

The Weekly Update - February 24, 2022

Attachments:

- 1. Journal of City Commission Work Session, February 1, 2022
- 2. Journal of City Commission Work Session, February 15, 2022
- 3. City of Great Falls Pooled Investments as of January 31, 2022
- 4. Welcome letter from Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce January 2022

City Commission Work Session Civic Center, Gibson Room 212 Mayor Kelly presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

CITY COMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Kelly, Joe McKenney, Susan Wolff, Eric Hinebauch, and Rick Tryon.

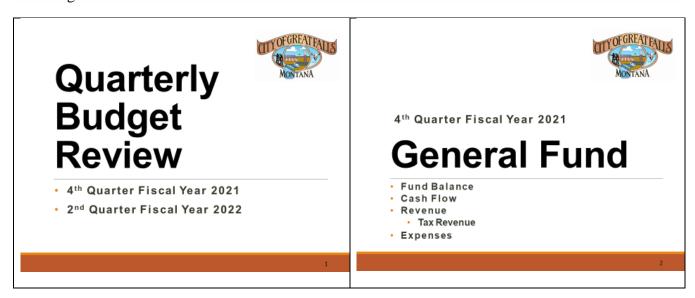
STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Greg Doyon; City Attorney Jeff Hindoien; Finance Director Melissa Kinzler and Deputy Director Kirsten Myre; Police Captain John Schaffer; and, Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea.

PUBLIC COMMENT

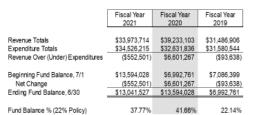
None.

1. QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW.

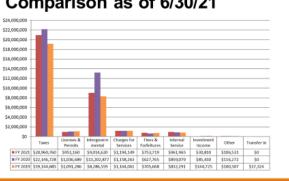
Finance Director Melissa Kinzler and Deputy Finance Director Kirsten Myre reviewed and discussed the following PowerPoint:



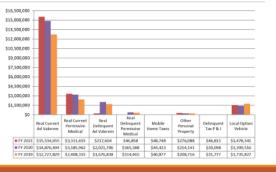
General Fund Three Year Comparison as of 6/30/21



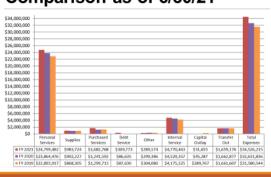
General Fund Three Year Revenue Comparison as of 6/30/21



General Fund Three Year Tax Revenue Comparison as of 6/30/21



General Fund Three Year Expense Comparison as of 6/30/21



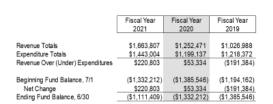


4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2021

Funds Needing Attention

- Swimming Pools
- Recreation
- Multi-Sports Civic Center Events
- Parking
- Planning and Community Development

Golf Courses Fund Three Year Comparison as of 6/30/21



Swimming Pools Fund Three Year Comparison as of 6/30/21



Recreation Fund Three Year Comparison as of 6/30/21



	Fiscal Year 2021	Fiscal Year 2020	Fiscal Year 2019
Revenue - Operating	\$442,870	\$395,507	\$439,774
Revenue - Transfer In	\$267,861	\$267,861	\$267,861
Revenue Totals	\$710,731	\$663,368	\$707,635
Expenditure Totals	\$549,501	\$635,890	\$727,053
Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	\$161,230	\$27,479	(\$19,418)
Beginning Fund Balance, 7/1	\$162,027	\$134,548	\$153,966
Net Change	\$161,230	\$27,479	(\$19,418)
Ending Fund Balance, 6/30	\$323,257	\$162,027	\$134,548

	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year
	2021	2020	2019
Revenue - Operating	\$276,188	\$273,125	\$386,908
Revenue - Transfer In	\$39,206	\$39,206	\$39,206
Revenue Totals	\$315,394	\$312,331	\$426,114
Expenditure Totals	\$403,158	\$479,547	\$515,050
Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	(\$87,764)	(\$167,217)	(\$88,935)
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Beginning Fund Balance, 7/1	(\$31,072)	\$136,145	\$205,154
Net Change	(\$87,764)	(\$167,217)	(\$88,935)
Ending Fund Balance, 6/30	(\$118,836)	(\$31,072)	\$116,219

