

The Weekly Update – April 27, 2023

Attachments:

- 1. Journal of City Commission Special Work Session, April 4, 2023
- 2. Journal of City Commission Work Session, April 18, 2023
- 3. City of Great Falls Total Cash and Investments as of March 31, 2023

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

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

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

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Greg Doyon and Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson; City Attorney David Dennis and Deputy City Attorney Rachel Taylor; Finance Director Melissa Kinzler, Deputy Director Kirsten Wavra and Utility Billing/Customer Service Manager Laura Lynch; Public Works Director Chris Gaub, Utilities System Manager Jake McKenna, Water Plant Manager Jason Fladland and City Engineer Jesse Patton; Municipal Court Judge Steve Bolstad; Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts Manager Owen Grubenhoff; Fire Marshal Mike McIntosh; Police Chief Jeff Newton; and, City Clerk Lisa Kunz.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

1. 2023 RATE ANALYSIS FOR WATER, SEWER AND STORM DRAIN UTILITIES

Public Works Director Chris Gaub reported that there has not been a Utility Rate increase since November 2019.

Public Works Utilities System Manager Jake McKenna and Water Plant Manager Jason Fladland reviewed and discussed the following PowerPoint:



Proposed Rate Adoption Process Schedule

- April 4, 2023 City Commission sets Public Hearing Date
- Public Notices will be published three times
- Individual Customer Notices will be mailed
- May 16, 2023 Public Hearing at City Commission Meeting
- June 1, 2023 proposed rates take effect after City Commission adoption

AVERAGE MONTHLY UTILITY BILL CITY OF GREAT FALLS (Proposed) ■ Residential: average utility bill would increase \$4.88 (10%) - Average water bill increase \$1.83 (10%) from \$18.35 to \$20.18 per month - Average sewer bill increase \$2.39 (10%) from \$23.90 to \$26.29 per month - Average storm drain bill increase \$.66 (10%) from \$6.60 to \$7.26 per month ■ Commercial: average monthly utility bill increase \$14.31 (10%) - Average water bill increase \$5.74 (10%), from \$57.47 to \$63.21 per month - Average sewer bill increase \$7.62(10%) from \$76.22 to \$83.84 per month

 $-\quad Average\,storm\,drain\,bill\,increase\,\$.95\,(10\%)\,from\,\$9.45\,to\,\$10.40\,per\,month$

2023 CITY COMPARISON COMMERCIAL Monthly water and sewer charges based on: 1" meter, 2,400 cf water, 2,400 cf sewer

City	2023 Water Rate	2023 Sewer Rate	Total
Missoula	\$89.85	\$50.10	\$139.95
Kalispell	\$66.59	\$158.91	\$225.50
Bozeman	\$85.38	\$117.99	\$203.37
Butte	\$91.86	\$73.30	\$165.16
Helena	\$113.56	\$117.49	\$231.05
Billings	\$88.51	\$130.92	\$219.43
Great Falls (Current)	\$57.47	\$76.22	\$133.69
Great Falls(Proposed)	\$63.19	\$83.84	\$147.03

COMMERCIAL CHARGES 1" METER, 2,400 CF WATER, 2,400 CF SEWER, LOT SIZE 7,500 SQ FT

Year	Water bill	Total % inc.	Sewer bill	Total % inc.	Storm drain bill	Total % inc.	Total \$ inc.	Total % inc.	Total avg. bill
2012	\$36.37	5%	\$60.01	10%	\$6.14	0%	\$3.15	6%	\$102.52
2013	\$38.09	5%	\$66.01	10%	\$6.14	0%	\$3.44	7.5%	\$110.24
2014	\$40.07	5%	\$66.01	0%	\$6.14	0%	\$1.42	1.8%	\$112.22
2015	\$42.90	7%	\$67.93	3%	\$6.75	10%	\$3.22	4.8%	\$117.58
2016	\$47.17	10%	\$70.09	3%	\$7.42	10%	\$4.40	6.0%	\$124.68
2017	\$51.74	10%	\$72.03	3%	\$8.18	10%	\$4.79	5.8%	\$131.95
2018	\$54.46	5%	\$74.12	3%	\$9.00	10%	\$0.91	4.3%	\$137.58
2019	\$57.47	6%	\$76.22	3%	\$9.45	5%	\$1.21	4.0%	\$143.14
2020	\$57.47	0%	\$76.22	0%	\$9.45	0%	\$0.00	0.0%	\$143.14
2021	\$57.47	0%	\$76.22	0%	\$9.45	0%	\$0.00	0.0%	\$143.14
2022	\$57.47	0%	\$76.22	0%	\$9.45	0%	\$0.00	0.0%	\$143.14
2023	\$63.21	10%	\$83.84	10%	\$10.40	10%	\$4.88	10.0%	\$157.45
			Average	Rate Increa	ase Per Year:	3.65%			11

