

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
January 21, 2025

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 Director Chris Gaub, Planning and Community Development Director Brock Cherry, Finance Director Melissa Kinzler, Park & Recreation Director Steve Herrig, Deputy City Attorney Rachel Taylor, Fire Chief Jeremy Jones, 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.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

1. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM SHERIFF JESSE SLAUGHTER.

Cascade County Sheriff Jesse Slaughter made the following announcements and updates to the Commission:

- He plans on testifying in opposition and encouraged staff to monitor SB 94 because it could create more issues for local government.
- Construction of the entire booking facility will soon begin at the jail with the use of ARPA funds.
- Cascade County was awarded a Homeland Security grant for the purchase of an armored vehicle that will be used by the Central Montana High Risk Unit (HRU).
- Kami Stone has been hired to run and facilitate the Crisis Intervention Program. The program is in the infancy stage and they are currently working on policies and awaiting a contract from the State pertaining to reimbursements. For their long-term goal, they need crisis intervention beds.

Commissioner Wolff inquired the status of the crisis intervention beds at the Indian Family Health Center.

Sheriff Slaughter clarified that it is currently in the RFQ process and the State is working on finalizing language pertaining to those allocations, so he cannot guarantee the location at this time.

Commissioner Wilson is looking forward to completion of the new booking facility for increased officer safety and inmate welfare and security.

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

January 21, 2025

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

2. **Lela Graham**, 1500 5th Street NW, Chairperson of Housed Great Falls, commented that Housed Great Falls runs the cold weather drop in center at First United Methodist Church. She reported that the cold weather drop in at the Church was open nine nights in November, five nights in December, and all nights to date in January. In November and December, they averaged 23 people and 27 people so far in January. She invited the Commission to visit the drop in center to see what they do.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

3. **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

None.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

4. **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

None.

5. **APPOINTMENT TO THE CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH.**

Mayor Reeves reported that the City-County Board of Health was created through an *Agreement* entered into between Cascade County and the City of Great Falls in 1975 to establish a board of health as contemplated by the provisions of Montana law relating to local boards of health, specifically § 50-2-106, MCA. Under the terms of the 1975 *Agreement*, the City-County Board of Health consists of seven members.

City representative Amanda Ball was appointed by the City Commission on April 16, 2019 and has served two full terms with her most recent term ending on December 31, 2024. The City advertised for citizen interest and received an application from Ms. Laurie Bernhardt Glover. This application was forwarded to Health Officer Abigail Hill for the board to review and provide a formal recommendation on the applicant. Ms. Hill was notified by County Commissioner Joe Briggs that the Board would not be making a recommendation. The application is being forwarded for City Commission for appointment consideration.

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Wolff, that the City Commission appoint Laurie Bernhardt Glover to the City-County Board of Health as the City's resident representative for a three-year term through December 31, 2027.

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

Commissioners Wilson and Wolff know Ms. Glover and spoke highly of her as a professional nursing student teacher, as well as her involvement in the community.

Commissioner McKenney inquired if Commissioner Wilson was at the Board of Health meeting when this appointment was discussed.

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

January 21, 2025

Commissioner Wilson explained that the Board Chair and Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney Carey Ann Haight agreed that, because this was a City appointee application, they would not discuss it at the meeting or provide a formal recommendation. Commissioner Wilson reviewed Ms. Glover's resume and again noted she would highly recommend her.

Commissioner Wolff concurred, adding that she does not think the Commission could find someone more qualified or more passionate about public health.

Mayor Reeves called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

CITY MANAGER

6. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

City Manager Greg Doyon made the following announcements and reports:

- Police Officers Jasmine Roybal, Nicholas Bowley and Emily Dalton were sworn in today, and will be starting the Police Academy this week.
- Since December 30, 2024, Great Falls had 18 days of snowfall totaling 20 inches. In terms of equipment, that included driving approximately 13,239 miles and about 1,300 hours of driving time and labor, which included about 512 hours of overtime. Over 1,532 tons of sand has been used to treat the roads.
- Renovations being paid for by the State-Local Infrastructure Partnership Act (SLIPA) grant at the Great Falls Animal Shelter will begin in February with demolishing the floors in the dog area. They will also start replacing the plumbing in that facility, which is a primary driver for the project. The dog kennels and floor will be resurfaced, repairs done to the utility area, and then exterior door replacement. Local partners are being contacted to see if they will be able to accept animals in the meantime, including foster care. Offsite locations, existing facilities, and rental locations are also being explored to try to accommodate animals. This time period was chosen because it is statistically the lowest intake period for animals coming in to the facility.
- He and Commissioner McKenney, along with a couple of senators and representatives, participated in the first legislative meeting with the City's hired lobbyist today. He has had almost daily contact with the lobbyist to provide direction. Regular updates about what he is hearing and what is going on in Helena will be provided under legislative updates on the agendas.
- The company the City contracts with for parking services experienced a computer glitch that sent out letters to people who received courtesy tickets that incorrectly said if they received another ticket their vehicle would get booted. Planning and Community Development Director Brock Cherry has met with representatives of the company. Apology letters are forthcoming.

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

January 21, 2025

Mayor Reeves received clarification that a temporary animal shelter would require flooring that could be properly cleaned. The flooring and the work that would be involved in the Children's Museum building would not accommodate that.

Commissioner Tryon received clarification that the Animal Shelter Renovations project timeline is February 1 to April 1, 2025.

Commissioner Wolff commented that Laramie Smovir is doing an amazing job as Animal Shelter Manager.