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Multi-Sports Fund Three Year Comparison as of 6/30/21



Civic Center Events Fund
Three Year Comparison
as of 6/30/21



	Fiscal Year 2021	Fiscal Year 2020	Fiscal Year 2019
Revenue Totals	\$64,832	\$73,101	\$126,950
Expenditure Totals	\$77,672	\$81,432	\$144,636
Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	(\$12,840)	(\$8,331)	(\$17,686)
Beginning Fund Balance, 7/1	\$8,630	\$16,961	\$31,863
Net Change	(\$12,840)	(\$8,331)	(\$17,686)
Ending Fund Balance, 6/30	(\$4,210)	\$8,630	\$14,177

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	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year
	2021	2020	2019
Revenue - Operating	\$42,961	\$172,982	\$367,541
Revenue - Transfer In	\$267,220	\$265,913	\$265,913
Revenue Totals	\$310,181	\$438,895	\$633,455
Expenditure Totals	\$478,953	\$513,587	\$549,669
Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	(\$168,772)	(\$74,692)	\$83,786

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Parking Fund Three Year Comparison as of 6/30/21



Planning & Comm. Development Fund Three Year Comparison as of 6/30/21

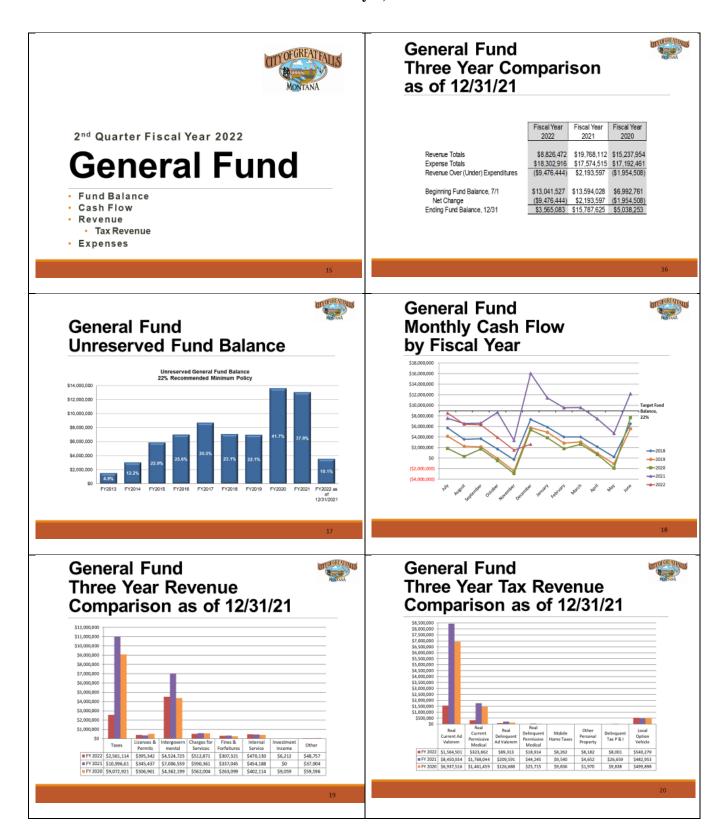
Beginning Fund Balance, 7/1 Net Change Ending Fund Balance, 6/30

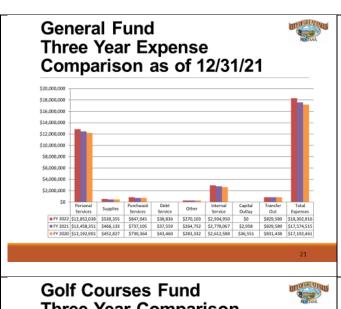


Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year
2021	2020	2019
\$302,529	\$606,257	\$587,073
\$824,612	\$581,783	\$540,871
(\$522,083)	\$24,475	\$46,202
\$449,639	\$425,164	\$378,962
(\$522,083)	\$24,475	\$46,202
(\$72,444)	\$449,639	\$425,164
	\$302,529 \$824,612 (\$522,083) \$449,639 (\$522,083)	2021 2020 \$302,529 \$606,257 \$824,612 \$581,783 (\$522,083) \$24,475 \$449,639 \$425,164 (\$522,083) \$24,475