WATER DISTRIBUTION





2023 CITY COMPPRISION RESIDENTIAL Monthly water and sever charges based on: 3/4* meter, 600 of water, 600 of sewer							
City	2023 Water Rate	2023 Sewer Rate	Total				
Missoula	\$37.50	\$17.95	\$55.45				
Kalispell	\$25.61	\$50.39	\$76.00				
Bozeman	\$35.37	\$39.26	\$74.63				
Butte	\$71.51	\$28.50	\$100.01				
Helena	\$29.60	\$29.77	\$59.37				
Billings	\$31.73	\$37.53	\$69.26				
Great Falls (Current)	\$18.35	\$23.90	\$42.25				
Great falls (Proposed)	\$20.21	\$26.30	\$46.51				

RESIDENTIAL CHARGES

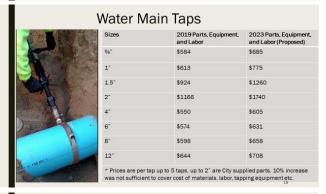
Year	Water bill	Total % incr.	Sewer	Total % incr.	Storm drain bill	Total % Incr	Total \$ Incr	Total % incr	Tatal avgbill
2012	\$13.55	5%	\$19.54	10%	\$4.27	0%	\$3.15	6%	\$37.36
2013	\$14.23	5%	\$21.49	10%	\$4.27	0%	\$3.44	7.0%	\$39.99
2014	\$14.93	5%	\$21.49	0%	\$4.27	0%	\$1.42	1.8%	\$40.69
2015	\$15.97	7%	\$22.12	3%	\$4.70	10%	\$3.22	5.2%	\$42.79
2016	\$17.59	10%	\$22.78	3%	\$5.17	10%	\$4.40	6.4%	\$45.54
2017	\$19.35	10%	\$23.49	3%	\$5.69	10%	\$4.79	6.6%	\$48.53
2018	\$17.64	-9%	\$23.72	1%	\$6.26	10%	\$0.91	-1.9%	\$47.62
2019	\$18.35	4%	\$23.90	1%	\$6.60	5%	\$1.21	2.6%	\$48.85
2020	\$18.35	0%	\$23.90	0%	\$6.60	O%	\$0.00	0.0%	\$48.85
2021	\$18.35	0%	\$23.90	0%	\$6.60	0%	\$0.00	0.0%	\$48.85
2022	\$18.35	0%	\$23.90	0%	\$6.60	0%	\$0.00	0.0%	\$48.85
2023	\$20.18	10%	\$26.30	10%	\$7.26	10%	\$4.88	10.0%	\$53.74

Utilities Service Connections Water 19,888 2,672 19.724 Storm Drain 19,900 2,789 Water Mains - 328 Miles Sanitary Sewer Mains - 255 Miles Storm Mains - 128 Miles Utilities staff repairs and maintains





Water Main replacements \$1,531,862 9.246 2012 1.75 2013 \$1,680,436 12.831 2.40 \$322,641 2014 \$1,388,989 7,392 1.40 \$322,841 2015 \$1,672,072 4,182 2016 \$1.688,250 9.680 1.82 \$285,791 \$1,610,581 \$2,061,000 8,843 1.67 \$6,170,000 2.05 \$930,000 .74 \$1,590,000 \$321,712 2021 1.28 \$1,637,000 2022 \$415,583



FUTURE PRIORITY CAPITAL NEEDS

- Water main replacement
 - 25 Blocks (\$15M FY23-FY28)
- North side river crossing (\$3.3M FY28)

SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION REHAB AND REPLACEMENT

Year	Cost	Footage	Miles	Emergency repair Cost
2012	\$1,223,120	14,760	2.80	\$66,846
2013	\$380,000	13,400	2.54	\$47,815
2014	\$373,617	13,882	2.63	\$23,925
2015	\$448,384	11,574	2.19	\$156,076
2016	\$580,775	15,699	2.97	\$109,287
2017	\$528,000	12,789	2.42	\$17,000
2018	\$1,792,690	22,741	4.31	\$95,000
2019	\$360,728	12,604	2.38	\$19,687
2020	\$830.711	11,782	2.23	\$18,519
2021	\$764,666	12,962	2.45	\$64,776
2022	\$856,914	13,804	2.61	\$35,691

Future Sewer Capital Needs

- Sewer lining phase 23-28 (\$5.9M FY23-27)
- Lift station # 1 upgrades and Missouri River force main crossing (\$7.8M FY23-24)
- Manhole rehab phase 7-11 (\$500,00 FY23-27)
- 6th St and 3rd St rehab of 48" and 30" main trunk lines FY23-27

Storm Drain System





Water Treatment Plant



Gore Hill Water Tank Replacement





(\$2.5M)

Ongoing Projects



- Filtration improvements phase 2 (\$1.2M, FY23)
 Due to EPA guidelines and protocols.
- Solids mitigation facility (Screw Press) (\$6M split with sewer, FY 23-24)
- Hill 57 pump station upgrades (\$700K, FY 25)
- 33rd St water storage tank evaluation (\$400K, FY 23-24)



Future Storm Drain Needs

- NW Great Falls & Northwest bypass (\$450,000 FY23)
- South Great Falls storm drain improvements (\$600,000 FY24)
- Valeria way phase III rehab of old main (lining) (\$600,000 FY23)
- Central Ave and 3rd St drainage construction phase I-IV(\$8.3M FY23-25)
- 5th St and 12th Ave S drainage improvements (\$1.8M FY26)

5 Year Completed Projects

■ Filtration Improvements Phase 1 (\$4.3M)



Continual Water Plant Improvements



The Creat Falls WTP Improvements Phase 1 project consisted of the removal of an existing above ground steet storage tank and existing piping to facilitate the construction of a new UV and Chemical Building, Surge Tank, and addition to the existing Electrical Building. Wecessary site improvements included installation of new exterior underground piping from 4° to 66° diameter and a 60° and 84° bore and jack under an existing railroad spur to be the new facilities into existing.

Future Priority Capital Needs

- 33rd St water storage tank rehab (\$3M FY23) or replacement (\$12M FY 24)
 Tank has exposed rebar and concrete degradation.
- Secondary east zone booster station and tank (\$2.2M FY26-27)
- Filtration improvements phase 3 (\$3.5M FY27)
- High/Low service pump upgrades (\$5.5M FY 25-27)
- Head house structural improvements (\$2.3M FY 25-26)
- Emergency power supply (\$3.6M FY26)

04/04/2023



Finance Utility Billing/Customer Service Manager Laura Lynch explained that the 2023 sewer rate base fee for Kalispell increased from \$8.44 a month to \$14.22 and the consumption charge almost doubled from \$4.76 per thousand gallons to \$8.06. The Missoula sewer model changed from a semi-annual fee, plus an admin charge to a single-family residential base rate plus a consumption charge. It was \$83.40

for six months and currently Missoula charges a base fee of \$16.63 and \$.22 per cubic foot.

Mayor Kelly received clarification that Public Works Environmental staff check storm water outfalls and grease interceptors for commercial accounts daily to comply with the current Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards.

Water Plant Manager Fladland reported that the Water Treatment Plant operates at 8 million gallons daily to sustain the City for all its domestic needs, has peaks as high as 32 million gallons during the summer months, currently has a hydraulic capacity of approximately 46 million gallons daily, and there is room for future growth. He added that inflation has affected the supplies needed for the Water Treatment Plant and there is an increase in electrical costs for water and wastewater. There is 9 ½ million gallons of storage across the City and would take approximately four hours to get the plant back on line if there was a failure.

