

Regular City Commission Meeting

Mayor Winters presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Boy Scout Pack 1

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; Fire Chief; Police Chief; and the City Clerk.

PROCLAMATIONS: Mayor Winters read a proclamation for Arbor Day.

**** 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.

Kathy Gessaman, Chair NC 3, updated the Commission on agenda items that were discussed at the Council's April 3, 2014, meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Minutes, April 1, 2014, Commission meeting.
3. Total expenditures of \$2,625,427 for the period of March 22 through April 9, 2014, to include claims over \$5,000, in the amount of \$2,442,168.
4. Contracts list.
5. Grants list.
6. Lien release list.
7. Award bid for one new 2014 John Deere 610D tractor with Tiger RF-96ED rear mower and Tiger RF-96ED rear mower and Tiger TSF-60ED side mower to NorMont Equipment of Black Eagle for \$85,030, with trade-ins.

Commissioner Burow moved, seconded by Commissioner Kelly, that the City Commission approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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 36th Avenue NE, referred to Item 3 and inquired if the Electric Fund payment in the amount of \$24,278 was for refinancing charges. Mr. Gessaman was informed that Amount was a principal payment of the debt and had nothing to do with finance charges.

4/15/2014

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

Motion carried 5-0.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

8. APPOINTMENTS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION.

Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission appoint Sarah Burt and Paivi Hoikkala to three-year terms beginning May 1, 2014, through April 30, 2017, to the Historic Preservation Advisory Commission.

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

Commissioner Bronson noted both individuals were highly qualified to serve on the commission.

Mayor Winters asked if there were any comments from the public. Hearing none, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

9. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

10. 2014/2015 CDBG AND HOME ANNUAL ACTION PLAN.

Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond reported that this is the public hearing regarding the 2014/2015 Annual Action Plan pertaining to the proposed use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership program funds. The Commission shall consider all public comments received and take final action on May 6, 2014.

Mayor Winters declared the public hearing open.

Carrie Koppy, 7 18th Avenue South, representing the Community Development Council (CDC), reported that the CDC worked hard, took a lot into account, and support the plan that was submitted.

Sheila Rice, Executive Director of NeighborWorks, 913 3rd Avenue North, reported that there is a problem with affordable rental housing and affordable home ownership in Great Falls. She thanked the Commission for keeping housing a part of the Annual Action Plan. Ms. Rice thanked the CDC members and she supports the CDC's recommendations.

Stephanie Schnider, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity, 2617 6th Avenue South, commented that affordable housing is a critical part of their program. She encouraged the Commission to support the CDC's recommendations.

There being no one further to address the Commission, Mayor Winters closed the public hearing and asked the will of the Commission.

Commissioner Kelly moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission schedule action on the Final Annual Action Plan for May 6, 2014.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

11. **RESOLUTION 10058, ESTABLISHING WATER, SEWER AND STORM DRAIN UTILITY SERVICE RATES EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2014.**

Public Works Director Jim Rearden reviewed PowerPoint slides summarizing the 2014 utility rate analysis and the current needs. The proposed rates were presented at the March 4, 2014, Work Session, and public notices and individual customer notices were published and mailed. If adopted, the new rates would take effect May 1, 2014. The proposed rates include a 5% or \$1.42 per month average increase for water, and zero percent increases for sewer and storm drain. Director Rearden concluded that staff is holding the line, performing capital replacement as needed, and meeting regulatory requirements. Great Falls has the lowest combined water and sewer rates of the seven largest cities in Montana.

Mayor Winters declared the public hearing open.

Speaking in support of Resolution 10058 were:

Brett Doney, Great Falls Development Authority, 300 Central Avenue, commented that incremental increases are better for businesses and families as opposed to waiting and having a large increase. He concluded that it is more cost effective to perform the proper maintenance and to stay ahead of the imposed regulations.

Mike Lewis, PO Box 2832, expressed appreciation for having clean tap water, and that Great Falls has done a terrific job.

