

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, Bob Jones, Bill Bronson, Fred Burow and Bob Kelly. Also present were the City Manager and Deputy City Manager; City Attorney; Directors of Fiscal Services, Planning and Community Development, and Public Works; Police Chief; and the City Clerk.

**PROCLAMATIONS:** Mayor Winters read proclamations for Higher Education Month and Walleyes Unlimited Month.

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

### **NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS**

**1. COUNCILS 1 and 9 DRAWING OF TIE-VOTE OF WRITE-IN CANDIDATES.**

Due to tie votes between the write-in candidates for the fifth seat on Neighborhood Council Districts 1 and 9, a drawing was held. Commissioner Bronson drew Neal Dubois' name for Neighborhood Council 1. Commissioner Jones drew Lance Johnson's name for Neighborhood Council 9.

**2. SWEARING IN CEREMONY**

Mayor Winters performed the swearing in of Lynda Sowell and Neal Dubois, Neighborhood Council 1; Carrie Pursell, Neighborhood Council 4; Cherry Loney and Darrell Beauchamp, Neighborhood Council 6; Amber Colton Gardner, Neighborhood Council 7; and, Scott Miranti, Neighborhood Council 9.

**3. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**Richard Calsetta**, NC 3, announced that the new members of NC 3 met on January 2, 2014, and held their election of officers, as well as proposed two by-law changes for the City Attorney's review and approval. He reported that Neighborhood Council 3 will focus on the concerns and ideas of its neighbors, and will get information to them to the best of the council's abilities. Members of emergency services spoke at their first meeting. The Council expressed concerns about Calumet and expansion of the refinery, and requested that Calumet include the NC 3 district in its emergency procedures and processes training and notifications.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**4. Minutes, December 17, 2013, Commission meeting.**

5. Minutes, Electric City Power Board of Directors December 2, 2013, meeting.
6. Total expenditures of \$3,745,218 for the period of December 7-31, 2013, to include claims over \$5,000, in the amount of \$3,482,829.
7. Contracts list.
8. Grants list.
9. Lien release list.
10. Set public hearing for January 21, 2014, on Resolution 10049, Establishing City of Great Falls Animal Shelter Related Fees and Services.
11. Set public hearing for January 21, 2014, to consider the lease of City-owned property located three and one-half miles north of the Manchester Exit.
12. Approve cancellation of City of Great Falls checks that remain outstanding and unpaid for a period of one year or longer.
13. Approve Professional Services Contract Amendment No. 1 with Thomas, Dean & Hoskins for engineering services for the 18<sup>th</sup> Street South Storm Drain Improvements for a fee not to exceed \$217,900. **OF 1462**

Commissioner Bronson requested that Item 11 be pulled from the Consent Agenda and considered separately. He noted a conflict of interest and will abstain from voting on that item.

**Commissioner Burow moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission accept the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Item 11 to be considered separately.**

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

**Ron Gessaman**, 1006 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, referred to pages 220 and 223 of the Minutes, Item 4, and reiterated his comments made at the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. With regard to Item 10, Mr. Gessaman commented that the fee schedule focuses on dogs and cats. He suggested the fee schedule be inclusive of other pet animals, and that the flat fee include an inflationary adjustment. He also suggested the term of the license and licensing service animals be clarified. With regard to a wild animal license, he inquired the reason for approval from neighbors 200 feet east to west and only 150 feet north to south.

Deputy City Manager Jennifer Reichelt responded that she will look into his concerns. The purpose of the updated Resolution was to make it as clean and inclusive as possible.

Lynn Formell, Director of Operations at the Great Falls Animal Shelter, added that the fee structure does not specify a specific animal; the fee structure was designed for the cost of care for the number of days that animal is in the shelter. The sincere desire was to simplify the fee structure for the community and make it easier to understand. She also clarified that service animals with documentation are registered for free in the City of Great Falls.

