

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
April 19, 2016

City Commission Work Session
Civic Center, Gibson Room 212

Mayor Kelly presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

CITY COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Kelly, Bill Bronson, Bob Jones, Fred Burow and Tracy Houck.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager and Deputy City Manager; City Attorney; Assistant City Attorney; Directors of Fiscal Services, Public Works and Library; 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

Richard Liebert, 289 Boston Coulee Road, thanked the Commission for integrating Neighborhood Councils into City Commission proceedings. Mr. Liebert suggested providing resources and technology to Neighborhood Councils, and having Public Works present at Work Session regarding energy and environment.

2. INTRODUCTION AND UPDATE FROM NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL # 9

Mayor Kelly reported that the northern boundary is Central Avenue, the southern boundary is 10th Avenue South, the eastern is 36th Street South, and the western is 10th Street South from 10th Avenue South to 7th Avenue South, then east to 12th Street South, and then north to Central Avenue. He introduced Joe Leggett, NC 9 Chairperson.

Chairperson Joe Leggett expressed concerns with littering, loitering, smoking, trash and speeding at Great Falls High School. He commented that enforcement is the key to this problem.

Council Secretary Barney Danishefsky discussed improvements with the issues at Martha Apartments. He noted problems with a few tenants and that the Police Department is aware and working on the issues. Due to a recent issue that was so drastic, one neighbor intends on selling.

Liz Rice, 1704 Central Avenue, commented that criminal activity is still an issue and she is considering selling her house. She discussed the possibility of ticketing the owner or tenants. She commended the Police Department with its efforts.

Council Secretary Danishefsky commented on the involvement of the Police Department and noted he is attending the Citizens Academy.

Chairperson Leggett complimented the new play equipment at the Water Tower Park and the Water Park swimming pool.

Neighborhood Council 9 member Jered Kuno discussed water supply and pressure issues at 2205 4th Avenue South area.

Manager Greg Doyon noted those issues would be looked into.

Public Works Director Jim Rearden responded that there is a split between two pressure zones.

3. RECAP OF PROPOSED LIBRARY ORDINANCE

Commissioner Bronson reported that Ordinance 3140, as drafted, is the culmination of a City Commission initiative to update and revise the current city ordinance that, among other things, established the Great Falls Public Library and provided for a governing board of trustees. This initiative follows discussion of the library budget, and the Library Board of Trustees and their role in management of the Library, during Commission consideration of the City's 2015-2016 budget.

Furthermore, the provisions in the old ordinance concerning taxation are outdated in view of adoption of new state laws concerning local government budgeting and finance, as well as interpretations of that law by the Montana Attorney General.

Ordinance 341 has never been codified as part of the Official Code of the City of Great Falls (OCCGF), but it remains our only statutory statement as to the existence of the Library and its management structure.

The need for independent management of the library must be balanced with the City Commission's authority under both state law and the City Charter to approve the budget and mill levy for the library. To accomplish that balance, there is a need to establish a structured relationship between the Board of Trustees and the City Commission.

Further, this proposed ordinance is in keeping with the changes brought about by the Local Government Finance Act of 2001, and the 2012 interpretation of the Act and state library laws by the Montana attorney general. The ordinance also provides that the 1993 agreement between the City and the Library Board of Trustees, which outlines the relationship between each entity, the Library Board's management authority, and City authority in personnel matters, remains in effect.

Commissioner Bronson summarized that if approved one member of the Commission or the Mayor will sit ex officio on the board of trustees. He suggested that the ex officio attend board meetings regularly in order to get a better sense of the operations and to report back to the commission to build a better relationship. He also noted that the city maintain the agreement that was adopted in 1993 to have a clearly defined structured relationship.

Library Director Kathy Mora clarified that the language regarding ex officio board members was already in the library board bylaws and noted that previously there was a City Commissioner as an ex officio member on the Library Board.

Mayor Kelly noted for the past three months he has attended board meetings and the Library board has had a good look at the Ordinance. He commented that board members should attend

the public hearing on May 3rd.

4. CITY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

City County Health Department Health Officer Tanya Houston provided and discussed a 2015 Annual report and highlighted portions of the report. Health Officer Houston commented on the mission and vision of the City County Health Department and discussed the four divisions which include: Prevention Services, Environmental Health Services, Family Health Services and Administrative Services.

She explained that the services offered are regulated by the Montana Code Annotated. She noted the Health Department is co-located with the Community Health Care Center and further explained they are two separate entities with a different budget and leadership. She mentioned that the City County collaborates with other agencies including the Great Falls Public Schools.

Health Officer Houston noted that expenses were higher due to the cost of immunizations, but they were able to collect that amount of revenue and were able to balance it out. She reported the main service they offer in the community is Family Health. She also mentioned the program is growing, is grant funded and that a memorandum of understanding (MOU's) in place.

She commented the educator for the oral health program travels around the county she noted there is a satellite clinic at Malmstrom for a Special Supplemental Program for women, infants and children (WIC).

Health Officer Houston mentioned as a part of the Environmental Health Division they conduct many license establishment inspections and are in the process of implementing a new database.

She summarized the breakdown of the budget beginning on page 24 in the 2015 Annual Report. She noted in 2015 an increase in revenue and expensing less without compromising quality of service.

Mayor Kelly thanked Commissioner Bill Bronson for being the chairperson for the Board of Health and requested the City Commission tour the Health Department.

Commissioner Bronson encouraged the City Commission to attend Board of Health Meetings.

Commissioner Houck commended the City County Health Department with keeping stats low and handling critical situations.

5. TOBACCO PREVENTION PROGRAM

Tobacco Prevention Specialists Teddy Nault provided and discussed Tobacco Program handout. Specialist Nault noted three main goals of the program include: preventing initiation of tobacco use; promoting smoke and tobacco free environments; and promoting cessation (quitting) of tobacco and nicotine products. He mentioned components and the background of the program.

He further commented the Smoke Free Multi-Housing Project was under a two year grant and Great Falls was under a pilot program to get the project started. He also noted Tobacco Free Alive @ Five was a huge success.

Specialist Nault further noted through a resolution tobacco free zone signs were displayed in numerous parks.

Mayor Kelly requested additional signs for the parks.

Commissioner Houck inquired as to the policy of vaporless cigarettes.

Specialist Nault responded that the last legislative session passed law that it is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to purchase vaporless cigarettes and further noted his department makes the public aware of the dangers of vaporless cigarettes.

Tobacco Prevention Specialists Lindsay Smith discussed campus cleanup with two middle and high schools and noted next year she will be able to work with larger groups of students.

6. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that the work session topics for the May 3rd meeting are Neighborhood Council, Park Master Plan and 3rd Quarter Budget Meeting.

Manager Doyon added a discussion regarding Calumet trail crossing and coordinating with City and County Commissioners with Tyler Tech issues and concerns.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly adjourned the informal work session of April 19, 2016 at 6:26 p.m.