Commissioner McKenney received clarification that the 9 ½ million gallons of storage in Great Falls is less than other communities in the state. He further received clarification that the Water Treatment Plant has three circuits of power and additional pumps that can be swapped to pump different areas to protect critical infrastructure for any failures. However, it would be critical if the Northwestern Energy feed were lost.

Mayor Kelly received clarification that currently there is no indication of invasive species at the intakes. He commented that it is important for the taxpayers to understand that the City received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant money to help with Public Works improvements that has allowed the City to keep the increase at 10 percent.

Finance Director Melissa Kinzler encouraged the Commission to look at the cost and cash flow analysis handout and to call her with any questions.

Commissioner Tryon commented that, because of the indirect inflationary impact, efficiency initiatives or programs to save taxpayer money should be implemented within not only the Public Works Department's budget, but every City Department's budget.

Commissioner Wolff added that the storyboard communication and other communication outlets to show cost savings to the public from Public Works is critical.

Public Works Director Gaub reiterated that the proposed rate adoption process schedule is May 16, 2023 for a Public Hearing and the rates take effect on June 1, 2023.

2. COURT REMODEL/RELOCATION DISCUSSION

Cushing Terrell Architect Tony Houtz reviewed and discussed the following PowerPoint:







Cushing Terrell Architect Houtz explained that relocating or remodeling Municipal Court needs to interface between the public and court system being safe, legal and as efficient as possible. He added that remodeling the basement would not be an ideal situation and the Missouri Room is a better option. The Missouri Room is currently used to support events that take place in the Mansfield Center; however, the green room in the basement has better access to the Mansfield Center.

Mayor Kelly commented that the Municipal Court renovation is an eligible use for ARPA funds and the City is in a better financial position architecturally with remodeling the Missouri Room rather than the basement. Mayor Kelly inquired if creating a new space in the Missouri Room for court would be aesthetically designed with the rest of the Civic Center.

Cushing Terrell Architect Houtz responded that the Missouri Room would be a great space for Municipal Court.

Commissioner Wolff commented that there is a real advantage of having daylight in an office.

City Manager Greg Doyon explained that the City does not have to have public space in the Civic Center; however, with regard to relocating court, off-site locations, a new building, the Children's Museum and renovations to the basement were all considered. No elected body has ever been willing to listen to having anything other than the space in the Missouri Room used as a public space. If the Missouri Room is used for court, providing appropriate security for the facility would be crucial, and there could be changes to the ingress and egress in the rest of the Civic Center. Municipal Court would also continue to occupy some space in its current location in the basement.

Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts Manager Owen Grubenhoff reported that the Mansfield Center makes approximately \$20,000 year from events in the Missouri Room, which allows him to pay for a part-time employee and the Gibson Room is approximately \$1,200. Mansfield Center Manager Grubenhoff explained that the Commission Chambers would be a more desirable location and court could continue to utilize the basement. He expressed concern about the historical preservation aspect of turning the Missouri Room into court space, security, directing the public into one entrance and mixing the public with City Employees. He concluded that it would be sad to see the public space lost in general from a community standpoint.

Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson added that it is critical to have the loss of space currently utilized

by staff, including the Ryan, Rainbow, IT Training Rooms and Human Resource Training/Development Coordinator Mark Willmarth's office replicated in the basement or other areas in the Civic Center and are included in this plan and funded.

Mayor Kelly commented that he is unaware of any other City Hall that has space available for the public and the conditions in court are abominable and not a conducive place to work.

It was the consensus of the Commission to explore utilizing the Missouri Room for the court option, including Cushing Terrell Architect Houtz to provide addition information and detail with regard to having office space replicated in the basement or other areas in the Civic Center with the current budget.

Commissioner Wolff added that the City has reached a crucial point where it needs to move forward with public comment since it has been waiting for the other renovations in the Civic Center.

Commissioner Tryon received clarification that either remodeling the current location for court in the basement or moving court to the Missouri Room with the current budget are the only two options.

Municipal Court Judge Steve Bolstad pointed out that in 1939 the Civic Center was not built without controversy, was challenged and the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the City. This is a one-time situation where the court can be upgraded. The Civic Center, although historical, has gone through many renovations over the years. The court sees approximately 7,800 jurors a year, witnesses and victims, all who are citizens of Great Falls. He commented that turning the Missouri Room into court space would be a jewel for the City of Great Falls and the court would be good stewards and keep the historical value.

DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that a Collective Bargaining discussion and GO Bond Infrastructure related to the Safety Levy will be topics for the April 18, 2023 work session.

Commissioner Hinebauch inquired about the anticipated action date for the bond.

City Manager Doyon responded presumably the same election cycle.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly adjourned the informal special work session of April 4, 2023 at 6:51 p.m.

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

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

CITY COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Kelly, Susan Wolff, Joe McKenney, and Eric Hinebauch. Commissioner Rick Tryon was excused.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Greg Doyon and Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson; City Attorney David Dennis and Deputy City Attorney Rachel Taylor; Finance Director Melissa Kinzler; Human Resources Director Gaye McInerney; Park and Recreation Director Steve Herrig; Court Supervisor Morgan Medvec; ARPA Project Manager Sylvia Tarman; Fire Chief Jeremy Jones; Police Chief Jeff Newton; and, Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin Westie, 602 35th Street North, spoke in opposition to the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF), and discussed examples of government over-regulation, and prosecuting those responsible for Covid to stop World War III.

1. 2023 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCESS

Human Resources Director Gaye McInerney reported that FY 2024 collective bargaining is underway with scheduled meetings over the course of the next three months. The City's core bargaining team includes: Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson, Finance Director Melissa Kinzler, City Attorney David Dennis and Human Resources Director Gaye McInerney. As collective bargaining meetings occur with the individual groups, department heads and division managers join the team to offer input from their perspectives within the units.

Historically, the City has held six collective bargaining agreements (CBA). This year the City will be bargaining seven contracts that represent 11 units or local entities. The dispatchers who previously fell under the Montana Federation of Public Employees approached the City to split off as their own local entity based on what they referred to as "uncommon interests within the union." As a standalone local entity, the dispatchers will have their first session next month.

Director McInerney reviewed and discussed the following PowerPoint slide:

FY24 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNITS

Crafts Council consists of 117 employees (EEs):

Operators - 45 EEs in 12 departments

Teamsters - 30 EEs in 4 departments

Laborers - 38 EEs in 6 departments

Machinists - 4 EEs in 2 departments

Carpenters - 0

Great Falls Police Protective Association (GFPPA) - 79 EEs in 1 department

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Local #233 - #EEs in 3 departments

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), Local #8 - 63 EEs in 1 department

Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE), Local #7796 -54 EES in 19 departments

Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE), Local (Dispatchers) - 14 EEs in 1 department

Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local #41 - 5 EEs in 4 departments

Collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) are located on the City's webpage and may be viewed at https://greatfallsmt.net/hr/collective-bargaining-agreements.

Three contracts currently underway are the Fire Fighters, Electricians, and the Police. The City team anticipates a challenging bargaining season based on:

- (1) Budgetary constraints coming out of Covid. The City did not raise taxes in 2021 and 2022 resulting in a \$1.2 million dollar deficit for the fiscal year budget. CARES money has been used to help offset the deficit.
- (2) City Manager's directive that budgets are to remain flat with no above and beyond requests.
- (3) Pending legislative bills that could potentially impact local government operations.
- (4) Inflationary factor over the last couple of years was more than six percent.
- (5) Reduction in the overall pool of applicants applying for job vacancies.

The three contracts underway in negotiations have presented over \$3.73 million dollars in asks or demands. To prepare for the negotiations, in 2022/2023 the City engaged public sector personnel consultants to conduct a competitive wage study for the City's union positions. Comparative data was gathered from the other top six cities in Montana. A similar competitive study was done for the non-union employees in 2021and market adjustments were given in the spring of 2022 based on the data from that study.

The City holds the perspective of total compensation inclusive of wages and benefits, while the unions prefer to focus only on wages. A recent comparison study done by Alliant, the City's health benefits consultant, demonstrates the exceptional and robust value of the City's health insurance plan, which is offered as a benefit and should not be overlooked. Focusing on wages and salaries from a historical perspective over the past 16 years, the various union members have received wage increases above the consumer price index, West Region, in 11 of the 16 years. Six of those years included a market adjustment

in addition to COLA increases. The COLA increases ranged from 1.5% to 4.5% and the market adjustments ranged from 2% to 4%.