	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year
	2021	2020	2019
	2021	2020	2010
Revenue - Operating	\$745,703	\$807,239	\$645,277
Revenue - Transfer In	\$271,932	\$271,932	\$289,256
Revenue Totals	\$1,017,635	\$1,079,171	\$934,533
Expenditure Totals	\$1,191,970	\$1,073,513	\$898,296
Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	(\$174,335)	\$5,657	\$36,237
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Beginning Fund Balance, 7/1	\$225,147	\$219,490	\$183,253
Net Change	(\$174,335)	\$5,657	\$36,237
Ending Fund Balance, 6/30	\$50,813	\$225,147	\$219,490

1.4







2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2022

Funds Needing Attention

- Golf Courses
- Swimming Pools
- Parking
- Civic Center Events
- Recreation
- Multi-Sports
- Planning and Community Development

Three Year Comparison as of 11/30/21







Course Co. Financials as of November 30, 2021	Fiscal Year 2022	Fiscal Year 2021	Fiscal Year 2020
Operating Revenues	\$735,734	\$654,497	\$433,672
Revenue Received from Course Co.	\$264,000	\$170,000	\$0
Revenue Totals	\$999,734	\$824,497	\$433,672
Expense Totals	\$674,578	\$617,208	\$565,249
Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	\$325,156	\$207,289	(\$131,577)
Beginning Fund Balance, 7/1	(\$1,111,409)	(\$1,332,212)	(\$1,385,546)
Net Change	\$325,156	\$207,289	(\$131,577)
Ending Fund Balance, 11/30	(\$786,253)	(\$1,124,923)	(\$1,517,123)

		Comp	arison
as of	12/31	/21	

	2022	2021
Revenue - Operating	\$306,353	\$238,0
Revenue - Transfer In	\$133,931	\$133,9
Revenue Totals	\$440,283	\$371,9
Expenditure Totals	\$383,150	\$343,6
Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	\$57,133	\$28,3

Beginning Fund Balance, 7/1 Net Change Ending Fund Balance, 12/31

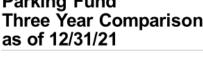
33,931 71,980 \$430,379 \$162,027 \$134,548

Fiscal Year Fiscal Year

\$133,931

Parking Fund Three Year Comparison





Revenue Totals
Expenditure Totals
Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures

Beginning Fund Balance 7/1 Net Change Ending Fund Balance, 12/31

2022	2021	2020	
	2721	2727	
\$301,942	\$113,913	\$356,479	
\$258,127	\$258,210	\$281,397	
\$43,816	(\$144,297)	\$75,082	
(\$72,444)	\$449,639	\$425,164	
\$43,816	(\$144,297)	\$75,082	
(\$28,628)	\$305,342	\$500,246	

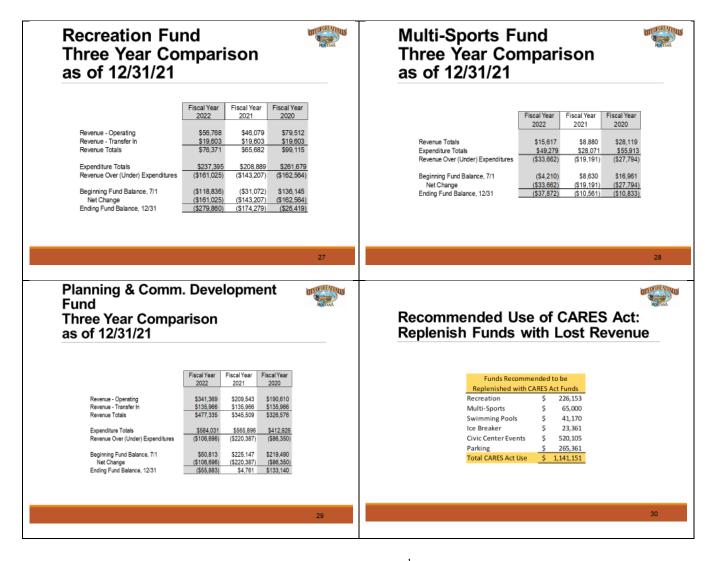
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Civic Center Events Fund **Three Year Comparison** as of 12/31/21



