

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
August 19, 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; Deputy City Manager; City Attorney; Directors of Fiscal Services and Planning and Community Development; Fire Chief; Police Chief; City Engineer; 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. ****

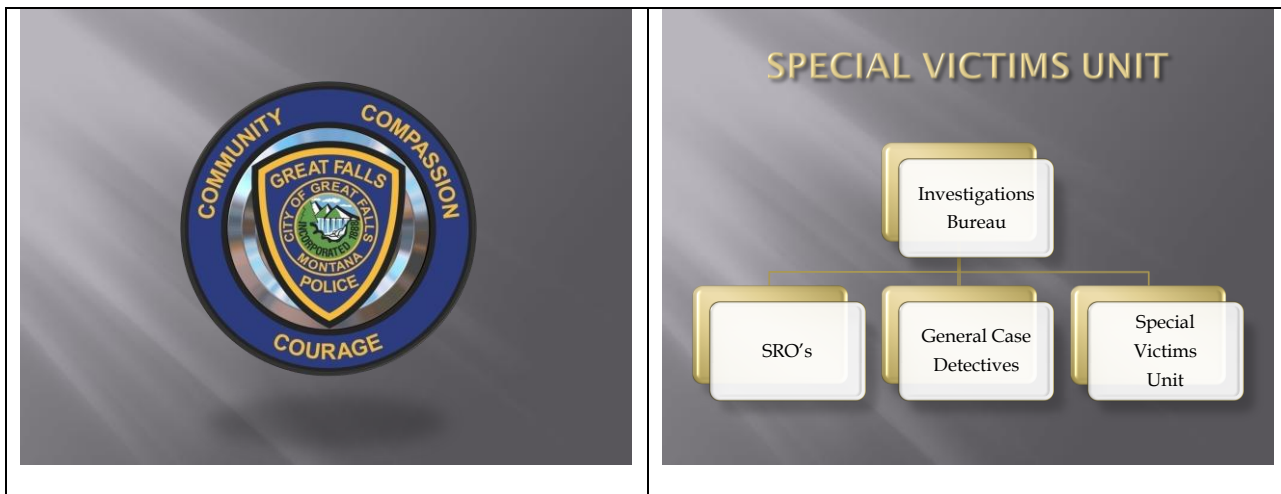
1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Royal Flagg, President of STOP, reported that a march will be held in October in reference to sex and human trafficking throughout Montana and the nation. Information will be provided at a later date.

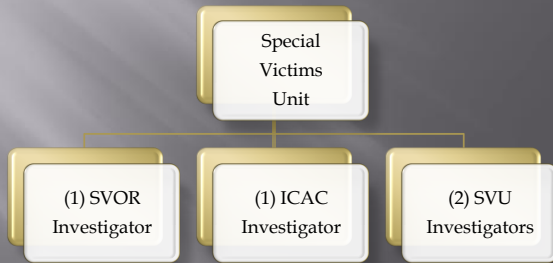
Richard Liebert, 289 Boston Coulee Road, thanked the City and the community for supporting The Wall That Heals. He provided a handout of the Global Guardian. He also expressed appreciation to the City for broadcasting the Work Sessions. He discussed the development process, and urged Commission support for the Great Bear No. 2 Subdivision – Phase II agenda item later in the evening. He suggested upcoming Work Session topics include NeighborWorks and public participation in multi-media.

2. CHILD NEGLECT AND ABUSE UPDATE

Police Chief Dave Bowen provided and discussed a PowerPoint presentation on Child Neglect and Abuse.



SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT



SVOR (Sexual and Violent Offender Registration)

- 135 Sexual offenders
- 428 Violent offenders
- 13 Sexual/Violent offenders
- 576 total offenders in Great Falls

ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children)

- ❑ Started nationwide in 1998 under the U.S. Department of Justice Office
- ❑ By 2007 every state had an ICAC task force
- ❑ Part time detective 2012
- ❑ Full time in 2013