Traditionally, non-union employees received COLA increases that were tagged to the MFPE union. In 2019, annual increases moved to a performance based scale. There was one market adjustment in 16 years for the non-union employees.

Negotiations are approached with an eye as to where Great Falls is in comparison to the other top six cities in Montana. Gathered data shows that Great Falls is slightly ahead of Bozeman in population. The average home value in Great Falls is \$282,300. In comparison, Butte-Silver Bow has an average home value below Great Falls, and Billings has a \$359,000 value. The Great Falls unemployment rate matches the State's unemployment rate which, in February, was 2.4% and was considered the lowest rate since the record keeping began in 1976. A number under 3% is considered full employment. Butte-Silver Bow is the only city with the cost of living lower than Great Falls. The other cities range from 6.9% to 39% higher than Great Falls. The turnover rate for the first quarter of this calendar year was 1.05%. Since the beginning of the 2023 fiscal year, it is 3.58% and that does include seasonal employees and separation from the Housing Authority. These are additional factors to consider at the bargaining table. Given the budgetary constraints, Director McInerney expects the discussions to get down to brass tacks fairly quickly and prioritizing of tasks with wages and health insurance being the primary focus.

Salaries and benefits are the number one expense in the total budget. In FY 23, they comprised over \$52 million dollars or 35% of the total budget of about \$148 million. From a general fund perspective, salaries and benefits increased to $72\frac{1}{2}$ % or \$27 million of the total \$37 million dollar budget.

Once negotiations are completed, Director McInerney will prepare a detailed agenda report with the agreed upon terms and the financial impact of those items for submission to the Commission for ratification. At that point, the Commission will have the opportunity to approve or deny the recommended motion.

The bargaining sessions are a little more drawn out this year given the number of calendars that had to be coordinated, and it is unlikely all of them will be done by fiscal year end.

Director McInerney concluded that all of the City's current labor agreements are located on the City's website: https://greatfallsmt.net/hr/collective-bargaining-agreements.

Mayor Kelly received clarification that the \$3.7 million in asks are just from the current negotiations with the Fire Fighters, Police and the IBEW.

Mayor Kelly inquired about the bargaining process.

Director McInerney responded that the last time the affinity process was used was in 2019 and was unique to the Fire Fighter/IAFF. They have found that it's more beneficial to go back to the traditional method of each side presenting their asks or demands, getting into discussions, and seeing where the impacts are to gain a better understanding.

Mayor Kelly inquired the inflationary increase of the State employees this year.

Directly McInerney responded that it is 4%, with a bonus component of 1.5%. She added that the Public Schools are targeting 4%, as well as Benefis.

Mayor Kelly commented that he thinks it is fair to say that, despite our best efforts at the Legislature, there will be laws put in place to restrict local government income potential and probably cut into our budgetary allowance for the entitlement share. He inquired if Director McInerney was waiting until those bills passed the Governor's desk before making that part of the negotiations as well.

Director McInerney responded that she is certainly keeping an eye on it and relies on Finance Director Melissa Kinzler for the budget analysis and what the impact will be. She noted again that the budget is starting at a \$1.2 million dollar deficit. But, they certainly recognize that folks have worked hard and increases are merited. Conversations so far have been pleasant, conciliatory, and productive.

Mayor Kelly suggested that Director McInerney make the bargaining units aware they are more than welcome to attend Commission meetings, listen to the budgetary discussions and see exactly what the Commission sees as far as what is available and what is not.

Commissioner McKenney inquired if the agreements being negotiated were for two-year terms. Director McInerney responded that is her preference.

Commissioner McKenney inquired if the contract negotiation timeframe was before June.

Director McInerney responded that it would be ideal if all the conversations and agreements came together and were finished before fiscal year end, which means there would be no retro-calculations for payroll purposes, etcetera.

Commissioner McKenney inquired if it was uncommon for these agreements to go past fiscal year-end; and, what would happen if it went past that timeframe.

Director McInerney responded that, typically, if bargaining in good faith, people are working to a resolution to an agreement as quickly and as fairly as they can. If it is getting to the point of an impasse, there is a provision for arbitration and that would cause it to go past June 30 and in to the next budget year.

