

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
September 20, 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, Tracy Houck and Fred Burow.

STAFF PRESENT: City Attorney; Assistant City Attorney; Directors of Fiscal Services, Public Works, and Planning and Community Development; 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

There were no public comments.

2. CELLULAR PHONE ENFORCEMENT

Assistant City Attorney Joseph Cik reviewed and discussed the attached PowerPoint presentation.

Commissioner Jones expressed appreciation for the work put into the proposal. He further noted that he would like to have more discussion amongst the Commission.

Commissioner Bronson inquired about the enforcement procedures used by other communities. He further received clarification with regard to the forfeiture of license plates. Commissioner Bronson noted that the Board of Health is exploring its resources with regard to public education.

Commissioner Houck expressed concerns of forfeiture of plates on business owned vehicles. Attorney Cik explained the exception provision would then apply. She commented that public education is important.

Mayor Kelly received clarification with regard to the success rate of convictions for cell phone tickets.

Chief Bowen noted support of the increase of fines and community service. He expressed concern with regard to storing forfeited license plates. Chief Bowen disagreed with incarcerating cell phone violators.

Mayor Kelly commented that he sees cell phone violations as a public safety issue. The Commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Jones agreed that fines should be escalated, as well as implementing community service. He expressed opposition to imposing jail time.

Commissioner Houck indicated part of the problem is signage and public awareness that Great Falls has such an ordinance. She suggested additional public service announcements via news stations and Facebook. She is in support of community service, but has reservations about forfeiting license plates.

Commissioner Bronson indicated he doesn't like the idea of jail time, but supports the idea of escalated fines and community service. In putting a draft ordinance together, he would like to initiate discussions with other communities to see if they are headed in the same direction.

Commissioner Burow agreed that community service is a good idea. He suggested forfeiture of the driver's licenses rather than license plates. Commissioner Burow noted that the school system is a good resource for public education.

Mayor Kelly commended Assistant City Attorney Joe Cik's efforts. He indicated that any cost incurred needs to be imposed on the violator and not the City. Mayor Kelly expressed that the City needs to set an example for the State. He concluded that a decision be made before next year.

3. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS

Mayor Kelly reported that office renovations in the Civic Center will be presented at the next work session. The Park Master Plan and Natatorium will be discussed at the November 1st work session. He also requested that the Library Board be added to the November 15th work session.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly adjourned the informal work session of September 20, 2016 at 6:29 p.m.