

Regular City Commission Meeting

Mayor Winters presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL: City Commissioners present: Michael Winters, Bill Bronson, Bob Jones, Mary Jolley and Fred Burow. Also present were the City Manager; Deputy City Manager; Assistant Attorney; Directors of Fiscal Services, Library, and Public Works; Deputy Planning Director; Fire Chief; Police Operations Captain; and the City Clerk.

PRESENTATION: Great Falls Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Crawley gave a presentation regarding school opening day and safe driving.

*** Action Minutes of the Great Falls City Commission. Please refer to the audio/video recording of this meeting for additional detail. ***

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

1. **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

There were no miscellaneous reports and announcements from Neighborhood Council representatives.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

2. **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

There were no miscellaneous reports and announcements from representatives of Boards and Commissions.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. **RESOLUTION 9979, LEVY AND ASSESS PROPERTIES FOR UNPAID UTILITY SERVICES.**

Fiscal Services Director Melissa Kinzler reported that State Statutes and Municipal Code authorize the City Commission to assess lienable charges against properties to which utility services were furnished and payments are delinquent. Properties in the City of Great Falls which had utility services provided to them prior to June 30, 2012, but remain unpaid, are subject to the City's right to assess the property for the amount owed. The Fiscal Services Department reviews the accounts annually and notifies property owners of the delinquent charges and right to assess the property. The legal owners of the properties were notified via a letter dated June 21, 2012. These properties also received the normal monthly billing statements. A final letter stating the date and time of the public hearing was sent to the owners of the property with charges remaining unpaid on August 2, 2012. This assessment will appear on the property tax bill received from the Cascade County

Treasurer.

Adoption of Resolution 9979 will allow the City to collect delinquent utility service charges in the amount of \$17,386.82. Any payments received prior to the charges being forwarded to the Cascade County Treasurer will be removed from the assessment listing.

Mayor Winters declared the public hearing open.

No one spoke in support of or in opposition to Resolution 9979.

Mayor Winters declared the public hearing closed.

Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 9979.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

4. RESOLUTION 9971, ANNUAL TAX LEVY.

Fiscal Services Director Melissa Kinzler reported that the City received the taxable valuation for the City of Great Falls from the Montana Department of Revenue on August 1, 2012. Accordingly, the City can now compute and set its annual mill levy. During the budget adoption process, the Fiscal Services Department projected the City's newly taxable property valuation would be \$365,000. The actual newly taxable valuation received from the Department of Revenue is \$216,205. All advertised and adopted inflationary rate increases should be taken. There is no recommended reduction in the General Fund appropriation budget at this time.

The total mill levy for this fiscal year is 193.57 mills totaling \$14,930,774. Included in the mills are 2.58 mills for the soccer park and 3.93 mills for the swimming pool debt service payments. The permissive medical levy is 17.93 mills, an increase of \$179,416 from the prior year. The City of Great Falls increased health insurance premiums for Fiscal Year 2013 by 10%.

The Fiscal Year 2013 Budget was adopted July 17, 2012. Setting the mill levy for Tax Year 2012 (Fiscal Year 2013) is the last step in the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2012 City of Great Falls budget.

Commissioner Burow moved, seconded by Commissioner Jolley, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 9971.

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

Mike Witsoe, 510 11th Street South, discussed the mill levy increases versus home values during the past 25 years.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Minutes, August 7, 2012, Commission meeting.
6. Total expenditures of \$3,036,980 for the period of August 1 - 15, 2012, to include claims over \$5,000, in the amount of \$2,798,903.
7. Contracts list.
8. Approve Interlocal Agreement between Cascade County and the City of Great Falls for Emergency Fire and Medical Services for the term of October 1, 2012, to September 30, 2015.
9. Approve School Resource Officer Services Agreement with the Great Falls Public School District.
10. Award contract in the amount of \$53,773 to United Materials of Great Falls, Inc. for the 2012 Miscellaneous Sanitary Sewer Repairs. **OF 1635.3**
11. Approve Sun River Connector Trail CTEP Project Agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation. **OF 1576**
12. Approve Change Order 2 to reduce the contract amount by \$11,812.48 and add 10 days to the contract time; and authorize final payment to Dick Olson Construction, Inc. and the State Miscellaneous Tax Division in the amount of \$12,163.58 for the Police Department Rehabilitation CTEP project. **OF 1567**
13. Accept the FY 2013 Traffic Signal and Sign Maintenance Agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation.

