

Regular City Commission Meeting

Mayor Winters presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

Commission Chambers Room 206

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL: City Commissioners present: Michael Winters, Bill Bronson, Bob Jones and Bob Kelly. Commissioner Fred Burow was excused. Also present were the Deputy City Manager; City Attorney; Directors of Fiscal Services, Planning and Community Development, and Public Works; Police Chief; and the City Clerk.

AGENDA APPROVAL: The agenda was approved as submitted. Mayor Winters noted that he would also read a proclamation that he will be presenting at the motorcycle tribute ride and ceremony for 9/11 Remembrance Day.

PROCLAMATIONS: Mayor Winters read proclamations titled 9/11 We Shall Never Forget Remembrance Day, National Preparedness Month and Patriot Day/National Day of Service and Remembrance.

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

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

1. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

There were no miscellaneous reports and announcements from Neighborhood Council representatives.

CONSENT AGENDA.

- 2.** Minutes, August 18, 2015, Commission meeting.
- 3.** Total expenditures of \$2,296,131 for the period of August 1 - 19, 2015, to include claims over \$5,000, in the amount of \$1,934,038.
- 4.** Contracts list.
- 5.** Lien Release list.
- 6.** Set public hearing for October 6, 2015, to consider a Use Agreement with the Great Falls Rescue Mission pertaining to the use of City-owned property known as Surface Parking Lot #3.
- 7.** Set public hearing for October 6, 2015, to consider the exchange of City-owned property within Clara Park with NorthWestern Energy.

Commissioner Kelly moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission approve the Consent Agenda as mentioned.

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners. Hearing none, Mayor Winters asked if there were any comments from the public.

Kathy Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, referred to Item 4C and inquired if caulking the façade of the Civic Center building had been done as suggested by an architectural firm several years ago.

Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond responded that some caulking had been done, but that he doesn't believe it will last 15 years. The reason for this assessment is that there are additional signs of problems that need to be assessed.

Richard Liebert, 289 Boston Coulee Road, referred to the 2011 Ford Ranger set forth in Item 3 and inquired about the City's policy of buying used vehicles and if this vehicle came with a warranty.

Public Works Director Jim Rearden responded that he would get the information to Mr. Liebert tomorrow.

Ron Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, requested an explanation of an overpayment listed in Item 3.

Fiscal Services Director Melissa Kinzler responded that the tax money was returned to Cascade County for its overpayment made in August.

Mr. Gessaman disagreed with Director Rearden's comments set forth in the minutes – Item 2, first paragraph of page 152.

With regard to Item 6, Mr. Gessaman suggested that the agenda report for the upcoming public hearing identify who is paying for the water for irrigation, and include the income from the current six leased parking spaces.

There being no further comments, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 4-0.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

8. APPOINTMENT, DESIGN REVIEW BOARD.

Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission appoint Ann Schneider to the Design Review Board to fill the remainder of a three-year through March 31, 2016.

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners or comments from the public. Hearing none, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 4-0.

9. **APPOINTMENT, GREAT FALLS PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD.**

Commissioner Kelly reported that this Board actually has two openings, one that occurred subsequent to the first vacancy being advertised. He suggested that the Commission make a recommendation for one of those positions and re-advertise for the other position that has a different term period.

Commissioner Kelly moved, seconded by Commissioner Bronson, that the City Commission appoint Keith Nelson to fill the remainder of a three-year term ending on December 31, 2017, to the Great Falls Planning Advisory Board.

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners. Hearing none, Mayor Winters asked if there are any comments from the public.

Richard Liebert, 289 Boston Coulee Road, concurred with the recommendation to appoint Mr. Nelson.

Ron Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, spoke in support of a citizen business owner on this Board.

There being no further comments, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 4-0.

The applications of Mike Kynett and John Gass remain active for the current opening and will not need to reapply.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

11. **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

A. **Richard Liebert**, 289 Boston Coulee Road, as Chairman for Citizens for Clean Energy

commended the Library Board for reopening on Sundays, noted that the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant recently received a best project award, and he discussed the history of the co-gen facility at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He inquired why the engine at that facility requires an overhaul and who would bear the cost.

- B. Ron Gessaman**, 1006 36th Avenue NE, commented that the co-gen facility is being paid off for something that isn't working. Veolia advertises that it has worldwide expertise, and is making it work in Gresham, Oregon. He commented that the recommendation in the initial report said the co-gen facility would pay for itself and would make money for the City. The City should get something from the investment.

Director Rearden responded that he answered some of the co-gen questions at the last meeting. He explained the reason it needs an overhaul is because every engine at some point, given a certain number of hours, needs an overhaul. It was decided not to put that money into it, that it would last decades as a backup generator for the facility and it will run numerous other individual facilities at the plant. At the same time it will free up some other portable generators to be used at outlying pump stations. He further explained the differences between the plant here and in Gresham, Oregon. The co-gen has not paid for itself, a lot of it was due to maintenance on the cleaning equipment. It was decided for that reason to take it out of service and utilize it as a backup unit.

Commissioner Kelly commented that it appears as if a decision was made, assumptions were made on market resources, resource allocations or technology, it went south and now the City is trying to mitigate those problems the best way possible.

Director Rearden commented that he would provide a synopsis of dates, decision making points and what those decisions were based on.

After discussion, Deputy Manager Reichelt reiterated that a summary will be provided regarding this topic, and the related documents will be made available to the Commission should any member wish to review them.

John Hubbard, 615 7th Avenue South, discussed state statutes he believes pertain to his personal legal matters.

CITY MANAGER

12. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Deputy Manager Jennifer Reichelt announced that the Great Falls Animal Shelter is running an adoption promotion through September 4th. City offices are closed in observance of Labor Day on Monday, September 7th. The water park and golf courses will be open.

Deputy Manager Reichelt further announced that Great Falls Fire Rescue and the Great Falls Police Department will be hosting a ceremony at 7:45 a.m. on Friday, September 11th at Fire Station 1 followed by a pancake breakfast that the community is invited to.

CITY COMMISSION

13. **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

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

14. **COMMISSION INITIATIVES.**

There were no Commission initiatives.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Kelly moved, seconded by Commissioner Bronson, to adjourn the regular meeting of September 1, 2015, at 7:44 p.m.**

Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Michael J. Winters

City Clerk Lisa Kunz

Minutes Approved: September 15, 2015