

Regular City Commission Meeting

Mayor Kelly presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

Commission Chambers Room 206

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Boy Scout Troops 26 & 14

ROLL CALL/STAFF INTRODUCTIONS: City Commission members present: Bob Kelly, Tracy Houck, Bob Jones and Fred Burow. Commissioner Bill Bronson was excused. Also present were the City Manager Greg Doyon and Deputy City Manager Jennifer Reichelt; City Clerk Lisa Kunz and Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea; Public Works Director Jim Rearden; Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond; Park and Recreation Director Joe Petrella; Fiscal Services Director Melissa Kinzler; City Attorney Sara Sexe; and, Police Chief Dave Bowen.

AGENDA APPROVAL: No changes were proposed by the City Manager or City Commission. The agenda was approved as submitted.

Mayor Kelly congratulated and thanked all of the candidates involved in the November election. He welcomed Commissioner Houck to the Commission. He noted Commissioner Bronson is missing his first Commission meeting due to a trial he is involved in, and he congratulated him on beginning his third term on the Commission.

Mayor Kelly reported that this Commission is interested in facing the challenges and opportunities that we have as a community. Going forward, this Commission will do its best to address the issues that are important to help Great Falls realize its potential and capitalize on growth. The Commission is committed to seeking out viable solutions to present to the community, so that the community can help the Commission establish the priorities it will need to put in place to tackle issues in a meaningful way.

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

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- A. Aart Dolman**, 3016 Central Avenue, submitted and read a letter to the Commission regarding Tintina Resources copper mining project in the Sheep Creek Drainage and how it would possibly impact drinking water obtained from the Missouri River.
- B. Aaron Weissman**, Scout Master of Boy Scout Troop 26, announced that Troop 26 just began its 60th year of service to the community. He noted that a number of the members of Troops 26 and 14 have elected to stay for the meeting. In doing so, these scouts are accomplishing a number of rank requirements of the Boy Scouts of American. Mr. Weissman briefly reviewed what those requirements were.
- C. Ron Gessaman**, 1006 36th Avenue NE, submitted and read a December 27, 2015, Miss Manners *Great Falls Tribune* article titled “Pol can’t avoid talking shop.”

- D. Dave Snuggs**, 525 Central Avenue, founder of My Neighbor In Need and Facilities Director for Montana Farmer's Union, announced that February will mark the 2nd year since Montana Farmer's Union bought and renovated the Times Square Building. It is now at 100% occupancy. In addition to those tenants, they have launched the Great Falls Wedding and Event Center and Community Kitchen. Mr. Snuggs discussed two recent parking citations of patrons of the Wedding and Event Center. He suggested that parking citations and ideas need to go away, and that there were other ways to save and energize downtown.

There being no one further to address the Commission, Mayor Kelly encouraged everyone to become educated on the Sheep Creek project and learn how it might affect Great Falls going forward.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

2. SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Mayor Kelly officiated the swearing in ceremony for several newly elected Neighborhood Council members.

3. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Kathy Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, reported on the council's upcoming meeting agenda on January 7, 2015.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

4. APPOINTMENTS, MANSFIELD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ADVISORY BOARD.

Commissioner Burow moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission reappoint Keern Haslem and Carl Donovan for additional three-year terms and appoint Patty Holmes Myers to fill a three-year term through December 31, 2018, to the Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts Advisory Board.

Mayor Kelly asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners. Hearing none, Mayor Kelly noted Ms. Myers' background, and he expressed appreciation to the members serving on this board.

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

Motion carried 3-0-1 (Commissioner Houck abstained).

Commissioner Houck explained that Mr. Haslem is a friend and was her campaign manager.

5. **PARKING ADVISORY BOARD, BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS AND BOARD REPORT.**

Mayor Kelly reported that Dave Abbott, Darren Brown, Chuck Fulcher, David Campbell and Kenny Volk serve on the Parking Advisory Board. He introduced board members present: Darren Brown, Chuck Fulcher and David Campbell.

Mr. Brown reported that this board typically meets on the third Monday of each month. The members present reported their years of service.

The Commission presented the board members with a certificate recognizing them for the work that they do and thanked them for their service.

Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond announced that there is a current opening on this board.

6. **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.**

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

Mayor Kelly reported that the Planning Advisory Board will present at the next Commission meeting.

CITY MANAGER

7. **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that the January 19th work session topics include the Park Master Plan and CDBG Annual Action Plan.

As the appointed representative of the City, Manager Doyon congratulated and announced that the newly appointment members to the executive committee of the Montana Defense Alliance were Doug Oswood (Oswood Construction), Dan McLaughlin (D.A. Davidson), and temporarily until his retirement, Tom Alfrey (Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce).

