

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
July 5, 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; City Attorney; Directors of Fiscal Services, Planning and Community Development, Park and Recreation, Library; City Engineer; Supervisor of Mansfield Center; Police Chief; 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

Ron Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, expressed satisfaction with the sound system. He suggested certain game activities to generate revenue for the Anaconda Golf Course. Mr. Gessaman commented that utilizing the Gibson Room for office space may be a good idea. He expressed opposition with regard to any money for the Great Falls Development Authority.

2. PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mayor Kelly commented on the shortage of office space in the Civic Center. He noted that other buildings were offered but were not acceptable for various reasons. Mayor Kelly requested that funds be added to the budget in order to provide a thorough study with regard to the needs of the Civic Center.

Commissioner Burow expressed concern with regard to the amount of money that would be needed to conduct a study.

Commissioner Bronson commented that resources to provide a study may be available internally. He requested to know the final amount before a study is performed. He supports looking into reconfiguring the Gibson Room. Commissioner Bronson also noted that the Mansfield Advisory Board is looking at finding other ways for fundraising.

Commissioner Houck noted that the Mansfield Center is looking at other ways to utilize the Civic Center. She expressed opposition with reconfiguring the Gibson Room. Commissioner Houck noted that pursuing rental properties may be an option.

Commissioner Jones commented that there has been a need for additional office space for a number of years. He noted that the issue needs to be addressed now.

Mayor Kelly inquired about the action required from a budgetary prospective that would accomplish the needs of the Civic Center.

Manager Doyon responded that prioritization of the different needs to the Civic Center is key. He noted that he will continue to work with architects in order to receive estimates.

Commissioner Houck received clarification with regard to reconfiguring three conference rooms in the Civic Center.

Commissioner Burow inquired whether the City wants to use conference rooms for venue renting or office space.

Mayor Kelly questioned who would take over if anything were to happen to the Great Falls Development Authority (GFDA). He noted that the Chamber of Commerce is becoming more active and are involved in the retention of businesses. Mayor Kelly noted that GFDA is a good business partner. He supports making efforts to fund GFDA.

Commissioner Burow noted his support with regard to helping fund GFDA. He further commented on GFDA's involvement with regard to the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts.

Commissioner Jones commended GFDA. He commented on the amount of money given to GFDA. Commissioner Jones further noted that the issue of TIF's needs to be addressed.

Manager Doyon responded that from 2001 through 2011 the City contributed directly to GFDA for support of approximately \$995,000. He noted from 2001 through 2008 that amount came out of the Economic Revolving Fund. Manager Doyon further noted from 2009 through 2011 the amount came out of the General Fund. He discussed the possibility of releasing some of the TIF funds back into the General Fund.

Discussion followed with regard to GFDA and the use of TIF's.

With regard to the Library, Mayor Kelly reported that the City has financed the required amount of funding for the Library. He noted he will follow the recommendation of the City Manager with regard to the amount the City is required to fund. Mayor Kelly commented that the Library has reserve funds available.

Commissioner Bronson expressed support with the recommendation of the City Manager. He suggested the Library Trustees have discussions with the Commission in order for them to receive more information. Commissioner Bronson further noted the statute states that Library's are not City departments. He commented the Library is supported through the use of Special Tax Levies. He summarized that if the Library has sufficient reserves available, the Library should use it.

Commissioner Houck noted it needs to be clear where funds can be taken from. She recommended the Library Board come up with strategic ideas.

Commissioner Burow expressed support with the recommendation of the City Manager. He commented that some of the Library's programs may need to be reevaluated. Commissioner

Burow further noted changing the hours of operation for the Library if certain days are not being utilized.

Commissioner Jones expressed his support with the recommendation of the City Manager.

Mayor Kelly commented that the Library Board has hard working members and they may need to come up with a better solution. Mayor Kelly believes the Library's goals are obtainable.

With regard to the Park Maintenance District, Mayor Kelly discussed the efforts of other communities in helping City Staff determine where funds should go. He noted the ramification to tax payers would need to be addressed in the future. It was the consensus of the Commission for staff to pursue looking into Park Maintenance District and reporting back the ramifications to tax payers.

Mayor Kelly responded to Manger Doyon that a fiscal decision and community preference will be factors to determine the outcome of the Natatorium.

Commissioner Burow received clarification with regard to the Historic Preservation Officer for this year's budget.

Mayor Kelly commented that the proposed budget will move forward unless the Commission has any further discussion at a future work session.

Park and Recreation Director Joe Petrella noted that the Park and Recreation Master Plan should be complete by November, 2016.

3. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS

Commissioner Bronson requested the Building Active Communities Group be added for the next work session.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly adjourned the informal work session of July 5, 2016 at 6:32 p.m.