

February 29, 2012  
3:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Michael Winters, Commissioners Bob Jones, Bill Bronson, Fred Burow and Mary Jolley. Also present were the Deputy City Manager, City Attorney, Directors of Fiscal Services, Planning and Community Development, and Public Works, Deputy Director of Planning and Community Development, Executive Director of the Housing Authority, the Senior Transportation Planner, City Manager's Executive Assistant, City Clerk, *Tribune* reporter Richard Ecke and citizen Ron Gessaman.

Prior to beginning the agenda meeting, the City Commissioners and City staff members - Craig Raymond, Mike Haynes, Jennifer Reichelt, Joyce Thares, and Lisa Kunz toured the old Montana Power Building with building owner Charlie Byrne.

### **Work Session Review**

Deputy City Manager Reichelt reported that the Work Session topic is water, sewer and storm drain rate increases. Director Rearden reported that, due to DEQ/EPA requirements, and as a result of HDR Engineering analysis, the Wastewater Treatment Plant requires \$17-\$18 million in improvements over the next two to three years. Staff is proposing an increase of 5% for water, 10% for wastewater, and zero percent for storm drains. Director Kinzler reported that 5% equates to an average increase of \$1.27 for residential water, and 10% equates to \$1.88 for residential sewer per month. Director Rearden concluded that, even with the proposed increases, the rates are still below similar class cities in Montana.

### **Agenda Review**

Deputy Manager Reichelt reviewed the proposed agenda topics and department heads discussed agenda items and reported information for the March 6, 2012, meeting.

Copies of the draft \$5,000 report and draft Resolution 9962 were provided to the Commissioners.

Item 4 – Resolution 9957 – Deputy Director Thomas reported that Montana Refining Company (MRC) has requested a portion of road before the railroad tracks be closed. If approved, the City and MRC will enter into a Development Agreement. One of the stipulations in the Agreement will be that MRC construct an alternate access to the City owned lot.

Item 5 – Resolution 9962 – Executive Director Hager reported that the Housing Authority Board requested the Commission consider changing the appointment policy to allow Great Falls Housing Authority tenant members to serve five consecutive two-year terms to be consistent with the regular, non-tenant member terms.

Commissioner Bronson also noted a policy change to addresses the Airport Authority Board appointments.

Item 6 – Resolution 9961 – Deputy Director Thomas reported that, as part of the Downtown Master Plan, approval of this resolution will establish the boundaries of the Downtown Urban Renewal Area and identify conditions that discourage downtown development pursuant to state law. Representatives of a downtown partnership group defined the boundaries.

Item 13 – Approve cancellation of outstanding checks – Director Kinzler explained that this is

an annual housekeeping item that would authorize cancellation of municipal checks that have remained outstanding for a year. The total is \$290.00.

Item 14 – Approve 2011 Funding Agreement with DOT for Air Quality Equipment – Director Rearden explained that grant funds from the Federal Transportation Program pays for 86.58% of the air quality equipment.

Item 15 – Award bid to Montana Refining Company (MRC) for emulsified asphalt – Director Rearden reported that MRC was the only company that submitted a bid to supply oil for chip seal at \$535/ton. The Public Works Department expects to chip seal 90 blocks throughout the City.

No changes to the agenda were requested by the Commissioners.

**Miscellaneous Items:**

- Mayor Winters asked the Commissioners to reconsider pursuing a Great Falls' license plate. He does not feel a Great Falls' license plate would be in competition with other plates as those are specific to individual entities and not the City of Great Falls.
- Deputy Manager Reichelt announced that another Continuity of Operations Plan meeting with the County to prepare for emergency situations will be scheduled in April. She encouraged the City Commissioners to participate. Information will be forthcoming in the Commissioners' weekly packets.
- Deputy Manager Reichelt also reported that a \$1,000 donation was offered to the Animal Shelter for a staff member to attend a one day seminar in New Mexico. City Attorney Santoro read state statute pertaining to donations. He advised the Commissioners to be sensitive to types of donations that may be contrary to public interest. After a brief discussion, the Commissioners directed staff to request in writing that, if the donation was accepted, the City of Great Falls was not obligated to implement a no kill policy at the Animal Shelter.
- Mayor Winters noted that he has been in contact with Kent Funyak and John Faulkner with the Great Falls International Airport regarding a Mayor's recorded message welcoming people to Great Falls.
- Mayor Winters announced that he will be out of town next week attending the Mayor's Academy.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Winters adjourned the informal agenda meeting of February 29, 2012, at 4:05 p.m.

Mayor Winters commented that, for those interested in staying after the agenda meeting, Mr. Art Dickhoff was here to discuss signage along the Missouri River that would benefit the community and tourists.