

Regular City Commission Meeting

Mayor Winters presiding

**CALL TO ORDER:** Due to an unexpected power outage, Mayor Winters called the meeting to order a few minutes early at 6:57 PM

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Girl Scout Troop 3135

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**ROLL CALL:** City Commissioners present: Michael Winters, Bill Bronson, Fred Burow, Bob Jones and Mary Jolley. Also present were the Deputy City Manager, City Attorney, Director of Fiscal Services, Police Chief, and the City Clerk.

**PROCLAMATIONS:** Mayor Winters read proclamations for Child Abuse Prevention Week and Fair Housing Month.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS**

1. **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

- A. **Karen Grove**, NC 8, encouraged attendance at the council's meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Great Falls Pre-Release Center. She also announced that NC 8 has a vacant position to fill on the council.
- B. **Johnathon Kenneway**, NC 3, reviewed the council's April 5<sup>th</sup> agenda, and also encouraged attendance at its meetings.

### **BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

2. **APPOINTMENTS, ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS (ACIR).**

**Commissioner Jolly moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission reappoint Cyndi Baker and Bob Kelly to the Advisory Commission on International Relationships for three-year terms through March 31, 2015.**

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners or inquiries from the public. Hearing none, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

3. **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**Robin Baker**, announced that she has termed out as a member of the Advisory Commission on International Relationships, but will continue in an advisory position. Ms. Baker announced that the public is invited to attend a presentation by retired Colonel Martin Bannon at the Great Falls Public Library on April 10, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. regarding the U.S. presence in Afghanistan, the military and State Department relationships. She also announced that ACIR is hosting an agricultural delegation from Kajikistan on May 21 – 25, 2012.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS****OLD BUSINESS****NEW BUSINESS****4. ONE YEAR AUDIT CONTRACT WITH JUNKERMIER, CLARK, CAMPANELLA, STEVENS, PC.**

Fiscal Services Director Melissa Kinzler reported that Junkermier, Clark, Campanella, Stevens, PC (JCCS) have had numerous contracts for auditing services with the City of Great Falls throughout the years. The actual audit contract is between the City of Great Falls, the auditor, and the State of Montana. In the past, as part of the audit contract, an area of special emphasis was included in the audit service. The area of special emphasis fee will be separately negotiated and discussed during the audit, and before an area of special emphasis review is performed. Annual audits are a professional service, exempt from statutory bidding requirements. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and the State of Montana Department of Administration provide similar guidance for local governments in selecting professional auditing services.

The City is currently in the process of moving to different accounting software and it would be beneficial to not have to change auditors during this process. JCCS is also very knowledgeable about Electric City Power, Inc. and the challenges involved.

Ms. Kinzler also noted a typographical error in the engagement letter.

**Commissioner Jolley moved, seconded by Commissioners Bronson and Jones, that the City Commission approve a one year audit contract with Junkermier, Clark, Campanella, Stevens, PC in the amount of \$46,000**

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners or inquiries from the public. Hearing none, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS****CONSENT AGENDA**

5. Minutes, March 20, 2012, Commission meeting.
6. Total expenditures of \$2,145,287 for the period of March 9-28, 2012, to include claims over \$5,000, in the amount of \$1,907,668.
7. Contracts list.
8. Grants list.

**Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.**

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Burow noted that Item 7A of the Contracts List had been pulled.

Mayor Winters asked if there were any inquiries from the public.

**Ron Gessaman**, 1006 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, inquired why Item 7A was pulled from the contracts list. City Attorney Santoro responded that staff was waiting for one document from the company.

Mr. Gessaman asked for an explanation of Items 8A, 8B and 8C. Commissioner Jones responded that the upgrades were due to the age and lack of capacity of the generators. Deputy City Manager Reichelt added that the Fire Chief did discuss the need for the generators during the budget process. She would get more information for him this week.

**Mike Witsoe**, 510 11<sup>th</sup> Street South, referred to Item 6 and inquired why the Ice Breaker T-shirts and logo images were not purchased locally, as well as the timing services listed on the last meeting's \$5,000 report. Mayor Winters indicated he would get the information from Park and Recreation for Mr. Witsoe.

There being no one else to address the Commission, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

### **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **9. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Mayor Winters opened the meeting to Petitions and Communications.

- A. **Kathy Gessaman**, 1006 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, provided a handout and discussed events scheduled for STEM/Earth Day on April 21, 2012, at Great Falls High School.
- B. **Ron Gessaman**, 1006 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, provided a copy of Mr. Liebert's remarks regarding the 2012 Farm Bill. He also discussed a March 21, 2012 *Tribune* article entitled "State flunks corruption risk report card," and opined that the same risk applies to the City of Great Falls.
- C. **John Hubbard**, 615 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, discussed his opposition to the costs of the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades and the Highwood Generating Station, government officials being held accountable, and the recession.
- D. **Johnathon Kennaway**, 117 Riverview B, provided a flyer and discussed a free fundraising event being held on April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Hideout Lounge for new playground equipment in Jaycee and Skyline Parks.
- E. **Mike Witsoe**, 510 11<sup>th</sup> Street South, thanked Deputy Manager Reichelt for the Animal Shelter presentation. He discussed the Animal Shelter building being inadequate, and the amount of money to make upgrades. Mr. Witsoe also discussed bringing back the topic of chickens before the Commission.

- F. **Karen Grove**, 1816 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, discussed a news article regarding “My Neighbor in Need” and expressed appreciation to the generous people in Great Falls. She also complimented how great the Ice Breaker shirts looked this year, and how nice it was seeing everyone out enjoying the parks with their families this evening.
- G. **John Sturgeon**, 121 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, inquired if the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades were a directive of the Environmental Protection Agency. City Attorney Santoro responded that it was part of the permit process. Mayor Winters and Commissioner Burow indicated that the information would be provided to him.

### **CITY MANAGER**

#### **10. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

There were no miscellaneous reports and announcements from the Deputy City Manager.

### **CITY COMMISSION**

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

Commissioner Burow discussed what was also included in the Animal Shelter budget besides building and property improvements. He thinks staff does a good job taking care of the animals at the current facility with small repairs as needed, rather than a new facility at this time. He also noted that the City has been diligent about its water and sewer projects and that the increase in fees is necessary to cover expenses. He discussed EPA directives and associated costs, and commented that staff does a good job managing funds even with lost revenue due to Electric City Power.

Commissioner Bronson reported that the air quality concerns Mr. Ray discussed on behalf of Neighborhood Council 5 will be discussed during the Board of Health meeting tomorrow. He will be reporting to Mr. Ray after that meeting as well as to the Commission.

Mayor Winters commended Deputy Manager Reichelt for the enlightening Animal Shelter presentation, commenting that the functions have been streamlined and responsibility of the animals is taken seriously.

In response to Mayor Winters, Attorney Santoro addressed issues raised by Mr. Hubbard.

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

There were no Commission initiatives.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the regular meeting of April 3, 2012, be adjourned at 7:54 p.m.**

Motion carried 5-0.

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Mayor Winters

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City Clerk

Minutes Approved: April 17, 2012