subject: RE: Library

Thank you for your written public comments, Gwen. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for their consideration.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz
City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

-----Original Message-----

From: Gwen Nowak <gcnowak134@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 10:06 AM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Library

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in opposition to moving funds from the library to another entity. Manipulating and diverting library funds that voters approved feels wrong to me besides hurting community services provided by the library.

As a longtime community member, I also supported the public safety levy. It seems possible that the public safety levy could be modified to gain the support of the majority of voters.

Sincerely,
Gwen Nowak

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 10:28 AM
To: 'Tiffany Aldinger'
Subject: RE: Library

Thank you for your written public comments, Tiffany. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for their consideration.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz
City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

From: Tiffany Aldinger <tiffany.aldinger@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 10:22 AM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Library

Dear Commissioners:

I am absolutely appalled and disgusted that members of the Great Falls City Commission are even considering taking money from the Great Falls Public Library, and I am livid that the Commission thinks it has the right to undo the will of the voters.

This town knows that good schools, parks, and a strong library are essential, and we very specifically voted that way last year. We knew the details going in, and we made our decision. That you don't agree does not give you the right to change the outcome.

If you believe that the Public Safety levy failed because the vote was held after property tax notifications went out, I invite you to bring the issue up to the Montana Legislature and Gov. Greg Gianforte. Ask them why they decided it was more important to spend the last two weeks of the session fighting a useless culture war battle instead of working for the people of this state.

In addition, the amount you are looking to steal from the library is a tiny, tiny fraction of what was requested for the Public Safety levy. The library will be able to do far more with that money than the city will for public safety. If you need more money, perhaps you can ask Calumet to pay what they owe.

This is nothing more than a vindictive move made by certain commissioners who are mad they didn't get their way, and that the idea has even been entertained this far is embarrassing and shameful.

Tiffany Aldinger

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 11:46 AM
To: 'John Sheffels'
Subject: FW: reallocation of 7 mills

My apologies. Thank you for your written public comments, Marilyn!

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz

City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 11:42 AM
To: 'John Sheffels' <787johns@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: reallocation of 7 mills

Thank you for your written public comments, John. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for their consideration.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz
City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

From: John Sheffels <787johns@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 11:18 AM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: reallocation of 7 mills



I oppose the reallocation of 7 mills from the library budget. I voted for the library levy in June 2023 and have supported the expansion of library services since that time. Unfortunately the public safety levy failed in November 2023, but it is wrong to take away the base

library funding established back in 1993 in order to make up the shortfall in police and fire funding.

Please listen to the will of the voters. Keep the library services at the present level.

Marilyn Sheffels
39 Prospect Drive
Great Falls, MT 59405

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 11:43 AM
To: 'Jared Anderson'
Subject: RE: Do not take away the libraries funding

Thank you for your written public comments, Jared. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for their consideration.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz
City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

From: Jared Anderson <babyj61@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 11:25 AM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Do not take away the libraries funding

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jared Anderson and I'm writing this email as I will not be able to attend the public discussion today about the Library contract and funding negotiations. I implore all city commissioners please **DO NOT** remove the library's funding. We as voters told you what we wanted our tax money to go to. We opposed the safety levy and approved the library's increase in funding. Taking the 27% budget from the Library is a literal spit in the face to all the voting residents of Cascade County, it also would show the City commissioner's office holds no regard for the United States democratic voting procedures and will stop at nothing to hurt the community. We the people of Cascade spoke our voice with what we wanted the funding priorities of Great Falls to be, do not go against the people's wishes. I'm a registered voter and I vote in every election.

Thank you,

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 11:44 AM
To: 'Shyla Patera'
Subject: RE: Public Safety levy proposal

Thank you for your written public comments, Shyla. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for their consideration.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz
City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

-----Original Message-----

From: Shyla Patera <shycpat@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 11:37 AM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Public Safety levy proposal

My name is Shyla Patera. I am a city resident of the Westside Northwest Bypass area and I write to comment on the work session regarding the proposal to utilize Great Falls Public Library to cover public safety needs. As one who voted for both the library in the public safety levy,