CONSENT AGENDA.

7. Minutes, January 7, 2025, City Commission Meeting.
8. Total Expenditures of \$6,396,747 for the period of December 19, 2024 through January 2, 2025, to include claims over \$25,000, in the amount of \$3,775,036.
9. Contracts List.
10. Approve the cancellation of City of Great Falls checks that remain outstanding and unpaid for a period of one year or longer as authorized by § 7-6-4303, MCA, and authorize redistribution to the General Fund and the Municipal Court Unclaimed Restitution Fund.
11. Approve the final payment for the 32nd Street South ADA Upgrades, Phase 1, in the amount of \$30,669.02 to United Materials of Great Falls, Inc., and \$309.79 to the State Miscellaneous Tax Fund and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents. **OF 1788.1**
12. Approve the final payment for the East Fiesta Street Reconstruction, in the amount of \$45,831.98 to United Materials of Great Falls, Inc., and \$462.95 to the State Miscellaneous Tax Fund and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents. **OF 1787.0**

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.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

OLD BUSINESS

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

January 21, 2025

13. AMENDMENT AND EXTENSION OF ANACONDA HILLS GOLF COURSE AND EAGLE FALLS GOLF CLUB MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH COURSECO, INC. D/B/A GREAT FALLS GOLF, LLC.

Park and Recreation Director Steve Herrig reported that staff is recommending that the City Commission approve a Management Agreement extension with CourseCo, Inc. for the term February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2030, and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement.

As discussed at tonight's work session, this agreement is a five-year extension with the possibility of an additional five years. With both extensions, there would be a monetary commitment from CourseCo toward capital equipment or capital improvements at the golf courses.

The City has been working with CourseCo since 2019. Since that time, CourseCo has returned approximately \$1.3 million dollars back to the City. The City used \$80,000 to renovate the tap house at Eagle Falls and \$75,000 on golf carts. The continued attack is to get the golf cart fleet up and running.

CourseCo CEO Mike Sharp commented that CourseCo has had a great relationship with the City the last six years; it has been beyond their expectations and has been successful as discussed at the work session. He recognized the staff in attendance that do the work to deliver the great golf, course conditions, food and beverage, and community event experiences. Of the 45 properties managed by CourseCo, Great Falls is top notch. He believes it is a textbook public private partnership and looks forward to the next five years.

Commissioner Wolff moved, seconded by Commissioner Tryon, that the City Commission approve the Amendment and Second Extension of Anaconda Hills Golf Course and Eagle Falls Golf Club Management Agreement with CourseCo, Inc., d/b/a Great Falls Golf, LLC for the term February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2030.

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 expressed appreciation to CourseCo and looks forward to another five years of a mutually beneficial relationship.

Commissioner McKenney commented this is an excellent example of a public private partnership. He expressed appreciation to the former City Commission and City Manager Greg Doyon for making the right decision five years ago.

Commissioner Wolff thanked CourseCo for providing the great experiences for people in our community. She knows it will get better and better with CourseCo's leadership.

Commissioner Wilson concurred with all the comments and added that she learned how to play golf at Eagle Falls when she was 10-years old and is glad it is still there and doing very well.

City Manager Greg Doyon commented that CourseCo has been a phenomenal partner and appreciates everything that they have done, and for maintaining a level of optimism and enthusiasm.

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
January 21, 2025

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

Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS

CITY COMMISSION

14. APPOINTMENTS, GREAT FALLS CITIZEN'S COUNCIL.

The Commission discussed availability. Mayor Reeves and Commissioner McKenney noted they could attend the January 28, 2025 meeting.

Commissioner Tryon moved, seconded by Commissioner Wolff, that the City Commission appoint Mayor Reeves and Commissioner McKenney to serve on the Great Falls Citizen's Counsel, also known as the Council of Councils, for the January 28, 2025 meeting.

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.

15. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Commissioner Wolff announced she spent time at the site of the 33rd Street Water Tank project today with Public Works Director Gaub and others working on the project. She learned that the tank was built in the 1940's, holds four million gallons of water and is hydraulically connected to the Hill 57 water tank.

For the Fire Chief's awareness, Commissioner Tryon reported that he has heard concerns from residents on Lower River Road about the possibility of burn permits being granted. The topic will be discussed at the upcoming Council of Councils meeting.

Fire Chief Jeremy Jones responded that his department is currently addressing that issue and will present on that topic at an upcoming work session.

16. COMMISSION INITIATIVES.

None.

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

January 21, 2025

17. LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES.

Mayor Reeves noted that City Manager Greg Doyon needs direction from the Commission with regard to SB 94 that would revise public sector union laws. After discussion, it was a majority consensus of the Commission for Manager Doyon to relay to the City's retained lobbyist that the City of Great Falls is opposed to SB 94.

Mayor Reeves noted he had wanted to propose an ordinance to add language to the Clean Indoor Air Act that would prohibit e-cigarettes and vaping inside buildings. Ed Buttrey reached out to him several months ago and said that he supported that, but asked Mayor Reeves to wait and let them fix it at the legislative level first. He was disappointed to read HB 149 that limits local government from enacting any ordinances regarding e-cigarettes and vaping.

Commissioner McKenney commented that it needs to be looked into more. It may mean that local government cannot supersede state law, and state government may still having something coming down the pike.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Tryon moved, seconded by Mayor Reeves, to adjourn the regular meeting of January 21, 2025, at 7:54 p.m.**

Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Reeves

City Clerk Lisa Kunz

Minutes Approved: February 4, 2025