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

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

Commissioner Jones requested additional discussion on Item 11 – Sun River Connector Trial CTEP Project Agreement. Deputy Planning Director Wendy Thomas explained that Item 11 is a request for funding to construct what is a missing key link in the City pedestrian/bicycle network that was originally approved by the City Commission in 2008. The estimated cost of \$100,000 requested to be approved tonight will be funded by CTEP monies with 13% matching funding from Recreational Trails, Inc. (RTI). The actual construction of the trail will be paid for with MACI funds, which are air quality funds that come from the Metropolitan Planning Organization. This link of bike/ped path was included in the Transportation Improvement Program and was approved by the Transportation Policy Committee. Deputy Director Thomas also reviewed PowerPoint slides

depicting the location of the bike/ped path.

Commissioner Jones spoke in favor of this phased approach for connect ability from the Fox Farm area all the way through the City's bicycle system, and he noted that it has been in the Transportation Plan for a number of years.

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

Mike Witsoe, 510 11th Street South, received agenda report information from Fire Chief McCamley on Item 8, and Police Captain Newton on Item 9. Deputy Director Thomas also discussed the reasons for the Change Order in Item 12 in response to Mr. Witsoe's inquiries.

Rudolph Tankink, 3620 9th Avenue North, thinks Item 11 is being pushed now due to Complete Streets. He discussed the estimated cost of the project development, as well as the estimated cost to complete the project. He hopes the taxpayers will not have to pay for maintenance of the trail.

Keith Ochs, 1507 3rd West Hill Drive, expressed concerns and considers Item 11 – the Sun River Connector Trail project – to be of minimum benefit to the City and its taxpayers. After further explanation from Deputy Director Thomas, Mayor Winters, Commissioner Jones and Manager Doyon, Mr. Ochs suggested that projects that will have an impact on the community be discussed first at Town Hall meetings.

Rudolph Tankink added that the \$100,000 is for the initial design to be paid for by federal funds and RTI, and that the trail will reduce the size of the turning lane area.

Mike Witsoe added that walking across the Warden Bridge now is dangerous.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

14. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Mayor Winters opened the meeting to Petitions and Communications.

- A. Sam Boor**, 15 Trapper Valley Road, discussed the value of a recycling center in the community. He noted the missions of several policies that support maintaining the City's recycling center. He suggested this matter be advertised as an agenda item to collect input from citizens in favor of maintaining the recycling center, and then form a committee to study how to keep it open.
- B. Anitra Hall**, 3508 14th Avenue South, discussed information she learned at the listening session she attended last week sponsored by Rep. Rehberg regarding "sequestration spending cuts." She suggested Great Falls develop an economy independent of federal support. She opined that Great Falls has limited potential for future growth. Ms. Hall encouraged Great Falls' citizens to take the lead to plan a future that encourages and supports varied businesses and industry, and encourage and elect young future-oriented candidates to office.

- C. **Cyndi Baker**, 500 Montana Avenue NW, noted that during a recent trip she learned that Chicago is moving towards “naked streets” where there are no markings or signs and is more user friendly than “complete streets.” Ms. Baker commended the Police and Fire Departments for their hard work during last week’s storm.
- D. **John Hubbard**, 615 7th Avenue South, opposed raising taxes during a time of recession.
- E. **Mike Witsoe**, 510 11th Street South, made local event announcements.

CITY MANAGER

15. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that he was proud of the City Police, Fire, Forestry, Park Maintenance and Highway crews that worked together during the storm event that activated the Emergency Operation Center last Tuesday.

Manager Doyon also reported that Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta was a key note speaker at a conference he recently attended. He spoke about getting the military involved in battling cyber security, and the infrastructure associated with that. The military is continuing to go through some significant changes. He offered to share his Memo to the Commission regarding his attendance at the conference if anyone was interested.

Regarding transportation planning, Manager Doyon reported that he is preparing a Memo to the Commission outlining where funding comes from to support projects.

CITY COMMISSION

16. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

At Commissioner Jolley’s request, Deputy Director Thomas explained and responded to concerns set forth in a letter from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that was provided to the Commissioners in their Friday packets.

17. 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, to adjourn the regular meeting of August 21, 2012, at 8:22 p.m.**

Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Winters

City Clerk

Minutes Approved: September 4, 2012