I do not recommend this policy option because the library serves as a vital services available to all residents of Great Falls. The Great Falls Public Library does serve a vital function when it comes to public safety in our community by providing opportunities to not only access, reading materials or computers, e-books and services I must admit, although it was a long time ago, without the Great Falls Public Library and its services, I wouldn't have been able to complete my BA at Montana State University. I had to take medical leave for a year from MSU and without the help of both MSU and GFPL, I would not have my degree. Times have changed since then for me, the GFPL has served as a base where clients and I can meet through my job at North Central Independent Living Services, Inc. I have attended programs, checked out both books and e-books. I am a frequent visitor to the self help law center, and have a visit at the genealogy room. held and attended meetings in the Cordingley Room, Without Susie Macintyre and her staff. my friends and I would not have been able to enter the 2024 Easter Seals Disability Film Challenge as we couldn't figure out editing capabilities. If you want to check out the film, it's called Shyla's Crosswalk Grudge Match! Thank you to the library staff for this.

As you can see,

The Great Falls Library staff deal with new technologies are community issues and so much more. By keeping the library mills intact, and as supported on by the vote of city residents, we are showing, as a community, how we value education as a component of public safety. While there are discussions about both public safety and the library we need to ask ourselves, Why are we pitting one needed service against another needed service as both functions are needed for successful communities? Unfortunately, not everyone agreed with the public safety options during election time, and if it were up to me, both would've passed, I really appreciate the work of GFPD, GFFR, GFPL. but I really believe that we do need a public library that offers multiple services at its flagship location as well as in our city and county communities.

Shyla Patera
1013 7th Avenue, Northwest Great Falls Montana 59404

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 1:09 PM
To: 'Ginny Rogliano'
Subject: RE: Adjustment of Library 7 Mills

Thank you for your written public comments, Ginny. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for their consideration.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz
City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

From: Ginny Rogliano <grogliano5@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 11:54 AM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Adjustment of Library 7 Mills

I understand the adjustment of the Library 7 Mills is under consideration.

Is there statistical information available regarding the actual attendance at the Great Falls Library by day and time?

Perhaps expanded hours are not cost effective or being used. Perhaps additional staff is not really needed.

It appears perhaps it was poor planning to allow the Library Levy Election to take priority over the Public Safety Levy.

This situation could have easily been avoided.

With the increase in crime and the growing drug problem, Public Safety should have been the major focus..

With the current increases in taxes that residents are incurring, the Library should also be responsible for cutbacks and better allotment of their funds.

We have all had to adjust our budgets.

As an individual with a business background, I would request the Great Falls City Commission remove itself in total from the 1993 Agreement with the Great Falls Library and take back the 7 Mills to be used towards the safety and wellbeing of the Great Falls residents.

With the economic climate everyone is experiencing, this 31 year old agreement should be withdrawn. In the spirit of cooperation, certainly the voters of Great Falls would be accepting and understanding of this necessary adjustment.

This is a reasonable and responsible action to take.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Rogliano
Great Falls, Montana 59404

Lisa C. Kunz

From: City of Great Falls Montana <greatfalls-mt@municodeweb.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 7:56 AM
To: City Commissioners
Subject: [All City Commissioners] Seven mills for library

James Duffy (duffje@msn.com) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

Dear City Commissioners,

I've seen reported that you are intent on removing the seven mills of library funding against the will of the voters. The library mill levy was designed, understood by all parties including the city commission, and approved by the voters with the understanding that the seven mills would continue to be allocated to the library. Going back on this agreement is classic "bait and switch" tactics and is quite dishonorable.

Unless a future public safety levy includes restoring these seven mills to the library, I will vote against any public safety levy that you put forward. Furthermore, any commissioners who vote to approve pulling these funds from the library will not receive my vote in future elections.

Jim Duffy

Lisa C. Kunz

From: City of Great Falls Montana <greatfalls-mt@municodeweb.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 9:56 PM
To: City Commissioners
Subject: [All City Commissioners] Reclaim the 7 mills contained in the 1993 Library Service Agreement

Keith Duncan (kduncan632@gmail.com) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

Dear Commissioners,

As the governing body of the City of Great Falls it is the responsibility of the City Commission to prioritize the needs of the city and allocate the tax money accordingly.

