

Regular City Commission Meeting

Mayor Winters presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – American Legion Post 3

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL: City Commissioners present: Michael Winters, Bill Bronson, Fred Burow, Bob Jones and Mary Jolley. Also present were the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Attorney, Directors of Fiscal Services and Public Works, Interim Police Chief, and the City Clerk.

PROCLAMATION: Mayor Winters read a proclamation for Black History Month.

PRESENTATIONS: Mayor Winters presented Kelly Audet with a Resolution of Commendation, Appreciation and Gratitude for her years of service to the City of Great Falls and Carl Donovan with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service on the Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts Advisory Board.

**** Action Minutes of the Great Falls City Commission. Please refer to the audio/video recording of this meeting for additional detail. ****

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

1. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- A. Carl Donovan**, NC 6, thanked the Great Falls Police Department for their vigilance in responding to the noise complaints at the 8 Ball Inn.
- B. John Kenneway**, NC 3, invited the neighborhood residents to attend the council's next meeting scheduled for the first Thursday in February to discuss traffic situations.
- C. Terry Albrecht**, NC 5, reported that the council expressed safety concerns about the dust and dirt generated by the construction projects at the Grandview and Cascade Ridge sites, as well as school buses exceeding the 25 mph speed limit in the Mountain View School area.

City Manager Greg Doyon responded that Planning and Community Development Director Mike Haynes discussed the construction site issues with him today. They are aware there are water tender trucks at the sites that need to be used. He also commented that he would relay the council's speeding bus concerns to the school district.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

2. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

There were no miscellaneous reports and announcements from representatives of Boards and Commissions.

PUBLIC HEARINGS**OLD BUSINESS****NEW BUSINESS****ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS****CONSENT AGENDA**

3. Minutes, January 3, 2012, Commission meeting.
4. Total expenditures of \$3,587,181 for the period of December 16, 2011, through January 11, 2012, to include claims over \$5,000, in the amount of \$3,371,190.
5. Contracts list.
6. Lien release list.
7. Approve Solid Waste Disposal Agreement for a second, five-year extended term with Montana Waste Systems for the period of Fiscal Year 2012-2017.
8. Award bid for three new 2012 GMC Sierra 2500 HD pickups to Bennett Motors of Great Falls in the amount of \$57,897.
9. Approve final payment in the amount of \$37,327.95 to Planned and Engineered Construction, Inc. and \$377.05 to the State Miscellaneous Tax Division for the West Interceptor Trenchless Rehabilitation. **OF 1566.9**
10. Approve final payment in the amount of \$11,279.56 to Planned and Engineered Construction, Inc. and \$113.94 to the State Miscellaneous Tax Division for the Sanitary Sewer Trenchless Rehabilitation Phase 15. **OF 1566.2**

Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners. Hearing none, Mayor Winters asked if there were any inquiries from the public.

Ron Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, referred to an Enterprise Funds (Electric) payment to First Interstate Bank listed in Item 4 and asked that no more general obligation bonds be approved without a vote by the people.

There being no one else to address the Commission, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

11. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Mayor Winters opened the meeting to Petitions and Communications.

- A. Aart Dolman**, 3016 Central Avenue, provided and discussed a handout that he reported he provided to the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee (ETIC) at a hearing on January 13, 2012. He expressed disappointment that no City officials attended the meeting. Mr. Dolman also reported that he submitted 100 documents to the ETIC “pertaining to the idea that the City Commission had abandoned its fiduciary responsibilities as far as SME is concerned.”

Commissioner Jones explained that the ETIC called upon members to attend a meeting to try to get insight and information as to what went wrong with SME, the management cooperative. He also explained why City officials felt it should present its case first to the bankruptcy trustee rather than a legislative committee. Members of the cooperatives relayed problems to the committee and discussed legislation that may help cooperatives including PSC oversight. The City was never a cooperative. Commissioner Jones pointed out the many pending issues that the Commission is taking responsibility to resolve. The focus is to get out of the energy business.

City Attorney James Santoro added that he was in contact with Senator Olson, Chairman of the ETIC, prior to the meeting and explained the City’s position. Chairman Olson understood the reasons why the City would not be in attendance. Attorney Santoro pointed out that during the past two years the public has been made aware of what’s been going on, it’s been transparent, and they understand the dynamics. This Commission has done a good job listening to the public and following up. He also explained critical issues involved in the litigation. With regard to investigations, he pointed out that the bankruptcy is before the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, an arm to the Department of Justice, notice has also been given to the Attorney General’s Office, and the bankruptcy trustee has requested a forensic accountant be appointed to investigate what took place with this enterprise.

Mr. Dolman commented that the legislature has a responsibility to the people of Montana. He felt this was the first time the public had an opportunity to present its case to a committee.

- B. Ron Gessaman**, 1006 36th Avenue NE, compared SME and General Motor’s bankruptcy and relationships. Mr. Gessaman also discussed the industrial wastewater rate study presented at the work session. He commented that during the period of time the Malt Plant had no rate increases, residential customer water rates were increased four times and sewer rates were increased two times. He referred to the CAFR and noted that the Malt Plant isn’t listed as one of the 20 largest sanitary sewer customers. He reviewed the current sanitary sewer rate structure, and finds it unbelievable that the City would allow the Malt Plant to pay the rate proposed by the consultant.

CITY MANAGER**12. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

There were no miscellaneous reports and announcements from the City Manager.

CITY COMMISSION**13. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Mayor Winters commented that it is his goal to have a City official present letters of welcome at events that come to town to overcome the idea that Great Falls is not business friendly. He thanked Commissioner Burow for presenting a proclamation at the PRCA Rodeo. Deputy City Manager Jennifer Reichelt will present a letter of welcome at the MAGIE event.

14. **COMMISSION INITIATIVES.**

Commissioner Bronson requested that the two Commission member appointments to the Council of Councils be addressed on the next Commission meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the regular Commission meeting, **Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioners Jolley and Jones, that the regular meeting of January 17, 2012, be adjourned at 7:52 p.m.**

Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Winters

City Clerk

Minutes Approved: February 7, 2012