

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
September 2, 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, and Bob Jones. Commissioner Bob Kelly was excused.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager; Deputy City Manager; City Attorney; Director of Fiscal Services; Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief; Communications Center Manager; 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. EMS ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

Commissioner Bronson noted that he suggested a Board update be scheduled for a City Commission Work Session when attending a recent EMS Advisory Board meeting.

Fire Chief Randy McCamley noted that he also serves as City EMS Administrator, an appointment made by the City Manager, to oversee the EMS system. He explained that the EMS Advisory Board has been in place for approximately five years and meets on a quarterly basis. Board members and stakeholders include the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center, law enforcement, City and County Disaster and Emergency Services staff, Neighborhood Council Coordinator, local physicians and medical directors, Great Falls Fire Rescue (GFFR), Great Falls Emergency Services (GFES), Benefis Health Care, City Manager's office, and Commissioner Bronson who attends on a regular basis.

Chief McCamley reported the Bylaws state that the EMS Advisory Board shall endeavor to preserve and improve the quality of life for the Great Falls community by ensuring a safe and stable EMS pre-hospital care system. The Board shall also ensure the system provides reliable and cost-efficient medical care by highly trained personnel. The Board shall assist EMS administration by providing recommendations and information on all matters pertaining to the EMS system.

Chief McCamley reported that responses were made to over 4,700 calls for medical services in 2013.

EMS System Medical Director Dr. David Simpson, a trained emergency physician and EMS Board member since inception, explained the goal has been to provide a continuum of care for citizens by connecting the previously existing links for pre-hospital care because time is of the essence. The first link is the patient, and community education programs, including basic CPR, have been developed through the City-County Health Department. Emergency Medical Dispatch is the second link. The next link is EMS providers, including GFFR and GFES.

Communications Center Manager Bill Hunter, who also serves as Great Falls-Cascade County Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) (another name for 9-1-1 Center) Manager, noted that approximately 36,000 (100 per day) 9-1-1 calls were handled the past year, with approximately 20-30% requiring emergency medical dispatch (EMD), a 9-1-1 priority system with pre-arrival instruction.

Chief McCamley noted there was not an EMS system prior to 2008, only pieces of a system trying to work together. Today there is an EMS system that works well together through much cooperation and coordination.

Great Falls Emergency Services Critical Care Paramedic Sydney Hirst, serving as a Critical Care Paramedic for approximately seven years and serving the community since 2001, speaking in lieu of Great Falls Emergency Services Manager Justin Grohs, discussed some of the newer treatment services that are provided. She discussed mobile integrated health care, a service that is offered to patients discharged from the hospital with the goal to reduce readmissions.

City-County Health Department (CCHD) Health Officer Tanya Houston explained that CCHD is tasked with helping to care for the public's health and safety. She believes the EMS Advisory Board has helped the different agencies learn how to work together on behalf of the community. She discussed ways CCHD works with the different agencies and partnering efforts to collaborate and share resources.

Commissioner Bronson commented that Ordinance 2993, passed in 2008, has been a forum for cooperation and collaboration among the medical partners to improve the health and safety of people in the community.

Chief McCamley explained that a dual dispatch response of fire and EMS transport saves lives and improves patient outcomes.

Chief McCamley noted the public is welcome to EMS Advisory Board meetings which are held quarterly and are noticed on the City website.

3. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS

City Manager Greg Doyon proposed the Golf Course Update and Year End Review Audit for the September 16, 2014, Work Session. He discussed potential upcoming topics including Risk Management Annual Report, Safety Inspection Certificate/Business Licensing Fee Review, Lift Assist Report, Sign Code Discussion, Montana Defense Alliance Report, USAF Community Partnership Initiative (P4), and Quarterly Budget Meetings.

Mayor Winters noted a new program will begin on KMON at 9 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month to inform the public of current issues.

Discussion followed regarding the Work Session venue in the Commission Chambers versus the prior location in the Gibson Room, and the continued use of cameras.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Winters adjourned the informal work session of September 2, 2014, at 6:22 p.m.