The current problem that the City Commission and the Library find themselves in is largely one that is a result of the Commission's failure to prioritize the needs the city is faced with. In 2009 the city proposed a Safety Levy which was defeated. The city has continued to grow and expand but safety services have not kept up. In 2022 the City Commission approved the now infamous Library Levy referendum. At that time the Commission was aware that they had an ever-increasing Safety funding problem, but rather than prioritize the obvious Safety need, the Commission caved to the shrill cries of the library supporters! This failure of leadership and vision has put the city in the spot it finds itself in today.

As we all know the Safety Levy was soundly defeated in 2023, yet the challenges our protective services face have not gone away. It's time the City Commission began placing NEEDS over WANTS!

The Library Levy passed, and with the mill value increase they have seen their revenue increase way beyond what they asked for in 2023. The Library Director and the Library Board are aware that they are now fat with cash and the Director is spending it just as fast as she can! To the point that she ran out of money and has had to 'borrow' hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Library Foundation to maintain operations!

Re-negotiating the 1993 Library Services agreement is long overdue. It appears to me that the City is being very generous with their "last, best" offer. I would suggest that the City immediately reclaim the 7 mills in question and re-allocate those funds to public safety, which is a much higher priority.

This re-allocation is within the spirit and the letter of the 2023 Library Levy. Library Board Chair Olson is on record saying that a re-allocation would be "...at the expense of the library's ability to fulfill its obligation to the voters." This statement is a canard! The library's revenue, minus the 7 mills, will be in excess of was presented to the public as their need in 2023. In other words, they got what they asked for and now they'd like a million (approx.) more, thank you very much!

As the elected body that is responsible for the management of our city, please allow me to encourage you to take the following action.

- Re-claim the 7 mills that is in question. Public Safety is a higher priority than where it is currently being spent. Rip off the band-aid!
- Secondly, please adopt an official Hierarchy of Needs for the city that will allow the Commission to judge the relative importance of the demands of various departments. Hopefully, this will assist the commission to prioritize NEEDS versus WANTS.

Without a clear order of priority, the Commission will continue to lurch from on one crisis to another because there is no direction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Keith Duncan

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Gordon Whirry <gwhirry@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 1:51 PM
To: City Commissioners; Greg Doyon; Susie Mcintyre
Subject: Respect the voters who supported library funding

I strongly object to any attempt by the City Commission to eliminate the 7 mill library funding that has been a stable commitment since 1993. This was also reaffirmed by the Commission in December of 2022. In June of 2023 voters indicated their support for funding increased library services and the 17 mills. They chose not to fund the proposed safety levy. To now divert approved library funds to other City uses is to ignore the expressed will of the voters. As promised, the library has expanded services and hired needed staff. Public response to this has been positive. Without the agreed funding, these newly expanded services will need to be cut. This is not the approach other major Montana cities have taken. Our library is far behind other major libraries in the state and needs more rather than less support.

Cutting library services is short sighted and a disservice to our community. It seems to me that our youth, job seekers and other citizens who are encouraged to read, use library resources and participate in local events are much less likely to require policing.

Gordon Whirry
1912 4th Ave. North, Great Falls, MT

Lisa C. Kunz

From: City of Great Falls Montana <greatfalls-mt@municodeweb.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 11:43 AM
To: City Commissioners
Subject: [All City Commissioners] Removal GFPL 7 mills

Julia Borgreen (jborgreen@me.com) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

Dear Commissioners

I voted to support both the public safety levy and the public library levy. While it's disappointing that the public safety levy failed, it is unethical to remove long standing mills from the public library to make only a small dent in the public safety budget. The negative impact to the library and the patrons that depend on its services is substantial. Your proposal to move 7 mills from the library budget is the classic example of robbing Peter to pay Paul. I demand you honor the will of the voters. The Great Falls Public Library has been the heart and soul of this city for many years. Although I certainly understand the need for public safety funding, the amount received from the library would only make a negligible impact for the safety needs. Thus, we end up with two important components of our city life ineffective rather than just one.

Sincerely,
Julia Borgreen
75-year resident of the City of Great Falls

Lisa C. Kunz

From: City of Great Falls Montana <greatfalls-mt@municodeweb.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 1, 2024 5:45 PM
To: City Commissioners
Subject: [All City Commissioners] Library Funding

Lynn Allison (riclynallison@msn.com) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

I am totally opposed to the removal of \$1,000,000 of funding from the library's funding. You will be overturning the will of the voters who approved the additional levy, with the 7 mills remaining intact. Commission members and Great Falls residents need to put the pressure on state legislators to see that cities and counties are adequately funded so that local homeowners don't have to constantly pass additional levies to maintain adequate services. Every break given to wealthy individuals and corporations places the burden on the backs of the middle class and local cities and counties. Local governments are not wasting money, they are being starved by the state which had a huge surplus.