No one spoke in opposition to Resolution 10058.

Written comments in opposition to Resolution 10058 were received from **Georgia Austin**, 1325 1st Avenue NW; **Randall Knowles**, 2017 9th Avenue South; **Kathy Stice**, 3704 1st Avenue North; **Neil Taylor**, 3417 4th Avenue South; **Donald Ensley**, 510 3rd Avenue SW; **Peggy Peck Fernandes**, 204 15th Avenue South; **Don Burkhard**, 717 2nd Avenue SW; and, **Renae Munson**, 3000 8th Avenue North.

There being no one further to address the Commission, Mayor Winters closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Bronson, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10058 Establishing Water, Sewer and Storm Drain Utility Service Rates, to include increases of 5%, 0% and 0% respectively, to become effective May

1, 2014.

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

Commissioner Burow noted the written opposition and asked Director Rearden to explain the consequences of not approving the Resolution.

Director Rearden responded that approval will allow the City to fund the federal and state regulatory improvements the City is required to make. Denial would postpone replacement of electrical equipment that is approximately 50 years old, and would delay infrastructure upgrades that are desperately needed as well.

Commissioner Bronson noted that the written negative comments were reviewed by the Commission and will be included in the official record. He commented that it's unfortunate that some folks don't have all of the information with respect to water, sewer and storm drain utilities. Commissioner Bronson concluded that the Public Works department exemplifies competence of the highest degree.

Mayor Winters noted that, after pondering all of the information and reflecting back on the water main breaks, he understands there is necessary upkeep and a cost associated with that.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

12. **RESOLUTION 10067, ESTABLISHING FEES FOR THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS MAPPING AND ADDRESSING DIVISION.**

Fiscal Services Director Melissa Kinzler reported that the Mapping and Addressing Division currently provides a service to the City of Great Falls and Cascade County that includes various types of mapping requests, as well as verifying and assigning addresses for new or additional addresses on properties. Resolution 10067 will formally adopt fees for City generated maps, as well as a \$20 fee for a new address or an additional address on a property that has been initiated by the property owner. An additional charge of \$10 will be assessed for the reflective address numbers at the request of the property owner. County addressing is being contracted per the Address Coordinator with the City of Great Falls. Only the addresses assigned within the City limits of Great Falls will be charged an addressing fee at this time.

Mayor Winters declared the public hearing open.

Speaking in support of Resolution 10067 was Mapping Resource Specialist **Jeff Hedstrom**.

Speaking in opposition to Resolution 10067 was **John Hubbard**, 615 7th Avenue South, indicating that he already has an address on his house. Director Kinzler responded that fees will only be charged to residents requesting additional or reflective address numbers to offset the cost to the City.

There being no one further to address the Commission, Mayor Winters closed the public hearing

and asked the will of the Commission.

Commissioner Kelly moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10067.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

13. RESOLUTION 10070, A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, REVISING THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR GREAT FALLS FIRE RESCUE AND SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION 9946.

Fire Chief Randy McCamley reported that Great Falls Fire Rescue has a fee schedule for special services, facilities, and equipment that would be used during conditions or circumstances beyond the Department's typical emergency responses. One example is charging for the use of the GFFR Training Center that is available for training and meetings for both private and public organizations to fund facility improvements, maintenance and repairs. He provided additional examples of special services that would be included in the fee schedule to cover the costs of providing those services.

Mayor Winters declared the public hearing open.

No one spoke in support of or in opposition to Resolution 10070.

Mayor Winters closed the public hearing and asked the will of the Commission.

Commissioner Burow moved, seconded by Commissioner Bronson, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10070.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

14. RESOLUTION 10071, REVISING FEES FOR THE MANSFIELD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.

Deputy City Manager Jennifer Reichelt reported that in February, 2014, the Commission adopted Resolution 10053, which set a new fee structure for the Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts (MCPA). At that time, the Commission acknowledged concerns from the public about some of the proposed fees, and invited interested parties to offer fiscally sound alternatives that would address those concerns, without defeating the intent of the resolution to reduce reliance upon general fund revenues to support activities at the Mansfield.

