

Regular City Commission Meeting

Mayor Winters presiding

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:00 PM

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**ROLL CALL:** City Commissioners present: Michael Winters, Bob Jones, Bill Bronson, Fred Burow and Bob Kelly. Also present were the City Manager, Deputy City Manager; City Attorney; Directors of Fiscal Services, Library, Planning and Community Development, and Public Works; Interim Director of Park and Recreation; Police Chief; and the City Clerk.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** No changes were proposed by the City Manager or City Commission. The agenda as submitted was approved.

**PROCLAMATION:** Mayor Winters read a proclamation for the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Bethel AME Church.

**\*\* 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.**

There were no miscellaneous reports and announcements from Neighborhood Council representatives.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

2. Minutes, July 1, 2014, Commission meeting.
3. Total Expenditures of \$3,600,689 for the period of June 14 through July 1, 2014, to include claims over \$5,000, in the amount of \$3,313,498.
4. Contracts list.
5. Grants list.
6. Set public hearing for August 19, 2014, on Resolution 10089, Conditional Use Permit to allow an Unconcealed Telecommunications Facility on the property legally described as Lot 3E, Medical Tech Park, Section 18, Township 20 North, Range 4 East, Cascade County, Montana, addressed as 2100 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue South.

7. Set public hearing for August 5, 2014, on the Business Improvement District (BID) 2014/2015 Budget and Work Plan.
8. Set public hearing for August 5, 2014, on the Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) 2014/2015 Budget and Work Plan.
9. Set public hearing for August 5, 2014, on Resolution 10090, Reopening a Previously Closed Segment of 20<sup>th</sup> Street South Adjacent to Great Falls High School, and Rescinding Portions of Resolution Nos. 6859 and 6920.

**Commissioner Kelly, 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 or any comments from the public. Hearing none, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

### **BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

#### **10. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

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

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **11. RESOLUTION 10079, INTENT TO INCREASE PROPERTY TAX.**

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that his lengthy presentation made to the Commission on July 1<sup>st</sup> is on the City's website for viewing. Manager Doyon provided a recap of the 2014/2015 proposed annual budget and reviewed PowerPoint slides of budget highlights, funds, revenue, expenses, full-time employee history, capital expense by category, general fund undesignated fund balance, and concluded with a recap of his recommendations.

Mayor Winters declared the public hearing open.

Speaking in opposition to Resolution 10079 was:

**Ron Gessaman**, 1006 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, opposed the proposed 2.28% property taxation increase. Mr. Gessaman reviewed and discussed portions of the proposed budget on pages 32, 35, 107, 118, 59 and 121. He also referred to the West Bank TIF fund on page 83 and noted that funds were previously promised to upgrade West Bank Park. He further discussed the parking fund on page 111 and suggested "doing away with parking costs downtown."

**Phyllis Lake**, 3209 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, commented that she is happy to pay \$64.66 for leaf pickup. In order to keep the City looking neat and clean and to be safe this winter, Ms. Lake suggested continuation of City leaf pickup service.

No one spoke in support of Resolution 10079.

Mayor Winters closed the public hearing and asked the will of the Commission.

**Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Kelly, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10079, Intent to Increase Property Tax.**

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Burow inquired if the \$64.66 fee Ms. Lake referenced was a charge to those in the boulevard district specifically for leaf pickup.

Manager Doyon responded that the fee also includes tree maintenance. He discussed concerns with hazard trees that need to be remedied as well as what the Natural Resource Division's responsibilities are all over the City. He concluded that enough revenue is not being generated to meet full expectations of residents in the district paying for those services and anticipating the service to continue. He is continuing to work on this and hopes to have a better recommendation to the Commission before the boulevard assessment hearing in August.

Commissioner Burow asked that some of Mr. Gessaman's concerns be addressed.

Fiscal Services Director Melissa Kinzler responded that the Port Authority was created for the Centene loan for the purchase of the Centene building. The Port Authority is a separate entity and the fund balance is shown as required by the Centene loan.

Staff has been looking at different investments to increase the amount of interest earned. The reason for not seeing a lot of interest is because it was offset due to higher bank fees than interest received. The City changed to US Bank which provides an earned credit rating that helps offset bank fees.

She further explained the increase in the Commission and legal department budgets, and the reason for the balance in the electric fund that will be transferred to the general fund after purchasing the required renewable energy credits.

Commissioner Bronson added that the electric fund balance is reflective of an account receivable that may not be collected.

Director Kinzler noted the Barrett Mineral receivable of approximately \$190,000 included in the electric fund balance.

There being no further comments, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

**12. RESOLUTION 10080, ANNUAL BUDGET RESOLUTION.**

Fiscal Services Director Melissa Kinzler requested that the Commission conduct a public hearing on Manager Doyon's budget presentation, consider any budget changes and consider adoption of Resolution 10080.

Manager Doyon added that the tax base hasn't grown very robustly in the community which makes it a challenge in terms of funding and prioritizing some of the needs of the City. He explained that City facility deficiencies will need to be serviced through debt service. The City will need to have capacity in the general fund to pay that debt service.

He further discussed weighing public safety components with recreational attributes. He addressed fire response needs to enhance the City's ISO rating, and increasing the number of fire and police personnel.

Manager Doyon noted that this budget is not going to solve Great Falls' problems in one year. It is a process the City is going through to remedy prior issues and to meet future needs.

Mayor Winters declared the public hearing open.

