

JOURNAL OF SPECIAL COMMISSION WORK SESSION
June 30, 2016

City Commission Work Session
Civic Center, Gibson Room 212

Mayor Kelly presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 3:00 p.m.

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

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager; City Attorney; Directors of Fiscal Services, Library, Park and Recreation, and Planning and Community Development; Public Works Utilities System Manager; Municipal Court Judge; Fire Chief; Police Chief; and, the City Clerk and 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

Ken Robison, 315 Lamplighter Lane, requested that the Commission work with the Library Board to fund reopening the Library seven days per week, and that the Commission fund a full time Historic Preservation Officer.

Kate Hampton, State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT, commented that as of 2016 Great Falls has met or exceeded all of the requirements of the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program. She reported her job at the State Historic Preservation Office is to work with the Historic Preservation Commissions and Officers to ensure that the State provides funding when it can and to support the different projects and programs. Ms. Hampton discussed the reasons why the City of Great Falls has been so successful, giving credit to retired Historic Preservation Officer Ellen Sievert. She requested that the Commission adjust the budget to accommodate a full time Historic Preservation Officer.

Kathy Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, commented that she believes the projected new revenue estimate to be low. She requested that money be earmarked for the Library to be open on Mondays. Mrs. Gessaman also requested that the Commission not consider selling any park land, that any extra money be provided for the pool, and that the Commission scale back on the City Manager's raise.

Ron Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, commented that Social Security was raised .2% for seniors that results in about \$24 per year. Citizens that live on Social Security will not be able to live here after increased taxes. He discussed the new construction at Calumet and increased tax revenue to the City. Mr. Gessaman also suggested that the City pursue a uniform cell phone package for certain staff.

Richard Liebert, 289 Boston Coulee Road, concurred with Mr. Robison's comments. He suggested that the Commission wait until after the Department of Revenue's valuation is received to approve the budget. He also suggested more resources for Neighborhood Councils.

Ted Lewis, Great Falls Development Authority (GFDA), 300 Central Avenue, requested that the City re-join GFDA to help fund its operating budget for economic development efforts.

Allan Frankl, GFDA, 300 Central Avenue, discussed recurring budget challenges. Mr. Frankl commented that GFDA needs the City's support to increase the tax base.

Brad Livingston, Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, 100 1st Avenue North, discussed his prior involvement with budgets and setting priorities. He is pleased with and supports the City's pivot towards public safety. Mr. Livingston also complimented GFDA's recruitment of businesses to Great Falls, but noted the gap in workforce in Great Falls. He encouraged having a dialog with the community about how to fix the workforce issue and retain young individuals in Great Falls.

Brett Doney, GFDA, 300 Central Avenue, commented that GFDA has funding from the private sector to continue one more year. This summer GFDA will be looking for forward pledges. The activity of economic development takes work and costs money. Mr. Doney urged the Commission's re-investment in GFDA to leverage private investment.

Spencer Woith, 1725 41st Street South, suggested the City invest in the marketing arm of GFDA to help the City fund shortfalls and get additional revenues.

Jeremiah Johnson, 1900 Whispering Ridge, urged support for GFDA in the budget.

In response to comments regarding Calumet tax revenue, Director Kinzler explained the determination of tax revenue and mill levy limitations. The City uses aggregate numbers of the total amount that the City can mill as certified by the Department of Revenue.

Manager Doyon responded to comments regarding a full time Historic Preservation Officer. His recommendation is a more formalized agreement with the County to understand what its expectations are. The minimum requirements are fulfilled on the City's side to have that position half time as it stands. He further addressed comments regarding money for fire trucks. He explained that the City had some retired debt service which freed up some non-voted general obligation debt capacity that was redirected for public safety.

2. PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATION

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that the presentation today is in concept only. It is not all inclusive. From this presentation, the Commission can wrestle through some of the budget challenges ahead of them and come to some decisions. He and Fiscal Services Director Melissa Kinzler reviewed and discussed the attached PowerPoint slides.

Manager Doyon inquired if the Commission received enough information from the public, departments, and boards to feel comfortable moving forward, or if it wanted to pursue more options.

The Commission will digest the information presented, do some homework and meet for another budget work session on July 5, 2016. Mayor Kelly noted that there is a lot of information to go through before the Commission can make a recommendation. This budget is complex and it is

going to require compromise on everybody's part.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly adjourned the informal special work session of June 30, 2016 at 4:51p.m.



City Manager's Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Proposed Annual Budget

Presented on June 30, 2016



Alternative Discussion

- Civic Center Convention Closure
- Library Revenue
- Natatorium Closure
- Park Maintenance District
- Golf Course Closure
- Street Assessment (Arterial Fee)



Recurring Budget Challenges

- Slow growth rate/flat tax revenue
- Limited local funding options
- Competing needs
- Service expansion without funding plan
- Deferred maintenance and capital replacement



Civic Center Convention Center

Events Fund

- Options Explored:
 - Civic Center Convention Closure (\$72,000 loss and ISC redirect)
- Purposes:
 - Reduce GF Subsidy
 - Reduce underutilized space
 - Office space is needed
- Projected CIP exceeds \$1,061,620
 - Needs to maintain market rates and keep facility attractive for renting



Library Funding

Library Fund

- Currently 81% of library funding comes from the City of Great Falls
- Additional Funding Options Available:
 - Additional Mills (15-10-425, MCA)
 - Using Additional Mills to Fund FY17 budget requires:
 - 9 mills \$5.58
 - Open Monday \$1.90
 - Library District (22-1-701, MCA)
 - Increased County contribution
 - Additional General Fund support



Natatorium

Swimming Pools Fund

- Operations
 - Fee adjustments
 - Determine Reasonable Cost recovery %
- Capital Improvement Needs
 - Pool Constructed in 1967 (49 years)
 - Study performed in 2011
 - 5-10 year required \$138,824
- Options explored:
 - Closure
 - Another Pool Levy



Park Maintenance

Park and Recreation Fund

- Awaiting Park Master Plan
- Operations
 - Programming, maintenance
- Capital Improvement Needs
- Options Explored:
 - Park Maintenance District
 - Reduce GF Subsidy
 - Stabilize revenue to address operations, maintenance, capital needs



Golf Course

Golf Fund

- Does the City need two courses?
- Operations under review
 - Self supporting
 - General Fund Repayment Plan FY17
- Options Explored:
 - Close Anaconda Hills
 - Minimal Maintenance
 - Superfund site - required recreation use
 - Estimated loss of (\$13,211)



Streets

Street Fund

- Options Explored:
 - Arterial Assessment



Next Steps

- Schedule needed work sessions
- July 5th
 - Scheduling – Budget Hearing
 - Scheduling – Increase Property Tax Hearing (if taken)
 - Proposed Budget will be available online at www.greatfallsmt.net
- July 19st
 - Budget Hearing
 - Increase Property Tax Hearing (if taken)
- August 16th
 - Mill Levy Set