Over the past six weeks the Deputy City Manager, Fiscal Services Director, Events Supervisor and Chair of the MCPA Advisory Board have worked closely to review and revise a new fee

structure, evaluate revenue estimates and assess the language and intent of Resolution 10053, consistent with prior Commission direction.

Deputy Manager Reichelt reviewed the fee changes proposed in Resolution 10071.

Mayor Winters declared the public hearing open.

Speaking in support of Resolution 10071 were:

Mary Sheehy Moe, Chairperson for the Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts Advisory Board, concurred with Deputy Manager Reichelt's report. She was pleased with all of the groups that came together, the civility of the conversations and the interests that all had in making the Mansfield Center and the Theatre ones that could continue to open its doors.

Karen Valacich, Great Falls Symphony, commented that when she spoke at the previous Commission meeting she expressed concerns about the proposed costs to the consumers and the many groups from the community. She appreciates the Commission's willingness to reconsider the Resolution, and the efforts of the MCPA Board and City staff for looking at alternative proposals. Ms. Valacich explained the impact that the \$2 versus \$1.50 per ticket charge has on the Symphony and its ticket purchasers.

No one spoke in opposition to Resolution 10071.

Mayor Winters closed the public hearing and asked the will of the Commission.

Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10071.

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

Commissioner Bronson expressed appreciation to all of the constituent groups that worked on this matter. He noted that adoption of this Resolution is only step one of a process and that other alternatives are being explored to assist the Mansfield to raise additional revenues from outside sources so that it will not have to be dependent on the general fund.

Commissioner Kelly thanked Deputy Manager Reichelt for being the driving force for getting the groups together and having great discussions.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

15. RESOLUTION 10072, A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, ESTABLISHING TIME LIMITS AND PROTOCOL FOR CONDUCT DURING PUBLIC MEETINGS.

City Attorney Sara Sexe reported that the Commission had directed staff to draft a resolution setting forth 3-minute time limits for agenda and non-agenda items and protocols for conduct

during meetings for Commission discussion and consideration.

As with most municipalities and as allowed by law, the Commission would like to supplement its previously enacted parliamentary procedures and specify more clearly rules and order of business in making decisions on matters that come before the Commission and impact the City. Establishing time limits and protocol for conduct during Commission meetings may contribute to the success of that basic government structure.

The Montana Supreme Court has acknowledged the well-settled law which allows for viewpoint neutral and reasonable time, place and manner restrictions on public comment in order to promote and maintain effective and orderly meetings. The Montana Supreme Court has specifically referenced three and five minute time limits.

Montana Code requires that a Commission determine its own rules and order of business. The City Commission had adopted Robert's Rules of Order in 1973 for the conducting of City business. Many of the references in the proposed resolution mirror procedures in Robert's Rules, and decorum rules and procedures that have been enacted by other jurisdictions. What is before the Commission for consideration is a resolution more specific to Great Falls.

Mayor Winters declared the public hearing open.

No one spoke in support of Resolution 10072.

Speaking in opposition to Resolution 10072 were:

Larry Rezentes, 2738 Fern Drive, suggested that the Commission significantly amend or deny adoption of the proposed resolution. He specifically opposed paragraphs 3, 9 and 14 of the resolution regarding three-minute time limit during agenda items, public use of AV equipment and items being prohibited at the podium, respectively.

Cheryl Reichert, 51 Prospect Drive, commented that democracy allows for all perspectives to be heard and sometimes that takes time. The best decisions are made when controversy is embraced. Ms. Reichert concluded that if this resolution is enacted, the Commission would be whittling away at constitutional rights and discouraging participatory democracy.

Hattie Lewis, 823 2nd Avenue South, commented that some items are complicated and can't be said in a certain timeframe. The Commission has the option and ability to limit time if there are a lot of people to speak on an issue. Ms. Lewis commented that limiting freedom of speech through regulation is wrong.