Revenue - Operating Revenue - Transfer in Revenue Totals Expenditure Totals Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures Beginning Fund Balance, 7/1 Net Change Ending Fund Balance, 12/31

Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year
2022	2021	2020
\$49,128	\$8,864	\$65,169
\$132,957	\$132,957	\$132,957
\$182,085	\$141,820	\$198,126
\$280,453	\$248,867	\$268,633
(\$98,368)	(\$107,047)	(\$70,507)
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(\$64,605)	\$104,167	\$178.859
(\$98,368)	(\$107,047)	(\$70,507)
(\$162.974)	(\$2,880)	\$108,352



Finance Director Melissa Kinzler provided and discussed 2nd Quarter fund balance handouts covering the as of 12/31/2021 and the 4th Quarter fund balance as of 6/30/2021.

Deputy Finance Director Kirsten Myre explained that the \$6.6 million revenue over expenditures for FY 2020 was because of the CARES Act money and the settlement of the Calumet protest.

Commissioner Tryon received clarification that the weather and usage of golf courses affects the Golf Courses Fund. He further received clarification that the City is responsible for capital maintenance at the golf courses.

Commissioner McKenney received clarification that the Civic Center Events Fund revenue operating includes events hosted by the City.

Finance Director Kinzler explained that the 2021 and 2022 2^{nd} Quarter Fiscal Year General fund balance is a six month period from July 1 to December 31.

City Manager Doyon requested that the Commission have its recommendations for uses of CARES Act funds to replenish funds with lost revenue, prior to the February 15, 2022 Commission meeting. He added that the funds that lost revenue will more than likely continue to struggle.

Mayor Kelly requested that Finance Director Kinzler provide the math that was used to determine the funds recommended to be replenished with CARES Act funds on the Agenda Report for the February 15, 2022 Commission meeting.

2. <u>POLICE DEPARTMENT FOLLOW UP ON CRIME TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS.</u>

City Manager Greg Doyon announced that Police Chief Jeff Newton was unable to present due to personal reasons. Manager Doyon provided and discussed a revised Great Falls Crime Task Force City Manager, Great Falls Police Department (GFPD), Finance Analysis of Task Force Recommendations document that included the following categories:

- A. Recommendations that can be supported with current GFPD Budget
- B. Recommendations that will impact current GFPD Budget
- C. Unfunded recommendations

Manager Doyon requested that the Commission review the revised document, strike out any recommendations that it is not interested in pursuing, and identify the recommendations that it is interested in implementing. He explained that the identified recommendations from the Commission will then be prioritized and City staff will determine how to fund those recommendations. The goal is to categorize the recommendations into one document. The budget, ARPA, CARES Act funds, and possibly a Public Safety Levy would need to be considered with regard to implementing the recommendations. He added that some of the recommendations will never be supported without a Public Safety Levy because of the City's current General Fund.

Mayor Kelly suggested that Commissioner Tryon explain the purpose of each recommendation since he was an Ex-Officio member of the Crime Task Force, and then the Commission could determine if the recommendations that have a minimal cost should be pursued.

Commissioner Tryon suggested recommendations that would require Commission action and recommendations that could be implemented Administratively be added to the revised document.

Commissioner Hinebauch received clarification that currently the City's zoning code does not allow Recreational Marijuana Dispensaries within City limits. He inquired if the City is taking the position of preventing dispensaries from operating within City limits.

Mayor Kelly responded that whether the City could receive Marijuana Tax Revenue from Cascade County versus allowing Recreational Marijuana Dispensaries in City limits are two different conversations and that it is unclear how City zoning could affect the collection of Marijuana Tax Revenue.

Commissioner Wolff suggested that experts in the local criminal justice system select a few

recommendations from the revised document, that they believe will have the best impact on reducing crime, given the City's current budget and future resources.