Manager Doyon reported that, between the hours of 6 pm on December 31st and 6 am on January 1st, the Great Falls Police Department responded to 96 calls for service. The calls resulted in 33 citations and nine arrests, two of which were for DUI.

Manager Doyon further announced that three Mansfield event rehearsals conflict with Commission meeting nights on November 1, 2016, and January 17 and February 21, 2017. The Commission did not express any concerns with those dates.

Manager Doyon noted that the street lighting resolution and policy is in the process of being updated.

CONSENT AGENDA.

8. Minutes, December 15, 2016, Commission meeting.
9. Total expenditures of \$3,367,422 for the period of December 1, 2015 through December 23, 2015, to include claims over \$5,000, in the amount of \$2,975,262.
10. Contracts list.
11. Grants list.
12. Approve Final Payment for the Missouri River Parking Lots and Vault Toilet Replacement in the amount of \$31,729.33 to United Materials of Great Falls, Inc and \$320.50 to the State Miscellaneous Tax Fund.
13. Approve Final Payment for the Skyline Water Tower Reconditioning (Base Bid B) in the amount of \$203,455.40 to Classic Protective Coatings, Inc and \$2055.10 to the State Miscellaneous Tax Fund.

Commissioner Burow moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

Mayor Kelly asked if there were any comments from the public.

Ron Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, requested clarification about the warranty periods as set forth in Items 12 and 13.

Public Works Director Jim Rearden responded that almost every project within the City has a two year warranty period. Typically, CTEP projects are federally funded through the State and set a one year warranty period.

Commissioner Jones noted that both Items 12 and 13 came in less than the bid amounts originally awarded.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

14. **LEASE AGREEMENT WITH GREAT FALLS SADDLE CLUB FOR A PORTION OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY WITHIN WADSWORTH PARK.**

Park and Recreation Director Joe Petrella reported that the Great Falls Saddle Club is an organization existing for the purpose of promoting community interest in equestrian activities and is requesting to continue leasing a portion of Wadsworth Park for the use of its members and the public, which it has been doing since 1971.

On December 1, 1998, the City Commission adopted Resolution 8973, the Wadsworth Park Master Plan. It was recommended at that time that all existing leases continue in Wadsworth Park until the City is ready to begin implementing the Master Plan. To date, there is no funding available to develop Wadsworth Park and the Park and Recreation Department does not have the means to operate or maintain various portions of the park.

On December 7, 2015, the Park and Recreation Board approved the lease with the Great Falls Saddle Club.

Mayor Kelly declared the public hearing open.

Speaking in support of the lease was:

Keern Haslem, 3803 Poker Flats Road, encouraged the Saddle Club to make available rental horses for the public to ride.

No one spoke in opposition to the lease.

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

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Houck, that the City Commission approve the lease agreement of City owned property for a portion of Wadsworth Park with the Great Falls Saddle Club.

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

Commissioner Burow inquired the status of a concessionaire dispute with the Saddle Club.

Director Petrella responded that he doesn't believe it has been remedied.

Manager Doyon added that a letter was received that he responded to in October.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

CITY COMMISSION

15. APPOINTMENT, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE.

Article III, Section 3 of the City Charter sets forth that the Mayor Pro Tempore shall serve in the absence of the elected Mayor. The City Commissioners shall elect from among themselves a

Mayor Pro Tempore no later than one month after taking office.

Commissioner Burow moved, seconded by Commissioner Houck, that the City Commission appoint Commissioner Jones to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore for a two year term.

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

Commissioner Burow noted that Commissioner Jones has done a great job serving in that capacity for six years and would like to see him continue.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

16. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

There were no miscellaneous reports and announcements from members of the Commission.

17. COMMISSION INITIATIVES.

Commissioners Burow and Houck will be working with the Parking Advisory Board in the coming months, and will task the Board with downtown parking ideas. They welcomed ideas from the public to come up with a solution. The Parking Advisory Board will update the Commission in March.

Commissioner Jones reported that public safety is a priority of the Commission. He discussed a committee to look at ways at resolving public safety (police and fire) funding issues without going out for a public safety mill levy at this time.

At the request of Mayor Kelly, Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond provided an update on the Civic Center building infrastructure issues. Some years ago there was an initial feasibility study and estimate of \$4 million dollars to renovate the façade of the Civic Center building. CTA Architects will be performing an additional structural assessment and safety evaluation of the Civic Center, primarily dealing with the condition of the façade, and will be providing a report on its findings.

Mayor Kelly concluded that these are three issues that need to be faced with the community to establish priorities.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Burow, to adjourn the regular meeting of January 5, 2016, at 8:04 p.m.**

Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Bob Kelly

City Clerk Lisa Kunz

Minutes Approved: January 19, 2016