

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
November 3, 2015

City Commission Work Session
Great Falls Emergency Communications Center
3015 Airport Drive

Mayor Winters presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

CITY COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael J. Winters, Bill Bronson, Bob Jones, Bob Kelly and Fred Burow.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager; Deputy City Manager; City Attorney; Directors of Fiscal Services and Public Works; Fire Chief; Police Chief; and the City Clerk.

**** Action Minutes of the Great Falls City Commission ****

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

2. COOPERATIVE PURCHASING

Fire Chief Steve Hester provided an overview of the Houston Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Cooperating Purchasing Program. The H-GAC cooperative purchasing group has been in existence for over 30 years and has over 58 members in the Pacific Northwest alone. The benefit to the City to participate in such program is that the pool has significant group purchasing capability to negotiate favorable pricing for trucks, equipment and tools. H-GAC utilizes the competitive bidding process that meets state statute procurement standards and requirements.

Chief Hester discussed cooperative purchasing versus traditional bidding. Cooperative purchasing maximizes purchasing power and adds another tool to the toolbox, as well as improves efficiency and effectiveness.

During the regular meeting, the Commission will be asked to authorize the City Manager to participate in the H-GAC Cooperative Purchasing Program. City Manager Doyon added that, if approved, the City may be able to purchase two trucks instead of one this year. The trucks would replace 20+ year old trucks for a more reliable fleet.

3. EMERGENCY SERVICES UPDATE

Police Chief Dave Bowen and Communication Supervisor Bill Hunter discussed and reviewed PowerPoint slides of the 911 facility, Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) – Communication Partnership, regional call routing center, Montana First Regional 911 (MTFR911) status, FirstNet, and three interlocal agreements.

With regard to the facility, Chief Bowen and Supervisor Hunter provided an update of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the 911 Center.

Chief Bowen and City Manager Greg Doyon provided the progress of the MAFB – P4 agreement, which would utilize the call routing with existing equipment and reduce costs to both agencies.

Chief Bowen and Supervisor Hunter discussed the eight agency approach to sharing resources, reducing costs, and improving service through redundancy/efficiency. They explained the anatomy of a 9-1-1 call as well as the difference between the current and a proposed regional call distribution system.

First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) was signed into law in 2012. The law gives FirstNet the mission to build, operate and maintain the first high speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. FirstNet will provide a single interoperable platform for emergency and daily public safety communications.

Chief Bowen also discussed the interlocal agreements in place since 1997. The agreements will be updated to reflect current conditions. He discussed challenges and concerns and concluded that the recommendation will be to continue the existing business model approach with some additions.

4. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS

Manager Doyon reported that a joint meeting with the Library Board will be scheduled for November 17, 2015, a budget update for December 15, 2015, and the Park and Recreation Master Plan will be presented on January 19, 2016.

The Commission did not request any topics be added to the pending list of work session topics.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Winters adjourned the informal work session of November 3, 2015, at 6:35 pm.