She received clarification that implementing some of the recommendations could be managed within the current budget and would not affect staffing costs; however, there could be an impact on staff time.

Mayor Kelly recommended that the Commission review the revised document and determine which recommendations it is interested in pursuing and that will have the most effectiveness, prior to the February 15, 2022 work session. He mentioned that meeting with business leaders, attending the GFPD Citizens Academy and holding Legislative Forums would be an opportunity for the Commission to be more involved with regard to understanding crime trends in the community. Mayor Kelly concluded that if the City is going to invest time and money into these recommendations, there would need to be a form of measured results from the Police Department.

Police Captain John Schaffer responded that his department could provide data to the Commission; however, he requested that the Commission provide guidance with regard to the type of data it would need.

Manager Doyon summarized that the recommendations document will be revised to include Commissioner Tryon's suggestions, adding recommendations that would require Commission action and recommendations that could be implemented Administratively, and will be provided to the Commission prior to the February 15, 2022 work session.

DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that the February 15, 2022 work session includes a Quarterly Downtown TIF update, as well as ARPA and Crime Task Force follow up. An update about National Primary Drinking Water Regulations will be a topic for the March 1, 2022 work session. A date, time, and format will need to be determined for the Commission Retreat. ARPA applications will be updated, provided to the Commission and released if there are no additional changes.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly adjourned the informal work session of February 1, 2022 at 6:45 p.m.

City Commission Work Session Civic Center, Gibson Room 212 Mayor Kelly presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

CITY COMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Kelly, Joe McKenney, Susan Wolff, Eric Hinebauch, and Rick Tryon.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Greg Doyon and Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson; City Attorney Jeff Hindoien; Finance Director Melissa Kinzler and Grant Administrator Tom Hazen; Fire Chief Jeremy Jones and Fire Marshal Mike McIntosh; Municipal Court Judge Steve Bolstad; Police Chief Jeff Newton; and, Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin Westie, City resident, discussed slow controlled growth concept, crime, airborne viruses, homelessness, as well as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) design.

1. ADOPTION OF PERMITTING SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE.

Fire Chief Jeremy Jones reviewed and discussed the following PowerPoint:





Commissioner Wolff received clarification that the City's Fourth of July and Centene Stadium's fireworks displays are examples of the definition of "displays" in Chapter 56.1.2.5.2 of the International Fire Code (IFC).

Commissioner McKenney received clarification that special events require above and beyond inspections from the annual inspection process within the City. Special Amusement Buildings are permanent buildings that need to meet life safety requirements to host events such as haunted houses. The CM Russell western art show is an example of an Exhibit and Trade Show that GFFR provides life safety inspections at. Additionally, the 2021 IFC requires mobile food vendors that produce grease laden vapors to have a Type 1 hood system and to be inspected for code compliance by GFFR.

Fire Marshall Mike McIntosh explained that currently, the permitting section of the IFC has not been adopted by the State of Montana; however, the 2021 International Building Code (IBC) will be presented and ratified at the state level in spring, 2022. The State of Montana would adopt the IBC first, and then the IFC. Lastly, local municipalities would choose what to adopt out of the permitting section of the IFC for its own jurisdiction.

Commissioner Tryon received clarification that the adoption of permitting section of the IFC will be presented to the Commission in fall 2022. The Commission could adopt portions of IFC Section 105 Permits. Commissioner Tryon commented that input from citizens in the community and vetting the background of permits for adoption is important.

Commissioner Hinebauch received clarification that Great Falls is the lead city pursuing adoption of permitting section of the IFC.

Mayor Kelly suggested that GFFR consider the following:

- Do not nickel-and-dime vendors who are putting on events
- Educate citizens about permitting section of the IFC
- Consider timeliness of each event from vendors with regard to permits

2. OVERVIEW OF TIF PROGRAM AND QUARTERLY DOWNTOWN TIF UPDATE.

Item 2 was pulled from the agenda and will be rescheduled to an upcoming work session.

