



Item: Appointment - - City Commission

From: Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

Initiated By: City Commission

Presented By: City Commission

Action Requested: Appoint one applicant to the Great Falls City Commission to fill the vacancy of City Commissioner until the next regular City Election

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission appoint Robert (Bob) Kelly as City Commissioner to fill the vacancy on the City Commission until the next regular City election.”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, public comment, and calls the vote.

Background

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the City Charter, “When a Commission vacancy occurs the City Commission, may, by majority vote of its remaining members, appoint a person, eligible to hold such office, to fill the vacancy of City Commissioner or Mayor until the next regular City election. The person elected at the next regular City election shall serve the unexpired term of the office in which the vacancy occurred.”

The vacancy occurred when Commissioner Mary Jolley submitted her written resignation on November 14, 2012, due to her newly elected position as Justice of the Peace. Although the City Charter sets forth that the City Commission may appoint a person to fill the vacancy, the Charter does not provide a specific process to fill a vacancy.

On November 15, 2012, a press release was issued announcing that the Commission was accepting applications to fill the vacant City Commission seat until Friday, November 30, 2012, at 5 p.m. Thirty-two citizen interest applications were received by the City Clerk and reviewed by the remaining Commission members.

The Commission met for an organizational meeting on Monday, December 3, 2012, to discuss the process of selecting applicants to interview. Gretchen Swift, Karen Heisler, Rolland Leitheiser, Robert (Bob) McNamee, Kenneth Volk, Karen Grove, Bob Kelly and Mark (Mac) Smith were selected to be interviewed.

Individual interviews were conducted on December 10, 2012, beginning at 9:30 a.m. All eight applicants were each asked the same seven questions. The Commission recessed for the evening at 4:15 p.m. and reconvened on Tuesday, December 11, 2012. After deliberation, it was the consensus of the Commission to appoint Robert (Bob) Kelly.

Press releases were issued noticing all meetings, the media received a schedule of the interviews, and all the meetings were open to the public.

Commissioner Jolley was re-elected to a four-year term beginning January, 2012. The next municipal election is in November, 2013. Pursuant to the Charter, Mr. Kelly will serve until December, 2013. He may file for election to the position at the 2013 City election. If elected, he will then serve the remaining two years of Commissioner Jolley's term.