

**JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION**  
**October 7, 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:** Deputy City Manager; City Attorney; Directors of Fiscal Services and Planning and Community Development; Police Chief; Fire Chief; Assistant Fire Chief; Deputy Director of Planning and Community Development; 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**

There were no comments from the public.

**2. PLANNING HEARING PROCEDURES**

Deputy Director of Planning and Community Development Lee Nellis discussed a proposed change to increase efficiency in the planning process. With the exceptions of hearings which are mandated by a time schedule, the City Commission policy requiring first readings is not a requirement of federal or state law, or the municipal codes of the City of Great Falls.

Deputy Director Nellis reported that by eliminating a first reading, staff would set the hearing date, and the delay of two weeks to a month waiting on the public hearing would not occur.

Following discussion on public notice and public comment opportunities, the consensus of the Commission was to direct staff to consider question and answer sessions and proceed with the proposed hearing procedure changes.

**3. LIFT ASSIST REPORT**

Assistant Fire Chief Steve Hester provided and discussed a Lift Assist Study handout. Great Falls Fire Rescue helps people who need help to bed, help back in their chair, etc. He noted that many lift assist cases turn into medical calls because they are hurt from a fall or have fallen as a result of an illness. The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) defines a lift assist as an incident where an invalid is assisted to bed or to a chair with no transport or medical treatment given.

Assistant Chief Hester explained lift assists have been provided at assisted living facilities and private dwellings. If a recurring problem or abuse of lift assist services is noted, the problem is addressed. He reported that out of 2500 calls, there were 213 lift assist calls during a five month period.

Commissioner Jones questioned if the hospital was being provided lift assist services as there are professional care providers at such facilities.

Assistant Chief Hester responded that calls for the hospital are made when there is medical concern and transport is needed.

Commissioner Kelly noted that if there is a need to set a limit or write a policy when there is abuse of the lift assist service, the Commission would help provide that authority.

Mayor Winters requested Police Chief Bowen or Fire Chief McCamley to join him on the radio program on KMON next Thursday to let the public know how the department has served the community on a daily basis. Police Chief Bowen agreed to join the Mayor on Thursday, October 16, 2014, on KMON, at the Rainbow.

#### **4. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS**

Deputy City Manager discussed future Work Session topics, including three scheduled topics for October 21, 2014 – Montana Defense Alliance Report; USAF Community Partnership Initiative (P4); and Golf Course Update.

Commissioner Burow requested the Sign Code Discussion be added to the November Work Session topics.

Commissioner Bronson reported there has been a request to hold a joint City-County Commission meeting before the legislative delegation leaves for Helena.

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. The consensus of the Commission was to reconsider the issue at mid-budget time.

Deputy City Manager Jennifer Reichelt reported on a request from the Moscow Ballet to hold a rehearsal in the Mansfield Theater on November 18, 2014, that may overlap with the Commission meeting that evening.

The consensus of the Commission was to approve the request.

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Winters adjourned the informal work session of October 7, 2014, at 6:26 p.m.