3. CRIME TASK FORCE FOLLOW UP.

City Manager Greg Doyon commented that all recommendations, who has oversight within the departments, and Staff and/or Commission required action, were added to the following categories:

- A. Recommendations that can be supported with current GFPD and/or COGF Budget
- B. Recommendations that will impact current GFPD and/or COGF Budget
- C. Unfunded Recommendations

Manager Doyon explained that category A recommendations would have an impact on the budget. Another consideration is the quality by which some of these functions are being performed. He added that category B recommendations that would impact the current budget are not really funded.

Commissioner McKenney commented that the current list of recommendations includes great ideas; however, the list is too large. The Commission's job is to set policy. He provided and discussed a policy statement handout that included the following:

- Enforcement Hire more patrol officers, sergeants, detectives, and work with other law enforcement agencies
- Judiciary Speed up the process. Hire more judges, prosecutors, and support staff
- Penalties Keep jail space available for repeat or violent offenders
- Root cause of most crime Alcohol/drug addiction: support community resources for treatment, counseling, and rehabilitation services

Commissioner Tryon reiterated that the Crime Task Force's job was to come up with specific and actionable recommendations. There were several experts in the local criminal justice system who were involved in the process and provided the specifics with regard to the recommendations. He concurred that the Commission's job is to set policy; however, the policy needs to be specific. Commissioner Tryon expressed support of the spreadsheet and recommended implementing the recommendations that require Staff and/or Commission action.

Commissioner Wolff expressed appreciation to Commissioner Tryon, Crime Task Force members, Judiciary Partners, Legal Department, City Manager Doyon and City staff for their efforts with regard to the Crime Task Force. She expressed concern that the list of recommendations is still too large and requires too much staff time. The list needs to be broken down. Commissioner Wolff commented that directing City staff to implement the recommendations is Manager Doyon's responsibility and not that of the Commission. She concluded that she supports a Resolution to Montana's Federal Delegation.

Commissioner Hinebauch concurred with Commissioner Wolff's comment about directing City staff to implement the recommendations is Manager Doyon's responsibility and not the Commissions. He

received clarification that there are approximately 18 recommendations that would require Administrative action and 16 that would require Commission action through a Resolution of Intent.

Commissioner McKenney expressed concern that the list of recommendations is not long term solutions to the crime problem. He added that long term problems in the community need policy statements and that the Commission should set policies and rely on the experts to implement them.

Mayor Kelly commented that he believes that the Crime Task Force recommendations address Commissioner McKenney's four areas of his policy statement handout. Mayor Kelly commented that the Crime Task Force provided recommendations and the Commission needs to rely on the experts' guidance as to which ones to implement.

Commissioner Tryon clarified that the intent was to never have the Commission micro-manage the recommendations. He added that the issues have not been addressed because the solutions have been far too vague. Commissioner Tryon suggested looking at each recommendation one by one because the Commission owes it to the professionals who volunteered their time and effort drafting the recommendations. He concluded that public safety is the number one priority for the City.

Municipal Court Judge Steve Bolstad commented that he believes the Crime Task Force has come up with objectives to work with and that the court is currently implementing some of the recommendations. He added that Commissioner McKenney's policy statement could be used as a reference with regard to what was accomplished by the recommendations that were implemented.

Police Chief Newton explained that the Police Department is currently implementing some of the recommendations on the list and that every recommendation on the list has a cost.

Manager Doyon referred to the recommendations that require Commission action, and requested that the City Commission determine the recommendations it is interested in pursuing and to consider the budget as well. He reported that Resolution 10449, Requesting support and resources from Montana's Congressional Delegation to address recommendations and action items from the 2021 Great Falls Crime Task Force will be presented at the March 1, 2022 Commission meeting.

3. ARPA FOLLOW UP.

Manager Doyon reported that the most difficult money to spend will be for projects that are under the ARPA guidelines directly related to COVID-19. He recommended that the Commission determine a transparent way to come up with some objectivity with regard to selecting City projects. He further recommended that the Commission determine a ranking system, as well as consider the Draft American Recovery Plan Act Application.

DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS

Due to a lack of time, there was no discussion about upcoming work session topics.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly adjourned the informal work session of February 15, 2022 at 6:50 p.m.