ICAC

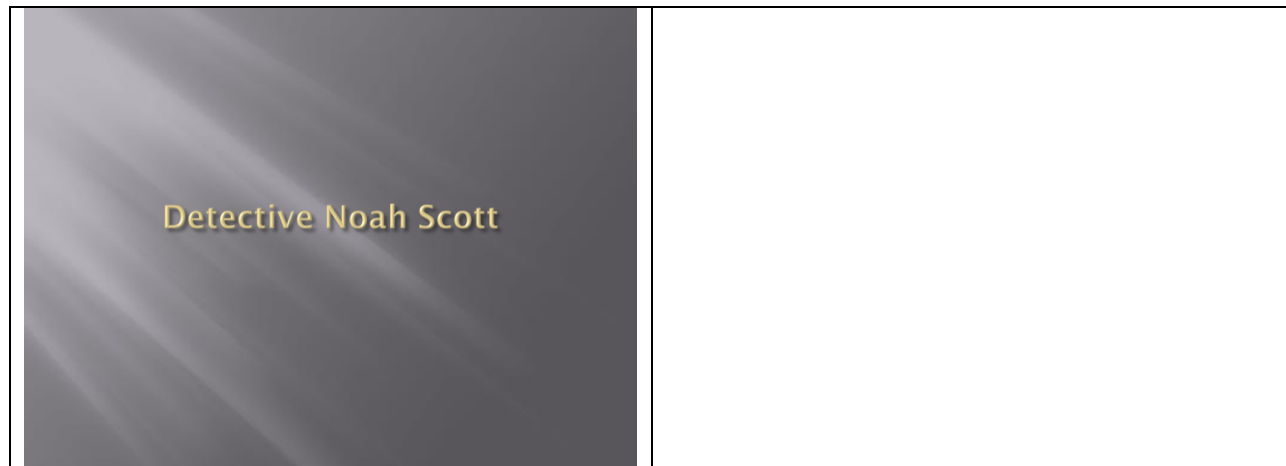
- ❑ Since being able to go full time last year:
 - Conducted 3 sexual predator operations resulting in 16 people arrested.
 - Assigned and cleared 11 cases involving exploitation of children in our community.
 - Actively tracking and pursuing predators on line.
 - Conducted presentations and awareness trainings.

SVU Detectives

- ❑ Added a full time investigator after the decision to keep the COP grants positions.
- ❑ Since being assigned, in less than a year Detective Price has investigated 48 cases.
- ❑ 39 of these cases have been cleared with 9 still open and active.
- ❑ 39 cases = 39 families served in our community.

SVU

- ❑ The detectives working in this unit average over 11 assigned cases at any given time.
- ❑ Since 2008 there have been 6 child homicides in our city (James, Kaelyn, October, Keira, Brooklyn and Riley).
- ❑ Statewide reported cases are down somewhat but the substantiated # cases has doubled over last 2 years.
- ❑ This increase reflects more volume of cases being investigated.



Detective Noah Scott discussed the work of the Special Victims Unit including child abuse and neglect, and adult sexual based crimes.

Chief Bowen noted efforts are being made to partner with other multi-disciplinary teams for education and early prevention for this community-wide problem.

3. DEVELOPMENT PROCESS TASK FORCE

Rick Tryon, on behalf of the Great Falls Association of Realtors and community development stake holders, provided and discussed a handout of the Great Falls Development Advisory Board proposal with recommendation to transition the Development Process Task Force into a City advisory board with participation by City staff.

Commissioner Bronson believes the Development Process Task Force should continue to advise the City Commission and City staff in an unofficial capacity. He expressed concern with the proposal and noted the Commission would be required to have exclusive control of the appointment of members of an advisory board. He discussed ideas for best practices in planning.

Commissioner Kelly questioned the proposal and believes it is difficult to glean information from a board unless it is run well. He urged efforts to enhance lines of communication.

Mr. Tryon noted that a board can make recommendations on board member appointments.

Commissioner Jones believes the Development Process Task Force has opened lines of communication. He questioned the proposal and does not support a board at this time.

Commissioner Burow believes more discussion is needed but supports improved communication efforts.

City Manager Greg Doyon discussed the evolution that has taken place with combining the Planning and Community Development Departments into one department and the ongoing City growth issues. He also discussed retaliation concerns and code compliance.

4. FIREWORKS UPDATE DISCUSSION

Police Chief Dave Bowen reported that when comparing the three years preceding the current ordinance change and the last three years, the number of calls have been reduced by almost half. He noted Cascade County sells fireworks in advance of what the City Ordinance allows. He believes people's patience is taxed by the 4th of July. He questioned how the noise from fireworks could be regulated.

Fire Chief Randy McCamley reported the current ordinance is the result of a community compromise. He asked the Commission to determine goals to accomplish when considering an ordinance change, such as a reduction in noise or litter.

Mayor Winters discussed the increased noise levels from newer fireworks; he urged consideration and common sense.

Deputy City Manager Jennifer Reichelt suggested better community education prior to the 4th of July to help citizens be more aware of their neighbors.

Commissioner Bronson suggested approaching the County Commission to reconsider the ordinance that allows fireworks sales in areas that are technically urban.

Commissioner Burow suggested conversation with the Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees to help with fireworks education.

Commissioner Kelly believes most people love fireworks, but there are times when they are disturbing. He expressed concern for veterans who have experienced loud noises and sudden explosions.

Chief Bowen reported that a member of the Police Advisory Board who is also a veteran noted that veterans have served so the 4th of July can be celebrated.

Chief McCamley reported that fireworks sold are consumer classification fireworks – 1.4G as determined by U.S. Department of Transportation. Fireworks have had the same types of powder and load charge for a long time. He discussed illegal fireworks that may have been used.

5. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS

City Manager Greg Doyon provided and discussed a handout Master Work Session Topic List. He proposed the UMS Advisory Board Update and Risk Management Annual Report for the September 2, 2014, Work Session. He noted that golf will be added as an additional topic.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Winters adjourned the informal work session of August 19, 2014, at 6:43 p.m.