

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 Deputy City Manager; City Attorney; Directors of Fiscal Services, and Planning and Community Development; City Engineer; Human Resources Manager; Police Chief; and the City Clerk.

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

PROCLAMATIONS: Mayor Winters read a proclamation for YWCA Week Without Violence and Mayor Pro Tempore Jones read a proclamation for Month of Kindness and Sole.

Mayor Winters and Commissioner Bronson discussed their visits yesterday with Ukrainian doctors after their presentation to the Great Falls College MSU campus and local community. Both shared gifts of Ukrainian candy received from the dignitaries and Commissioner Bronson provided two Ukrainian gifted plaques to the City Clerk.

**** 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, September 16, 2014, Commission meeting.
3. Total Expenditures of \$4,608,729 for the period of September 3-24, 2014, to include claims over \$5,000, in the amount of \$4,230,408.
4. Contracts list.
5. Set public hearing for October 21, 2014, on Resolution 10093, Restoration, Rehabilitation, Expansion, and New Construction of Qualified Historic Properties Tax Abatement for Rocky Mountain Building Development Venture, LLC, located at 601 Central Avenue.

6. Approve Final Payment in the amount of \$500 to Hydromax USA for engineering services associated with the Sanitary Sewer Trunk Line Inspection. **OF 1674**
7. Award contract in the amount of \$397,484 to Phillips Construction LLC for the 36th Avenue NE – 11th, 12th and 14th Streets NE Connectors. **OF 1622.1**

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

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 36th Avenue NE, discussed the refund amount billed in error on page 2, and the Tri State Truck payment listed under Central Garage on page 3 of Item 3; cleaning up items in the agenda report prior to the public hearing for Item 5; and, he inquired about the construction timeline and connectivity of 12th Street and 36th Avenue of Item 7. City Engineer Dave Dobbs reported that utilities will be started this fall with minimal traffic disruption and paving will be weather dependent and may be completed in the spring. He further reported that the avenue design has been completed. As soon as funding is available the avenue project will be started. The three street connections into 36th Avenue have been designed as part of this project and may need to be modified due to different elevations when 36th Avenue is built.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

8. APPOINTMENTS, BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT/APPEALS.

Commissioner Kelly moved, seconded by Commissioner Bronson, that the City Commission appoint Jule Stuver and Patrick Tice to the Board of Adjustment/Appeals for three-year terms through September 30, 2017.

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

Commissioner Burow noted his belief that board members should be registered voters.

Mayor Winters asked if there were any comments from the public. Hearing none, Mayor Winters called for the vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

9. APPOINTMENT, GREAT FALLS TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD.

Commissioner Burow moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the City Commission appoint Tim Braulick to the Great Falls Transit District Board to fill the remainder of a four-year term through November 30, 2014.

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

Commissioner Bronson noted that the Transit District Board voted to re-open the application process for the Board position. He discussed his concerns for not supporting the motion, that one or two other people are interested in this position, and that he would prefer re-advertising for the position.

Commissioner Burow noted that he supports Mr. Braulick's interest in working with the City, Transit Board and general public in making improvements and insuring that mode of transportation continues as set forth in his application.

Commissioner Jones noted that when the position was first advertised no one applied. The position was advertised a second time and the only application received by the deadline was from Tim Braulick. As a matter of fairness, his application should be accepted and he should be appointed to the Transit District Board.

Commissioner Kelly commented that there is a difference between accepting an application to review it and accepting the candidate to appoint to a board. Just because one application was received doesn't mean that candidate is entitled to be appointed. The applicant should be judged on his merits. The Commission has a credible application and should act on it.

Mayor Winters added that there isn't any reason not to appoint Mr. Braulick.

Mayor Winters asked if there were any comments from the public.

Mike Witsoe, 2612 1st Avenue South, commented that he has been a transit customer the past 7 1/2 years and, if the position was reopened, he would apply.

Ken Johnson, 404 10th Street North, present Transit Board member recommended Tim Braulick be appointed to the Board.

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

Motion carried 4-1 (Commissioner Bronson dissenting).

10. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

11. LABOR AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF GREAT FALLS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES CRAFTS COUNCIL.

Human Resources Manager Linda Williams reported that the Crafts Council consists of five unions: Teamsters, Carpenters, Operating Engineers, Machinists and Laborers. It is the City's largest labor agreement and covers over 130 employees mostly in the Public Works and Park and Recreation Departments. HR Manager Williams reviewed the changes in the proposed agreement as outlined in the agenda report.

Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioners Burow and Jones, that the City Commission approve the labor agreement between the City of Great Falls and the Crafts Council, and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.

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

Commissioner Burow requested clarification of the term "leadworker." HR Manager Williams responded if there is a crew of more than two people someone is designated as a leadworker in the absence of a supervisor.

Commissioner Kelly commended the City for instituting, and the Crafts Council for understanding the worth and approving of, new Article 16, Light Duty/Temporary Alternative Duty Assignment, to get people back to work.

Mayor Winters asked if there were any comments from the public.

Ron Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, requested an estimated cost to the City of the changes in the proposed agreement. HR Manager Williams responded that she would get back to him with the information tomorrow.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS****12. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

John Hubbard, 615 7th Avenue South, provided a picture of his garbage container and garbage on the ground next to it. He briefly discussed NorthWestern Energy purchasing the dams and resultant fee increase to the public, repealing the sign fine, election voting ballots, viruses being genetically engineered, and pursuing a judgment he was awarded.

Ron Gessaman, 1006 36th Avenue NE, discussed the importance of disaster preparedness.

Mike Witsoe, 2612 1st Avenue South, commented on the nice fall weather and upcoming leaf pick up. He further discussed the City-County Health Department being a valuable resource for

the community, the recent news of the Sears store closing, and his opposition to Tax Increment Financing incentives.

CITY MANAGER

13. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Deputy City Manager Jennifer Reichelt recognized Risk Manager Angela Swingley for receiving an award from MMIA for her work and achievements on risk management in Great Falls.

Deputy Manager Reichelt encouraged attendance at the 100 Years of Woman Suffrage in Montana event in the Missouri Room on Saturday, October 11th.

CITY COMMISSION

14. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

There were no miscellaneous reports and announcements by the Commission.

15. COMMISSION INITIATIVES.

After discussion, the Commission requested that a future work session be scheduled to discuss Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts, prioritizing how TIF monies are spent, and tax abatement policies and procedures.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Mayor Winters adjourned the regular meeting of October 7, 2014, at 8:11 p.m.**

Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Michael J. Winters

City Clerk Lisa Kunz

Minutes Approved: October 21, 2014