Finance Department Memorandum

To: Greg Doyon, City Manager; City Commission; Members of the Investment Committee

From: Melissa Kinzler, Finance Director

Date: February 16, 2022

Re: City of Great Falls Total Cash and Investments as of January 31, 2022

The City's total cash and investments at the end of January 31, 2022 was \$110,719,993.65. This included cash in bank accounts of \$14,928,508.99.

The maturity dates of the City's investments run to December 31, 2022 which falls within the 5-year statutory limitations. The investments in Montana Board of Investments and US Bank Insured Cash Sweep are liquid and may be called at any time.

		Inves		
	Market Value	0-6 Months	7-12 Months	1-5 Years
Cash on hand, deposits in banks	14,928,508.99	\$14,928,508.99	\$0.00	\$0.00
Insured cash sweeps	56,605,178.03	56,605,178.03	0.00	0.00
U.S. treasuries	12,209,234.12	11,723,101.30	486,132.82	0.00
U.S. agencies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Short term investment pool (STIP)	26,977,072.51	26,977,072.51	0.00	0.00
Totals	\$110,719,993.65	\$110,233,860.83	\$486,132.82	\$0.00
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The City's investment policy specifies the percentage that the City of Great Falls must have of the different types of instruments allowed by state statute. The chart below lists those percentages.

Issuer category	Minimum %	Maximum %	City's Investments % as of January 31, 2022	
Master, savings, and ICS accounts		100%		
State STIP's	20% combined	100%	89.00%	
Money Market/Repurchase Agreements		100%		
Direct Obligations of the U.S. which	0%	80%	11.00%	
includes Treasury Notes and Bills	U%0	0070	11.00%	
Obligations of agencies of the U.S.	0%	30%	0.00%	

The graphs for the monthly cash balances for the Total Cash & Investments and General Fund are on the next page. All fund cash balances are monitored on a monthly basis. Compared to the previous month, the Total Cash & Investments and General Fund balances have increased. The Total Cash & Investments increased from \$101.3 million to just over \$110.7 million at the end of January, 2022. The General Fund cash increased from the previous monthly amount of \$2.6 million to a balance of \$9.3 million. This is due to first half property tax payment received in January, 2022.

Compared to previous years, the Total Cash & Investments is at a higher level. The higher levels can be attributed to receipt of American Rescue Plan funding and bond funding including the Park Maintenance District and Downtown Tax Improvement District. These monies account for over \$27 million included in our Total Cash & Investments.

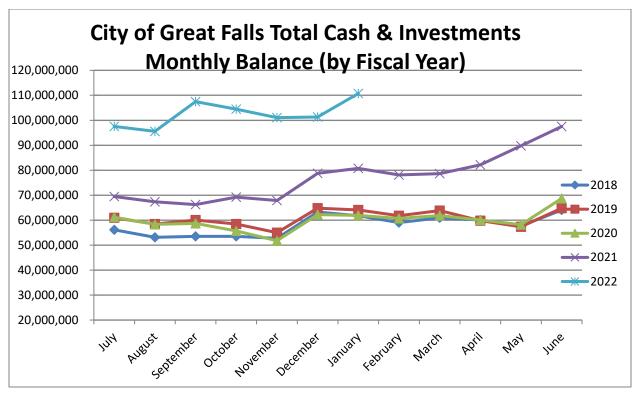
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 455-8476.