Mike Lewis, PO Box 2832, commented that citizens should be able to speak as long as they need to get their point across on agenda items. The time limit on non-agenda items could be shortened.

Kathy Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, commented that this matter was addressed in 2007. She feels adoption of this resolution will put undue burden on everyone, and will run into a selective enforcement problem. She commented that a three minute time limit on non-agenda items would be okay, but not for agenda items. Ms. Gessaman concluded that limiting a citizen's

right to speak on an issue is a curtailment of citizen's freedoms.

Richard Liebert, 289 Boston Coulee Road, commented that a three minute time limit on Petitions and Communications would be okay, but not for agenda items. Mr. Liebert inquired about other municipalities' time limits. He referred to the City Charter and noted that this body should be attentive to the concerns and questions of the public. Mr. Liebert specifically objects to paragraphs 9, 11, and 14 of the proposed resolution.

Sandra Dimauro, 4215 7th Avenue North, opposes curtailing citizen's speech. She believes that criticism and opposition to opinions are important for democracy.

Ron Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, read a portion of a *Tribune* article in today's paper regarding this matter, and he read definitions of the words friendly, unfriendly and businesslike. He referred to the atmosphere in the chambers as hostile. He specifically spoke in opposition to paragraphs 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14 of the proposed resolution.

Carol Fisher, 500 53rd Street South, commented that citizens should have the right to speak and use the AV equipment.

Mike Witsoe, 510 11th Street South, commented that the proposed resolution is restrictive against the freedom of speech and is a violation of rights. He referred to the "people's podium" and commented that this body was re-elected by the people to respect their rights and needs and to listen to them.

John Hubbard, 615 7th Avenue South, commented that approval of the resolution is against the 1st Amendment and freedom of speech.

Written comments in opposition to Resolution 10072 were received from

Neil Taylor, 3417 4th Avenue South; **Richard Liebert**, 289 Boston Coulee Road; and, **Michael Enk**, PO Box 1408.

There being no one further to address the Commission, Mayor Winters closed the public hearing and asked the will of the Commission.

Commissioner Bronson commented that he does not support the resolution in its current form. He noted that there has been staff discussion about developing protocols for the conduct of these meetings for some time. He reported that courts have recognized the right of public bodies to entertain reasonable restrictions that don't affect content but can affect the time and manner. He thinks the Commission has an obligation to develop some protocols as many of the other cities have done. Staff provided information on what other communities are doing, and the mayor and commissioners communicate with colleagues around the state. The resolution as drafted is more liberal than what is permitted in some of the other major cities of this state.

Commissioner Bronson further commented that some items that come before the Commission are more complex and he would prefer not setting a time limit on items that are on the agenda. He was in favor of supporting the three minute time limit on Petitions and Communications. He suggested deferring action on the resolution until another meeting.

Mayor Winters commented that everyone that spoke tonight had valid points, as did the members of the Commission. He is in favor of a compromise, and is in support of protocols to govern the meetings.

Commissioner Jones noted that he is in agreement with a three minute time limit on Petitions and Communications, and the language set forth in paragraphs 9 and 14 as presented.

Commissioner Kelly noted that the mayor and commissioners come to these meetings seeking the public's input, valuing it and weighing it in live time; nothing is predetermined before these meetings happen. He thanked the new faces that attended and partook in the meeting this evening. He doesn't feel there is a need to create time limit rules to regulate unwanted behavior. Commissioner Kelly favored tabling this matter.

Commissioner Burow agreed with a three minute time limit on Petitions and Communications, and tabling this matter for further discussion and consideration.

City Attorney Sexe commented that she appreciates the comments made this evening and will work to make a document that balances the interests and the rights of people to speak and participate in their government as is statutorily allowed, with the recognition that the resolution as proposed was legally sound. She discussed her research of the term "podium" and suggested not changing that language.

Commissioner Burow moved, seconded by Commissioner Bronson, that the City Commission table Resolution 10072.