Commissioner McKenney inquired if all employees were covered by a union and, if not, how are those other employees addressed as far as wages and benefits.

Director McInerney responded that about one-quarter of the employee population not in a union are based on merit or performance based pay. Meetings are scheduled each year with supervisors and goals are set for the measurements.

Mayor Kelly concluded that he is appreciative of the fact that the bargaining teams are bargaining as early as possible, and that every effort is made to be transparent about the budget that the City has.

2. GENERAL OBLIGATION (GO) INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS RELATED TO THE SAFETY LEVY

Mayor Kelly commented that this GO infrastructure needs topic is phase two of the safety levy. A lot of time has been spent talking about the public safety levy and nailing that down to make sure the City has the appropriate ask. A general obligation bond means that the municipality is able to back the revenue stream to pay the debt.

The discussions will pertain to what is qualified to fit into this type of issuance for a GO bond, which is mostly specific to capital needs, and to make sure that this is the financing mechanism that is the most efficient.

The deadline is August to get the number set to be put on the November ballot.

City Manager Greg Doyon commented that this resumes a conversation that was not concluded in January and February of this this year when evaluating options for a public safety levy. It was recognized that there were some additional needs that the City would likely need to ask the taxpayers to support ongoing operations associated with the levy, and to address some capital needs that have not been addressed over the years.

City Manager Doyon reported asks that prior City Commissions made to the public to address facility needs:

- The one that has been talked about the most in this process is related to the Fire Department bond in 1969 for \$1.9 million dollars for four Fire Stations and some racquetball courts.
- In 1988, general obligation bonds were issued for some Library improvements.
- In 2009, there was a public safety levy asked for Fire and Police that failed.
- An additional two mills for the Library passed in 2000.
- The community also supported GO bonds for the soccer park in 2003 for \$2.5 million with a debt service of 20-years.
- The Citywide Tree Maintenance District requested in 2004 failed.
- The neighborhood pools and Mitchell Pool bond to make improvements passed in 2006 for about \$2.2 million with a debt service of 10-years.
- The Park Maintenance District assessment passed in 2018.

The City of Great Falls has a large general obligation debt capacity. The debt would, of course, need to be voted on. To put this in perspective, the City has the ability to put into debt service a little over \$159 million. No responsible city manager would ever advise a community to fully exercise that. The Commission also has the ability to do non-voted general obligation debt. The Commission could, by a public hearing and a vote, commit up to about \$3.2 million of principle for non-voted general obligation debt as well.

In the January-February timeframe, there were discussions about long-term needs. One of the listed needs was equipment for the Fire Department. The City cannot create a revolving fund for fire equipment. The

equipment that is currently needed would have to be bonded. At the time, the ask was \$4.3 million. Since then, the City has purchased a ladder truck. Fire Chief Jones has other equipment needs and the Commission will need to work its way through another Fire Station. There has been a lot of talk about response times, growth in the City, and gaps in service. The request was to construct a Fire Station for about \$10 million dollars.

Finance Director Melissa Kinzler reported that the City's debt service capacity on non-voted GO debt is \$3.1 million. There is about \$25,000 left on lighting district debt, and the fire engines will be paid off in 2026. Unfortunately, another issue is that the City has the capacity, but not the revenue to be able to take care of that.

Manager Doyon referred to the Police Department's expansion and renovation project. That facility was never designed to be a police station, but a parts or warehouse distribution facility. There is a large area that is not being fully utilized or maximized. If the Police Department adds staff, they are going to need additional space for offices and training, and other updates. That initial ask was around \$6.5 million. As the Commission knows, the City is moving forward with an evidence building. Lack of evidence space has always been an issue in terms of storage and the associated legal requirements.

There was a conversation about putting some capital towards additional office space for the legal department. If the public safety levy was successful and the City was able to add staff into that realm, additional space would be required for the legal department.

With regard to a broader discussion about Court, the City is looking at the Missouri Room and related office areas. He has spent some time with the Commission talking about being able to replenish the lost meeting room space and office area in the basement. The only likely remaining space for the City Attorney's Office to grow in would be the basement. He asked the Commission to keep in mind as they go through the costs for the Court renovation to look at also addressing the space in the basement.

