



Item: Res. 9962, Amending Resolution No. 9910 Establishing a Policy Concerning Appointments to Boards and Commissions

From: City Manager's Office

Initiated By: Great Falls Housing Authority Board

Presented By: Jennifer Reichelt, Deputy City Manager

Action Requested: Adopt Res. 9962

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission (adopt/deny) Res. 9962.”

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

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the City Commission adopt Res. 9962.

Background: Resolution 7754 to establish a policy concerning appointments to Boards and Commissions was adopted on October 19, 1982. Subsequently, Resolutions 8030, 8534, 9484, and 9910 to amend have been adopted.

The Great Falls Housing Authority (GFHA) Board submitted a letter to the City Commission requesting that the appointment policy be revised to allow GFHA tenant members to serve five consecutive two-year terms. Regular, non-tenant, members are appointed to five-year terms and are allowed to serve two terms. This creates an inequity in the total number of years that members are allowed to serve.

Resolution 9962 also has added language regarding boards and commissions making recommendations regarding appointments for vacant positions on boards, which is consistent with past practice of the City Commission to solicit such recommendations. However, the proposed amended policy makes it clear that the City Commission retains final authority over all appointments. The proposed amended policy also clarifies, consistent with past practice, that the City Commission may interview advisory board and commission applicants.

All other provisions in the Resolution are unchanged.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Alternatives: The Commission could choose to leave Res. 9910 in effect or revise Res. 9962.

Attachments/Exhibits: Res. 9910 and Res. 9962; Letter from Housing Authority Board

RESOLUTION NO. 9910

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 9484
ESTABLISHING A POLICY CONCERNING APPOINTMENTS
TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Whereas, the City Commission has the responsibility both solely and in conjunction with other units of government for making appointments to several Boards and Commissions it maintains; and

Whereas, Resolution 9910 will apply to all Boards and Commissions unless State Law is more restrictive, and

Whereas, the purpose of these Boards and Commissions is to bring informed citizens into the government process, balancing experience with fresh viewpoints to provide advice and assistance to the elected body; and

Whereas, the City Commission is committed to involving as many citizens as possible in the decision-making process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, THAT:

1. It is the policy of the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, that the maximum uninterrupted length of service on any single Board or Commission shall be two (2) consecutive terms, exclusive of the time served on any unexpired term, for each person appointed by the City Commission, unless otherwise stated; and
2. From and after the date of this Resolution, unless otherwise stated, all terms shall begin on the date of appointment.
3. In the case of a member eligible for and interested in reappointment, if the member is in good standing and it is the recommendation of the board/commission, his application shall be brought before the Commission for consideration for reappointment without advertising for other citizen interest.
4. Citizens may not serve on two or more boards simultaneously unless authorized by the City Commission.
5. The City Manager will approve an internal advertising/appointment procedure for member recruitment.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, on this 15th day of February, 2011.

Michael J. Winters, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(Seal of the City)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

James W. Santoro, City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. 9962

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 9910
ESTABLISHING A POLICY CONCERNING APPOINTMENTS
TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Whereas, the City Commission has the responsibility both solely and in conjunction with other units of government for making appointments to several Boards and Commissions it maintains; and

Whereas, Resolution 9962 will apply to all Boards and Commissions unless State Law is more restrictive, and

Whereas, the purpose of these Boards and Commissions is to bring informed citizens into the government process, balancing experience with fresh viewpoints to provide advice and assistance to the elected body; and

Whereas, the City Commission is committed to involving as many citizens as possible in the decision-making process; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, THAT:

1. It is the policy of the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, that the maximum uninterrupted length of service on any single board or commission shall be two (2) consecutive terms, exclusive of the time served on any unexpired term, for each person appointed by the City Commission, unless otherwise stated.
2. Great Falls Housing Authority Tenant Members shall be allowed to serve five (5) consecutive two (2) year terms, exclusive of the time served on any unexpired term.
3. In the case of a member eligible for and interested in reappointment, if the member is in good standing and it is the recommendation of the board/commission, his application shall be brought before the Commission for consideration for reappointment without advertising for other citizen interest.
4. Boards and commissions are encouraged to make recommendations to the City Commission for appointments to vacant positions on any Board and Commission, but the City Commission reserves the right to accept or reject those recommendations. The City Commission also reserves the right to interview applicants to any board and commission.
5. Citizens may not serve on two or more boards simultaneously unless authorized by the City Commission.
6. From and after the date of this Resolution, unless otherwise stated, all terms shall begin on the date of appointment.
7. The City Manager will approve an internal advertising/appointment procedure for member recruitment.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, on this 6th day of March, 2012.

Michael J. Winters, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(Seal of the City)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

James W. Santoro, City Attorney

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CITY MANAGER

MEMO

To: Mayor Winters and City Commissioners
From: Howard Corey, Great Falls Housing Authority Board of Commissioners
Chairperson
Date: 09/28/2011
Re: Commissioner Terms

Message:

At the Great Falls Housing Authority's September 15, 2011 Board of Commissioner meeting the Housing Authority Commissioners approved an amendment to Housing Authority's bylaws allowing Housing Commissioners' terms of office to be consistent with City of Great Falls policy (Resolution No. 9910) regarding the number of terms which a person can serve on Boards and Commissions. The term portion of Resolution No. 9910 reads as follows:

1. "It is the policy of the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, that the maximum uninterrupted length of service on any single Board or Commission shall be two (2) consecutive terms, exclusive of the time served on any unexpired term, for each person appointed by the City Commission, unless otherwise stated"; and
2. "From and after the date of this Resolution, unless otherwise stated, all terms shall begin on the date of appointment. "

The amendment to the Housing Authority's Bylaws regarding the term portion reads as follows:

"SECTION 1. Board of Commissioners and Board Officers. The Authority shall be governed by a seven (7) member Board of Commissioners including two (2) Tenant Commissioners as provided in Montana law. The maximum uninterrupted length of service for Commissioners shall be two (2) consecutive terms, exclusive of the time served on any unexpired term. The term for Tenant Commissioners shall be two (2) years. The term for Commissioners other than Tenant Commissioners shall be five (5) years. The officers of the Authority shall be a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson and a Secretary. "

Montana State Law regarding terms of office for Municipal Housing Authority Board members states the following:

"7-15-4432. Term of Office. (1) Subject to subsection (2), the commissioners who are first appointed must be designated by the mayor to serve for terms of 1,2,3,4, and 5 years, respectively, from the date of their appointment. After the initial appointments, the term of office is 5 years.

(2) The resident commissioners who are first appointed shall serve for terms of 1 and 2 years, respectively, from the date of their appointment. After the initial appointments, the term of office is 2 years."

After much discussion the Housing Authority Board recommends/asks that the City Commission make an exception or amendment to their commissioners' term policy allowing Housing Authority resident commissioners the right to serve the same number of years as nonresident commissioners. In order to achieve this, the Housing Authority Board requests that the City Commission amend its term policy to allow resident commissioner to serve a maximum of five (5) consecutive 2-year terms exclusive of the time served on any unexpired term, if appointed by the City Commission.

Thank you for your consideration and if you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact me or Kevin Hager, the Housing Authority's Executive Director at 453-4311 extension 304.

Sincerely,

Howard Corey, Chairperson
Great Falls Housing Authority