

**JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION**  
**August 5, 2014**

City Commission Work Session  
Civic Center, Commission Chambers

Mayor Winters presiding

**CALL TO ORDER:** 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** City Commissioners present: Michael J. Winters, Bill Bronson, Fred Burow, Bob Jones and Bob Kelly.

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager; Director of Fiscal Services; Police Chief; City Engineer; Assistant Fire Chief; Emergency Planner; and the Deputy City Clerk.

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

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from the public.

**2. BNSF RAIL SAFETY UPDATE**

BNSF Railway Regional Public Affairs Director Matt Jones reported there are four days of tank car training (two sessions per day) scheduled next week with Fire Rescue, including training on how to identify what is on the train, how to find information about the materials on the train, and contact information if it is determined that there are hazardous materials. Similar training will be held in Cut Bank on August 12<sup>th</sup> and in Shelby on August 14<sup>th</sup>. He noted arrangements can be made for the City Commissioners to observe the training.

Mr. Jones reported that the order requiring railroads to report shipments of Bakken crude oil became effective June 7, 2014. The information is posted on the State of Montana website. The most current report from BNSF for the week of June 5-11, 2014, showed no shipments of Bakken crude oil through Cascade County.

Mr. Jones also reported the U.S. Department of Transportation submitted a notice of proposed rulemaking on July 23, 2014, proposing to phase out older DOT 111 tank cars over a two-year period, an additional classification and testing program for gases and liquids, and new operational requirements for high hazard flammable trains. The comment period last 60 days, and BNSF has not yet filed any comments.

Mayor Winters questioned how residents in the area of an incident would receive emergency notification.

City Manager Greg Doyon discussed a recent incident of a release from a tanker that was being maintained.

Emergency Planner Kristal Kuhn reported that either Police or Fire will respond and determine the need, and the need will be transferred to Dispatch. Notifications would go out through the Emergency Alert System. She noted that police officers went door-to-door to notify residents when the recent tanker release occurred. Ms. Kuhn noted that when funding is secured to purchase the reverse 911 system, notification goals will be better achieved.

Police Chief Dave Bowen reported the Nixle system has had limited success because there is a reluctance by users to sign up for the service. He explained new software would allow a click over a neighborhood to drag and drop phone numbers into a system that would provide a message to residents.

Ms. Kuhn noted cell phone numbers will also be included in the system, especially smart phones, in coordination with the National Alert System (IPAWS).

In conjunction with her office, Ms. Kuhn reported Vince Kolar, Cascade County DES, Patty Cadwell, Neighborhood Councils, and Janelle Olberding, City-County Health Department are planning a Community Preparedness Forum tentatively scheduled for September 18, 2014, North Middle School cafeteria, that will specifically target neighborhoods and what it means to evacuate and what it means to shelter in place.

Mr. Jones also reported that BNSF, along with other railroads this year, have sponsored first responders in the system to participate in intensive training in Pueblo, Colorado, specific to responding to a crude oil incident. As of this date, four Fire Rescue firemen have participated.

Chief Bowen introduced Sergeant Brian Black, Officer Matt Fleming, and Officer Scott Fisher. Sergeant Black, Patrol Supervisor and Tactical Commander for the SWAT team, also introduced Officer Fleming, Assistant Team Leader, former Marine, and one of the head tactical men, and Officer Fisher, also a former Marine and a new team member given the task of trying to obtain an armored vehicle at little to no cost.

Sergeant Black discussed the 1981 armored vehicle that the department has had since the early 2000's. He noted an armored vehicle is part of tactical planning and one of their biggest assets that provides mobile cover. He also discussed the value of this kind of vehicle in incidents that have occurred locally, and its value in natural disasters.

Sergeant Black reported that the price of most armored vehicles starts at the \$300,000 - \$400,000 range. The DRMO (1033) program is a way to acquire equipment from the military that is not being used. Officer Fisher worked tirelessly with the DRMO program to acquire the MRAP armored vehicle. He noted the vehicle is technically a DOD asset that could go back. The vehicle is valued at \$689,000, and the only cost to the City involved three individuals driving to Fort Collins, Colorado to pick up the vehicle and two days driving it back.

Sergeant Black discussed the local military and business support for the vehicle.

The City Commission took a break at 5:59 p.m. to go outside and view the vehicle. They returned at 6:22 p.m.

**3. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS**

Mayor Winters postponed agenda Item #3 until the 7 p.m. City Commission meeting.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Winters adjourned the informal work session of August 5, 2014, at 6:23 p.m.