CITY OF
GREAT FALLS
MONTANA

Check the Status of Your Ticket

Ticket ID

29478043b

Respect voters who supported library funding

Status: Closed**Assigned To:** Ikunz (City Commission)**Ticket ID:** 29478043b**Email:** gwhirry@gmail.com**Name:** Gordon Whirry**Phone Number:** 4067816107

I strongly object to any attempt by the City Commission to eliminate the 7 mill library funding that has been a stable commitment since 1993. This was also reaffirmed by the Commission in December of 2022. In June of 2023 voters indicated their support for funding increased library services and the 17 mills. They chose not to fund the proposed safety levy. To now divert approved library funds to other City uses is to ignore the expressed will of the voters. As promised, the library has expanded services and hired needed staff. Public response to this has been positive. Without the agreed funding, these newly expanded services will need to be cut. This is not the approach other major Montana cities have taken. Our library is far behind other major libraries in the state and needs more rather than less support.

Cutting library services is short sighted and a disservice to our community. It seems to me that our youth, job seekers and other citizens who are encouraged to read, use library resources and participate in local events are much less likely to require policing.

Ticket History

Closed

Updated By: lkunz

Assigned To: lkunz (City Commission)

Thank you for your written public comments, Gordon. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration during the work session this evening.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz

City Clerk/Records Manager

09/03/2024 - 8:30am

New

Assigned To:

Citizen request/question created.

09/02/2024 - 1:54pm

Disclosures

Certain messages sent through this form may constitute a public record and be subject to disclosure under state law.

Communications sent via the Internet or through this Web page shall in no way be deemed to constitute legal notice to the City or any of its officers, agents, or employees, where notice to the City is required by any law, rule, regulation or contract.

[Home](#) [Contact Us](#) [Sitemap](#) [Disclaimer](#) [Dashboard](#) [Logout](#)



City of Great Falls | P.O. Box 5021 | Great Falls, MT 59403

a municode design

CITY OF GREAT FALLS MONTANA

Search

Ticket Comment *Ticket Comment* has been created.

Check the Status of Your Ticket

Ticket ID

294762a95

Apply

Update Ticket/Add Comment

Proposed cuts to library budget

Status: Closed

Assigned To: Ikunz (City Commission)

Ticket ID: 294762a95

Email: jheckel8@msn.com

Name: Jim Heckel

Phone Number: 406-454-1465

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Jim Heckel and I reside at 3012 Carmel Dr, Great Falls. I served as Library director for 21 years. As director I was instrumental in negotiating the funding agreement between the City and the Library Board for 7 mils in 1993.

When I became director, the library had suffered through an even worse funding crisis than was evident in the recent years preceding the recent bond passage. When I arrived, the library was open 5 days a week and no evenings or weekends. There was no book budget. Only half the building lighting was used. The Cordingley Room was closed and no programs were available. The library was not computerized and the Foundation had only \$65,000.

A bond issue of \$400,000 had been passed the previous year, the last bond passed prior to the current one. Unfortunately, over one-fourth of the bond had to be spent removing asbestos from the original building, which had not

been previously detected. The rest was spent computerizing the library and reopening additional hours. However, this did not address operational day-to-day expenses.

The seven-mil agreement was a God-send. It provided a base for the library to expand service hours, buy books and rehire staff. It also allowed the City to become a much more desirable place. This worked extremely well for the 21 years of my tenure.

I must point out that a large deficit faced by the City afterward was addressed in good part by large cuts to the library budget over several years.

The library is a vital, much -loved service in our community. This was evidenced by the passage of the recent library bond . Altering the intent of that bond is, in my view, a violation of the democratic process.

Of course ,Police and Fire are vital, base services and should be funded as fully as possible. I voted for the Safety Bond myself. I would support another bond attempt. But I do not support altering the intent of the voters to strengthen, not weaken, library services.