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

Motion carried 4-1 (Mayor Winters dissenting).

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

16. RESOLUTION 10073, AUTHORIZING A LOAN FROM THE MONTANA BOARD OF INVESTMENTS.

City Attorney Sara Sexe reported that in November, 2012, the Board of Directors for ADF Group USA, Inc., (ADF) approved an estimated \$24 million dollar plan to build a new structural steel fabrication complex in Great Falls, Montana. The facility plans to employ 300 permanent full time employees within the next four years with hopes of further expansion of its facility in the future.

ADF is a North American leader in the design and engineering of connections, fabrication and installation of complex steel structures, heavy steel built-ups, as well as miscellaneous and architectural metalwork.

The Great Falls facility has an annual fabrication capacity of 25,000 tons and their areas of focus

include the fabrication of standard steel components and the fabrication and assembly of modular steel structures. ADF has also been working with Great Falls College MSU to customize the college's Welding-Fitting Program and to integrate new industry-related specialized skills training in an effort to meet their existing and future employment needs.

ADF offers pay of up to \$20 an hour, as well as benefits and profit sharing for its employees. ADF has already purchased and made improvements to a 100 acre lot located north of Great Falls, have been issued a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy, complied with all required Building, Plumbing, and Electrical Codes and obtained all required City permits.

The Department of Commerce oversees the Montana Board of Investments (MBOI), which operates the Infrastructure Loan Program. The program is funded by an \$80 million dollar allocation from the Permanent Coal Tax Trust.

Applications are submitted by eligible local governments and the loans fund infrastructure projects that provide facilities/services to basic sector businesses. Certain criteria must be met in order to be eligible.

As required by the Infrastructure Loan Program, ADF will convey to the City unrestricted fee title to the lot, improvements and the building, and will lease back the lot and improvements, subject to an option reserved by ADF for the repurchase of the lot upon full satisfaction of the obligation under the loan. ADF will be required to pay the City a monthly lease fee of approximately \$31,000 per month for 15 years, which is equal to the infrastructure loan payments. Basically, the City is a pass through for the effectuation of this loan. The interest rate with job credits is 1.98%.

If the loan is approved the property will be owned by the City of Great Falls and ADF will not be required to pay property taxes (government owned properties are exempt) and this particular site will not be contributing increment to the Central Montana Agri-Tech Park Tax Increment Financing District until the loan is paid in full and ownership reverts back to ADF. The Development Agreement outlines that ADF may choose to improve the property, or carve out a portion of the site to develop for future expansion and development, separate from the lot owned by the City, subject to the consent of the City and MBOI. The carved out portion would be subject to all appropriate taxes and assessments and contribute to the increment in the Tax Increment Financing District.

Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10073.

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

Commissioner Kelly inquired about the increment to the TIF District when the loan is paid off and ownership reverts back to ADF.

Deputy Manager Reichelt responded that it will be based on the new tax value at year 15, or at the time the loan is paid off if sooner.

Mayor Winters asked if there were any representatives of the project that would like to address

the Commission.

Herbert Kulow, Senior Portfolio Manager, Montana Board of Investments, Helena, MT, recommended approval of Resolution 10073. Mr. Kulow explained that the State of Montana has opportunities available, such as the Infrastructure Loan Program, that helped ADF with its decision to choose Great Falls. It provides a great interest rate and, depending on how ADF files its taxes, 100% of their lease payment could be deducted from their State of Montana income tax liability. He reported that, even though this is a loan to the City, the Note and the Loan Agreement set forth that the State of Montana indemnifies the City from ever having to pay that loan back in the event that ADF would decide, for some reason, to close shop and leave. It's an incentive that the State provides to encourage economic development and expansion of businesses in Montana.