Speaking in opposition to Resolution 10080 were:

**Mitch Tropila**, on behalf of the Great Falls Library Board of Trustees, urged the Commission not to accept the City Manager's recommendation to cut funds from the Library budget. Mr. Tropila reported that there were nearly 250,000 patrons of the Great Falls Library last year. He reviewed statistics of who those patrons were in Great Falls, as well as patrons of the Talking Book Library Program in the State of Montana. He noted that the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind relies on the Great Falls Public Library, and that nearly 10,000 children used programs that were sponsored or put on by the Library or the Library staff last year. Additionally, certain Library rooms were reserved 1,152 times for meetings last year.

**Ron Gessaman**, 1006 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, commented that there are about 90,000 county residents and about 60,000 city residents so the City should pick up the tab for two-thirds of the cost of operating the Library.

No one spoke in support of Resolution 10080.

Mayor Winters closed the public hearing and asked the will of the Commission.

**Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Burow, that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10080-Annual Budget Resolution.**

Mayor Winters asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Bronson emphasized that the budget to a large degree reflects the basic priorities that the Commission charged staff with early in the year. Staff is asked to do the best job they can to find a way to provide the services the community wants knowing that the resources that

are available are very limited. This budget reflects a movement of developing partnerships with other individuals and entities in this community to do a lot of the things that the public either likes or expects from governing bodies. An example is the Visitor Center that has been a financial drain on the City for the last few years. Those resources are now available for use in other areas.

Commissioner Bronson further addressed concerns raised with regard to the Library budget. He explained that he would rather plan for the significant capital improvements needed at the Library to keep the Library functioning than allocate a lot of resources today for its operation. He added that the Commission has to prioritize and make tough decisions. More firefighters are needed in the community and, if more firefighters were added, a new fire station would be needed.

Commissioner Bronson went on to note that the difficult decisions made in putting the budget together are not unique to Great Falls. He suggested it was time for the State Legislature to consider what the cities, towns and counties need in order to provide the services that all of the residents and citizens of communities need.

Commissioner Burow commented that the question needs to be asked of the community, "What do you expect government to do for you, and what are you willing to pay for." He is open for suggestions and encouraged a dialogue from the community.

Commissioner Kelly commented that it's because the Commission and community value the Civic Center, Theater, and Natatorium facilities that the Commission is taking the steps it is today to preserve those things for the benefit of the community in the future. Having the Library open five days a week is far better than having it available significantly less or perhaps not at all for a period of time when repairs have to take place. Real, emotional decisions have been made because of the things that are valued. Those cuts that were the hardest were the ones cared about the most.

Commissioner Jones commented that the right decisions were made for the right reasons to focus on getting the reserve balance back up to 17%.

Mayor Winters commented that the budget reflects what is best for the community. He has heard many times, "government, tighten your belts and live within your means." He thinks that is what City staff has done as best possible.

There being no further comments, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

- 13. ORDINANCE 3123, ASSIGNING ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF R-5 MULTI-FAMILY MEDIUM DENSITY DISTRICT TO CITY VIEW SUBDIVISION, LEGALLY**

**DESCRIBED AS TRACT 2 IN THE N½NE¼ SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 21 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST, PMM, CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA.**

Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond reported that this is a request to accept Ordinance 3123 on first reading and set a public hearing for August 19, 2014, to consider and adopt Ordinance 3123 which will assign City Zoning of R-5 upon annexation to the City View Subdivision.

Previous actions for City View Subdivision include:

- On May 27, 2014, following a public hearing, the Planning Advisory Board recommended approval of the preliminary plat and the Zoning Commission approved of assigning R-5 Multi-Family Medium Density District zoning to the subject property upon annexation.
- On June 17, 2014, the City Commission approved the preliminary plat for City View Subdivision with certain conditions.

The subject property is abutting 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northeast on the south side, between 11<sup>th</sup> Street Northeast and 14<sup>th</sup> Street Northeast. The developer is ultimately requesting approval of the Preliminary Plat, zoning and annexation of City View Subdivision. The proposed subdivision consists of six multi-family dwelling lots and one additional parcel which will be deeded to the City for use as a storm water detention facility.

**Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission accept Ordinance 3123 on first reading and set public hearing for August 19, 2014.**

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

**Ron Gessaman**, 1006 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, inquired whether the proposed multi-family dwellings were going to be owned or rented. He commented that he was assured that upgrades to 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE would take place this construction season. He also referred to the drawing showing four garage stalls on each lot. He opined that most residents have two vehicles, and inquired where the additional vehicles were going to park.

There being no further comments, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**14. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

- A. Win Benson**, 324 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, thanked Mayor Winters and Park & Recreation Department staff for addressing his concerns and causing a frisbee golf goal post in Warden Park

to be moved to minimize damage to the grounds. He also made suggestions for getting folf disks out of trees without causing damage to the trees.

- B. Phyllis Lake**, 3209 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, suggested that all City residents share in tree maintenance costs in the City, rather than only those residents in the boulevard district.
- C. Ron Gessaman**, 1006 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, read the comic “Dilbert” and an article regarding internet service printed in the *Tribune* on Sunday.

#### **CITY MANAGER**

**15. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

City Manager Greg Doyon followed up on comments made with regard to the budget.

#### **CITY COMMISSION**

**16. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Commissioner Bronson announced that, between July 24 – 27, 2014, this community will be hosting “The Wall that Heals,” the traveling version of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Elk’s Riverside Park, 701 River Drive North.

Commissioner Jones acknowledged and thanked Barb Teberg and Bill Tacke for their \$5,000 donation to the Great Falls Library to maintain the bookmobile service.

**17. COMMISSION INITIATIVES.**

There were no Commission initiatives.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to adjourn the regular meeting of July 15, 2014, at 8:41p.m.**

Motion carried 5-0.

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Mayor Michael J. Winters

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City Clerk Lisa Kunz

Minutes Approved: August 5, 2014