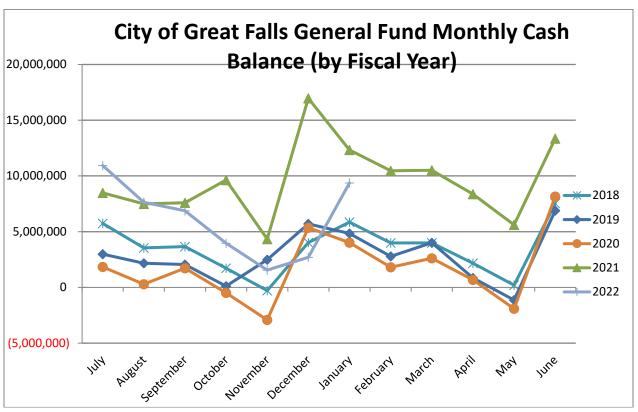
City of Great Falls

Total Cash & Investment Summary

January 31, 2022

CUSIP #	Description	Rate	Due Date	Principal Cost	Market Value
•	US Bank Investments			 _	 _
9128282S8	US Treasury Note	1.875%	2/28/2022	\$ 244,570.31	\$ 250,349.75
912828J43	US Treasury Note	1.750%	2/28/2022	249,531.25	250,325.50
912828J76	US Treasury Note	0.051%	3/3/2022	9,997,472.22	9,999,740.00
912828J76	US Treasury Note	1.750%	3/31/2022	249,609.38	250,633.75
912828WZ9	US Treasury Note	1.750%	4/30/2022	241,894.23	250,934.75
912828XR6	US Treasury Note	1.750%	5/31/2022	246,113.28	251,214.75
912828XR6	US Treasury Note	1.750%	5/31/2022	249,453.13	251,214.75
912828XG0	US Treasury Note	2.125%	6/30/2022	244,457.50	251,757.75
912828N30	US Treasury Note	1.625%	8/31/2022	240,742.19	251,582.00
912828N30	US Treasury Note	2.125%	12/31/2022	245,390.63	253,056.75
	Insured Cash Sweep			56,605,178.03	 56,605,178.03
	Total US Bank Investments			68,814,412.15	68,865,987.78
	State of Montana Short Term				
	Investment Pool	0.160%		26,977,072.51	 26,977,072.51
	Total Investments			95,791,484.66	95,843,060.29
	Cash on hand, deposits in bank			 14,928,508.99	 14,928,508.99
	Total Cash and Investments			\$ 110,719,993.65	\$ 110,771,569.28





RECEIVED FEB 2 2022 **CITY MANAGER**

January 2022



Welcome to 2022! A new year with new energy to forge ahead with excitement and anticipation of the opportunities to come!

We all became stronger by working together these last two years. While competing, we can also cooperate, partner, and support other businesses for the benefit of our community and our region!

The Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and staff truly thank you for your support this past year. The Chamber team has worked extremely hard this year to continue to be at the forefront on a number of issues, keeping Great Falls as a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and strongly advocating against the proposed change (moving the threshold from 50,000 population to 100,000 population), working with our senators to reopen the U.S. border to Canadian travelers, testifying on a number of bills in the 2021 Montana legislative session, and hiring a new Workforce Education Development Director to work toward solving the staffing and employment issues in our region of the state. We also developed a Safe Use River Map for the portion of the Missouri River running through Great Falls and a bit farther upstream from the city. The Missouri is a wonderful asset, and we want to share with people how to safely enjoy the river.

We are also transitioning from a Chamber that has traditionally focused on the 3 Ps – Parties, Parades and Pageants to a Chamber focused on the 3 Cs - being a Convener of business leaders, being a Catalyst for positive change, and being a Champion for our community. By combining strong leaders working for change to build a stronger economic base, and by championing these causes and our community, we will continue to drive growth in a beneficial, targeted fashion for our region. Great Falls is a beautiful place to live, work, and enjoy the lifestyle unique to us here in Montana.

The Great Falls Area Chamber and the Board of Directors are working on five strategic community initiatives we feel strongly will impact Great Falls to help it grow, thrive, and flourish: Workforce Development, Child Care, Affordable Housing, A Safer Great Falls, and the Low-Cost Airfare Initiative. We will be working on various programs and sending out information on how these five initiatives are important to our development as a community!

As we look forward to 2022, we will never lose sight of the most important thing – YOU, our members!

Enclosed is your 2022 Proud Chamber Member window cling! Please contact us if you have multiple locations and did not receive additional stickers. Display these stickers proudly on your front windows or customer entrance door – as we are proud of each of you!

Again, we humbly thank you for your support and look forward to working with and helping every one of you in this upcoming year! Continue to lead!

Shane Etzwiler President/CEO Scott Wolff

Workforce Director

Lorene Javnes

Director of Operations

Denise Ostberg

Executive Administrator