Dan Rooney, ADF Manager, 1726 4th Avenue North, commented that the property being discussed was originally agricultural land in the County and generated no tax benefit or very little for the City. A large factor for ADF to land in Great Falls was due to the information package provided by the Great Falls Development Authority, City and County that helped ADF understand the incentives available, including the MBOI program. While ADF will not pay taxes during the 15 years, he asked the Commission to keep in mind the economic benefit of the current 70 jobs and discussed plans for expansion that will add 300-500 jobs. In addition, ADF has made \$1.3 million infrastructure improvements. Some of the upgrades were made at the request of the City to size the utilities for future growth to the north of the property.

Brett Doney, Great Falls Development Authority, 300 Central Avenue, thanked the teams involved that helped put this project together. He noted that Great Falls is getting a reputation for the way it gets things put together and follows through with its commitments.

Kathy Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, was happy to hear the Montana Board of Investments was indemnifying the City of Great Falls. She expressed concerns that ADF informed the Neighborhood Council it would not do anything like this or accept public money, and that the police and fire departments will not get funding from this.

Herbert Kulow clarified that there is a carve out provision for ADF to build a \$6 million dollar paint facility. ADF is in the process of carving that out from the City owned 100 acres, which means the \$6 million dollar facility will be taxed because it will be owned by ADF.

Deputy Manager Reichelt added that this property is already in a TIF District that was already expanded. With the carve outs, property taxes will be paid to the City but the additional increment will go into the TIF to benefit infrastructure in the area.

Ron Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, commented that he was disappointed in his vote at the Neighborhood Council meeting to support ADF in Great Falls because the Neighborhood Council was told ADF would not be requesting public benefits. He opposes all TIFs because he feels they take away from local governments. He inquired if ADF's lease payments were a credit or a deduction from Montana income taxes. He also referred to Section 14, limited recourse loan, as being the same wording as previously associated with ECP documents.

In response to Mr. Gessaman's inquiry, **Herbert Kulow** commented that the lease payments are

a credit to the taxes of the State of Montana. He provided an example of a credit against a tax liability. With regard to Section 14 of the loan agreement, Mr. Kulow commented that it's set forth in statute that there is no liability to the City. That agreement was reviewed by the State's attorney, ADF's attorney and the City Attorney; all concurred with the verbiage in all of the documents.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

17. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- A. Mary Sheehy Moe**, 8 Prospect Drive, reported that the proposed school mill levy is designed to address the drop out rate, substance abuse, behavioral problems, and mathematics. A primary factor in growing the economy in Great Falls is making sure our schools are high quality and that they are well supported. She urged the community's support of the mill levy, and attendance at rallies around the community on April 22nd.
- B. Robert Morris**, 900 10th Street SW, asked the City to evaluate and come up with a solution to fix a gravel road in front of his house that improperly drains and is causing damage to his and his neighbors' homes. He announced that the Vets4Vets stand down event is scheduled for October 2-4, 2014.
- C. Richard Liebert**, 289 Boston Coulee Road, asked the Commission to consider allowing public use of AV equipment.
- D. Ron Gessaman**, 1006 36th Avenue NE, provided information regarding use of the words podium versus lectern. He was surprised to learn in the 2013 Veolia Annual Report that the City stopped operating the co-gen facility, and that it is now a \$2.5 million dollar asset doing nothing. With regard to a recent article in the *Tribune* regarding the parking program, Mr. Gessaman commented the City shouldn't be in the parking business. He suggested a condo-garage system where downtown businesses own the parking garages; and, doing away with parking meters will solve all of the parking issues in this town.
- E. John Hubbard**, 615 7th Avenue South, commented he wanted to ask the City Forester how to prevent or stop Emerald Bark Beetles. Mayor Winters took Mr. Hubbard's phone number for the Park and Recreation Director to contact him.
- F. Michael Witsoe**, 510 5th Street South, discussed the Ice Breaker, his friend's passing, the Animal Shelter building, and the 18th Street storm drain improvement project.

CITY MANAGER

18. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

CITY COMMISSION**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 Jones, to adjourn the regular meeting of April 15, 2014, at 10:07 p.m.**

Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Michael J. Winters

City Clerk Lisa Kunz

Minutes Approved: May 6, 2014