There being no further comments, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

**With regard to Item 11, Commissioner Kelly moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission set a public hearing to consider the lease of City-owned property parcels 3016300 and 3015100 located three and one-half miles north of the Manchester Exit for January 21, 2014.**

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

Commissioner Burow noted that he maintains the City shouldn't be in the leasing business.

There being no further comments, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 4-0-1 (Commission Bronson abstained).

### **BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

#### **14. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**Robin Baker**, 1518 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, and **Kay Silk**, 1822 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, reported that the Advisory Commission on International Relationships (ACIR) currently has an individual membership with Sister Cities International. This level of membership allows ACIR to develop a friendship city status with other communities. At this time ACIR is looking to establish a formal friendship city relationship with Lethbridge, Alberta. Ms. Baker requested that the Commission consider the proposal to establish a friendship city relationship with Lethbridge. She reported that there would be no financial obligation by the City for this designation. If the City was in agreement, she requested that a letter be drafted to Harold Pereverseff, President of the Lethbridge Twinning Society.

City Manager Doyon indicated the City is interested in doing this and will prepare a more formal resolution for adoption by the Commission, and he will work with Ms. Baker to coordinate the meetings at a later date.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **15. GREAT FALLS APARTMENT, LOT 2, MEDICAL TECH PARK MINOR SUBDIVISION, IN THE SE¼, SECTION 18, T20N, R4E, PMM.**

Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond reported that on October 1, 2013, the City Commission scheduled a public hearing to consider Resolution 10040 and Ordinance 3114 which would annex certain property into the City limits and assign zoning to the subject property. The project applicant is also seeking approval for an amended plat. At this time the applicant is not ready to move forward due to the fact that they have not closed their purchase of the subject property as required in the approved development agreement. At this time, the requested action is to vacate the public hearing.

**Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioners Burow and Jones, that the City**

**Commission vacate the public hearing for the property legally described as Lot 2, Medical Tech Park Minor Subdivision, in the SE1/4, Section 18, T20N, R4E, PMM, Cascade County, Montana.**

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners. Hearing none, Mayor Winters asked if there was any public comment regarding vacating this public hearing.

Hearing none, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

### **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **16. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

- A. John Hubbard**, 615 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, discussed being dissatisfied with the judicial system and the people involved in his court cases regarding his work related injury.
- B. Ron Gessaman**, 1006 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, suggested a press release be issued reminding citizens not to push snow from shoveled sidewalks into the streets. Mr. Gessaman commented that traffic signal time on the Central Avenue West/Park Drive bridge is too short during winter road conditions. He also disagreed with comments made that metered parking doesn't have an effect on downtown businesses.
- C. Tracy Houck**, 1016 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North, provided information about the Downtown Chicks and what they do for the community. She announced that the Downtown Chicks will be awarded the Serve Montana Award by Governor Steve Bullock on February 7<sup>th</sup> at the State Capital.
- D. Michael Witsoe**, 510 11<sup>th</sup> Street South, wished his mother a happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. He also thanked the people that voted for him, and the registered voters that did not vote for any of the mayoral candidates. He congratulated newly elected officials and appointed staff.

### **CITY MANAGER**

#### **17. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

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

### **CITY COMMISSION**

#### **18. APPOINTMENT, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE.**

Article III, Section 3 of the City Charter sets forth that the Mayor Pro Tempore shall serve in the absence of the elected Mayor. The City Commissioners shall elect from among themselves a

Mayor Pro Tempore no later than one month after taking office.

**Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Kelly, that the City Commission appoint Commissioner Bob Jones to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore effective immediately for a two year term or until the City Commission has held an election.**

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

Motion carried 4-0-1 (Commissioner Jones abstained).

**19. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

There were no miscellaneous reports and announcements from the City Commission.

**20. COMMISSION INITIATIVES.**

There were no Commission initiatives.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Kelly, to adjourn the regular meeting of January 7, 2014, at 7:59 p.m.**

Motion carried 5-0.

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Mayor Michael J. Winters

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City Clerk Lisa Kunz

Minutes Approved: January 21, 2014