Jim Heckel
406-454-1465
Jheckel8@msn.com

Ticket History

Closed

Updated By: lkunz

Assigned To: lkunz (City Commission)

Thank you for your written public comments, Jim. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration during the work session this evening.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz
City Clerk/Records Manager

09/03/2024 - 8:31am

New

Assigned To:

Citizen request/question created.

09/02/2024 - 12:58pm

Disclosures

Certain messages sent through this form may constitute a public record and be subject to disclosure under state law.

Communications sent via the Internet or through this Web page shall in no way be deemed to constitute legal notice to the City or any of its officers, agents, or employees, where notice to the City is required by any law, rule, regulation or contract.

[Home](#) [Contact Us](#) [Sitemap](#) [Disclaimer](#) [Dashboard](#) [Logout](#)



City of Great Falls | P.O. Box 5021 | Great Falls, MT 59403

a municode design

CITY OF GREAT FALLS MONTANA

Search

Ticket Comment *Ticket Comment* has been created.

Check the Status of Your Ticket

Ticket ID

294793f75

Apply

Update Ticket/Add Comment

1993 Agreement with the Library

Status: Open

Email: st.hitthegroundrunning@outlook.com

Assigned To: lkunz (City Commission)

Name: Jim & Sharon Thompson

Ticket ID: 294793f75

Phone Number: 406-217-2439

As residents of Great Falls, Jim & Sharon Thompson, we are stating the importance of The City to get OUT of the 1993 Agreement with the Library and take back the 7 mills!

Thank you for listening to our statement concerning how the city of Great Falls is spending our tax dollars and taking positive action in this direction.

Sincerely,

Jim & Sharon Thompson

Ticket History

Open

Updated By: lkunz

Assigned To: lkunz (City Commission)

Thank you for your written public comments, Jim and Sharon. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for their consideration.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz
City Clerk/Records Manager

09/03/2024 - 10:48am

New

Assigned To:

Citizen request/question created.

09/03/2024 - 10:45am

Disclosures

Certain messages sent through this form may constitute a public record and be subject to disclosure under state law.

Communications sent via the Internet or through this Web page shall in no way be deemed to constitute legal notice to the City or any of its officers, agents, or employees, where notice to the City is required by any law, rule, regulation or contract.

[Home](#) [Contact Us](#) [Sitemap](#) [Disclaimer](#) [Dashboard](#) [Logout](#)



City of Great Falls | P.O. Box 5021 | Great Falls, MT 59403

a municode design

Lisa C. Kunz

From: City of Great Falls Montana <greatfalls-mt@municodeweb.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 10:53 AM
To: Lisa C. Kunz
Subject: New Ticket Comment: 294793f75 - 1993 Agreement with the Library

Ticket Topic: 1993 Agreement with the Library
Ticket ID: 294793f75

Assignee: lkunz
Department: City Commission

Comment:

Dear City Commissioners,
This is Jim & Sharon Thompson reiterating our concern & statement for the City to get OUT of the 1993 Agreement with the Library and take back the 7 mills! Thank you for taking positive steps in this direction & using wisdom in how our tax dollars are being spent here in Great Falls. These funds need to go toward the safety levy!

Sincerely,
Jim & Sharon Thompson

Please do not reply to this message. Submit all comments/responses through the given link.

Lisa C. Kunz

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 11:13 AM
To: 'st.hitthegroundrunning@outlook.com'
Subject: RE: New Ticket Comment: 294793f75 - 1993 Agreement with the Library

Thank you for your written public comments, Jim and Sharon. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for their consideration.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz
City Clerk/Records Manager

From: City of Great Falls Montana <greatfalls-mt@municodeweb.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 10:53 AM
To: Lisa C. Kunz <lkunz@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: New Ticket Comment: 294793f75 - 1993 Agreement with the Library

Ticket Topic: 1993 Agreement with the Library
Ticket ID: 294793f75

Assignee: lkunz
Department: City Commission

Comment:

Dear City Commissioners,
This is Jim & Sharon Thompson reiterating our concern & statement for the City to get OUT of the 1993 Agreement with the Library and take back the 7 mills! Thank you for taking positive steps in this direction & using wisdom in how our tax dollars are being spent here in Great Falls. These funds need to go toward the safety levy!

Sincerely,
Jim & Sharon Thompson

Please do not reply to this message. Submit all comments/responses through the given link.