



Item: Resolution 10056 – A Resolution Establishing a Friendship City Relationship with the City of Lethbridge

From: Jennifer Reichelt, Deputy City Manager

Initiated By: Mayor Michael Winters
Jennifer Reichelt, Deputy City Manager

Presented By: Jennifer Reichelt, Deputy City Manager

Action Requested: Adopt Resolution 10056 Establishing a Friendship City Relationship with the City of Lethbridge.

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission (adopt/deny) Resolution 10056.”

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

Staff Recommendation: City Commission adopt Resolution 10056 which would establish a Friendship City Relationship with the City of Lethbridge.

Background: The City of Great Falls and the City of Lethbridge are interested in entering into a Friendship City Relationship. Becoming a Friendship City is a way for communities to initiate relationships – on a municipal government to municipal government basis – with international cities on a less formal basis than those through an official sister city relationship.

A Friendship City Relationship with foreign municipalities helps foster increased global cooperation and communication at the municipal level, which can benefit both participating cities. Examples of benefits include the opportunity for municipal governments to learn from one another, the exchange of correspondence or materials on areas of mutual interest, information exchanges, travel opportunities (if funding is available), as well as the ability to generate community support and interest. Ceremonial opportunities for our two communities may also exist.

The City of Lethbridge is located 184 miles from Great Falls and is in the province of Alberta, Canada. It is 49 square miles in size and according to the 2013 municipal census has a population of 90,417.

Lethbridge is southern Alberta's commercial, distribution, financial and industrial centre. It has a trading area population of 275,000, including parts of British Columbia and Montana. Lethbridge's economy has traditionally been agriculture-based; however, in recent years it has diversified. Half of the workforce is employed in the health, education, retail and hospitality sectors, and the top five employers are government-based.

Purpose: The main goal of establishing a Friendship City Relationship is to develop a friendship, open lines of communication between our two cities and lay a foundation of goodwill and exchange for future generations.

Fiscal Impact: There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the general fund. At this time, no funds are being budgeted for travel.

Concurrences: On January 7, 2014, representatives from the Advisory Commission on International Relationships provided a report to the Commission. They requested that the Commission consider a proposal to establish a Friendship City Relationship with the City of Lethbridge.

On January, 20, 2014, a Resolution was presented to the Lethbridge City Council from the Lethbridge Twinning Society asking that a twinning relationship between the City of Lethbridge and Great Falls, Montana, be received as information and filed and that it be referred to the Mayor's Office for further consideration.

Since January, staff and Mayor Winters have had communication with both the Twinning Society and the Lethbridge Mayor's Office regarding establishing a Friendship City Relationship. A copy of Resolution 10056 has been sent to City of Lethbridge for their consideration as well. Their Council will have this item up for policy discussion this summer.

Alternatives: The City Commission could choose not to adopt Resolution 10056, and not enter into a Friendship City Relationship with the City of Lethbridge.

Attachments/Exhibits:

Resolution 10056

RESOLUTION NO. 10056

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, TO ESTABLISH A
FRIENDSHIP CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY OF
LETHBRIDGE**

WHEREAS, the City of Great Falls recognizes the value of exchanging mutually beneficial ideas, exchanging cultural and educational experiences and values, and building reliable business and other contacts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Great Falls recognizes the potential of all people to promote an ever more abundant quality of life for the common good; and

WHEREAS, the City of Great Falls acknowledges the mutual interest of establishing a Friendship City relationship with the City of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada; and

WHEREAS, with the goals of prosperity, cultural understanding and exchange, the City of Great Falls shall explore opportunities to cultivate a closer relationship with the City of Lethbridge through cooperative activities that mutually benefit each city in the areas of economic development, educational opportunities, cultural exchanges, increasing tourism, and shall draw on its institutions, social organizations, and citizens to promote cooperation; and

WHEREAS, all activities shall be subject to availability of resources and yearly budgets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, that this governing body endorses the establishment of a Friendship City relationship with the City of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, that shall serve to promote and foster mutually beneficial activities as set forth above, and authorizes the City Manager to set forth policies to implement and carry out this program.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, May 6, 2014.

Michael J. Winters, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(CITY SEAL)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

Sara R. Saxe, City Attorney