

# JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

April 16, 2024

Special City Commission Meeting

Mayor Reeves presiding  
Civic Center Gibson Room 212

**CALL TO ORDER:** 4:00 PM

**ROLL CALL/STAFF INTRODUCTIONS:** City Commission members present: Cory Reeves, Joe McKenney, Rick Tryon and Susan Wolff. Commissioner Shannon Wilson was excused. Also present were City Manager Greg Doyon and Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson; Finance Director Melissa Kinzler and Deputy Director Kirsten Wavra; City Attorney David Dennis; and Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea.

**CONFLICT DISCLOSURE/EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

## 1. **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Written correspondence was received from **Richard Liebert**, 289 Boston Coulee Road, via April 16, 2024 email, commended the City for engaging energy professional Jim Morin for his consulting services, experience and wisdom with regard to improving energy efficiency within City government and promoting conservation.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## 2. **CITY OF GREAT FALLS REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR ELECTRIC SUPPLY.**

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that the City purchased its own electricity on the open market, which initially provided and afforded the City a significant amount of electric savings until a couple years ago when there was a significant rate adjustment. The City has retained the services of Jim Morin (PowerGas Corporation) to provide consulting services related to the City's electric power supply. Consultant Morin has been exploring options to reduce the City's energy costs and for a better rate. The City, through Consultant Morin, issued Request for Proposals (RFP) prior to the expiration of the current agreement in November 2024 and four proposals were received.

Consultant Jim Morin, PowerGas Corporation, reported that the value of being able to choose a provider through a competitive bid process is having the opportunity to take advantage of favorable market conditions. The timing was good for the City with regard to the result of this bid process. When considering a provider, he looks at their price, history, knowledge and security of supply. Suppliers have a variety of resources and if for any reason they cannot get that supply of energy to the City, the City has a default supplier, which is the imbalance market that NorthWestern Energy participates in, so the City will not ever be without power.

City Attorney David Dennis recommended that the Commission consider closing a portion of this session for discussion regarding competitive trade secrets.

**Commissioner Wolff moved, seconded by Commissioner McKenney, that the City Commission close the meeting based upon the rationale expressed by the City Attorney.**

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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 4-0.

At 4:14 pm, the City Commission, City Manager Doyon, Deputy City Manager Anderson, Finance Director Kinzler, Deputy Finance Director Wavra, City Attorney Dennis, Consultant Morin and Deputy City Clerk Dea met in executive session in the City Manager's office for the purpose of discussing proposal pricing and relative evaluation of the bid proposals.

- - EXECUTIVE SESSION - -

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The meeting reconvened into an open meeting in the Gibson Room. Mayor Reeves called the meeting back to order at 4:42 p.m.

Mayor Reeves reported that no decisions or votes were made during the closed session. The Commission discussed the bidders, their credit qualities, abilities to deliver the electrical supply, what would happen if there were a failure to deliver, what types of risks there were for the City and purchaser, as well as the pricing and term of a contract. The rate information will be available to the public in two weeks.

**Commissioner Tryon moved, seconded by Commissioner Wolff, that the City Commission accept a proposal from Guzman Energy for a period of two years for electricity supply to the City of Great Falls and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary supply agreements.**

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 4-0.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Mayor Reeves adjourned the special meeting of April 16, 2024, at 4:50 p.m.**

Motion carried 4-0.

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Mayor Cory Reeves

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Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea

**Minutes Approved: May 7, 2024**