Fire Chief Jeremy Jones reported that when the presentation for the mill levy and bond was developed he worked with Fleet Manager Doug Alm to establish an equipment-revolving schedule (ERS) that would meet the City's needs into the future. Just in the two years since they have addressed the capital improvement program for equipment, pricing for fire engines has gone from \$650,000 to 850,000. That ERS was to put the rolling stock on a 10-year replacement program. They came to the \$4.355 million dollar figure as they went through that stock equipment to put that GO bond money into an ERS account. Finance Director Kinzler has since found out that the Fire Department cannot do that.

The Fire Department's position has not changed. He worked with Director Kinzler and Fleet Manager Alm to project out the first five years of the ERS schedule and to buy the first four years right away. The \$900,000+ that would be part of the mill levy would continue to fund that ERS long term.

The aerial truck was on the list, but the Fire Department was successful with a grant and City match. They are starting to plan for the replacement of the 2009 aerial before it hits the 25-year mark.

What they do not get to address as they go through this is all the equipment that sits on these trucks. Great Falls Fire Rescue still has hose that is from the 1970's when the \$1.9 million bond was established. They

are not able to address all the little things, such as the nozzles that cost \$1500 to \$2000 each. Another item not addressed is the decon equipment within the station.

As far as the fire station, he worked with Ken Newell Consultants out of South Carolina that projected 90% to 95% of costs for construction of a new fire station based on the square footage. At \$475 per square foot, they are looking at \$6.55 million dollars for a 10,000 square foot station. They also factored in soft costs of the equipment needed inside that station. The land purchase is not factored into that amount. He has been diligently looking for property where they might be able to locate a station when this comes to fruition.

The other caveat that is on the Commission agenda tonight is addressing the HVAC and plumbing infrastructure in the stations, but that does not touch a lot of what the current facilities really need. The \$10 million was to cover construction of the new fifth fire station, the ground, and also be able to invest money back into the stations to address today's deficiencies that did not qualify for ARPA funds.

City Manager Doyon added that what's been personally frustrating over the years is he thought the City would have better capacity to take care of fire stations before having to make an ask to the public to not only rehab them but to construct another one. One year, \$100,000 was set aside that was thought would take care of four stations to deal with some issues and that was not even adequate to address one station. That station was closed for months because of the issues that were going on there.

The other thing that has been done to save taxpayer money is engines are being rebuilt for front line service as a means to reduce the cost of purchasing front line equipment.

Mayor Kelly clarified that the \$10 million dollar ask is for the fire station number five and existing capital needs of the four other station structures.

Chief Jones added that amount does not include the training center whatsoever.

Mayor Kelly inquired if the \$10 million included any "rolling equipment," as referred to by Chief Jones.

Chief Jones responded that the rolling equipment would be hose, racks, beds, kitchen tables, chairs, TV's for training, and washer/dryer, or the soft touch items that a fire station needs to be housed appropriately.

Mayor Kelly requested clarification of what Great Falls Fire Rescue would get for the \$15 million dollar ask.

Chief Jones reiterated a new fire station, hopefully some infrastructure deficiencies will be able to get addressed within the current four operating fire stations, upgraded equipment, and be able to have seed stock for an ERS so it is always budgeted out and planned for.

It was clarified again that a revolving fund cannot be funded by the GO Bond. Chief Jones continued that he could purchase the first four years of equipment in the ERS that Fleet Manager Alm presented. Going forward, ERS money that is part of the mill levy component could be used to replenish that funding. Year five, moving forward, they would be back on schedule.

City Manager Doyon added that Chief Jones is recommending that, even though the City just received a substantial grant to replace an aerial truck, he is still recommending to the Commission to keep that full amount in there for replacement of another truck.

Mayor Kelly requested a breakout of what this bond will purchase going forward and the needs it will take care of.

Mayor Kelly pointed out that the City has been fortunate. This ask could be for a lot more to satisfy the needs that the City has if it wasn't for the ARPA funding, grants, and work that's been done already.

Finance Director Kinzler reported that the rehab of the fire trucks was \$1.2 million. The garage doors were \$438,000. Tonight, there is an award on the agenda for \$2.7 million for improvements at the fire stations. The recent grant award was \$900,000, with the City subsidizing an additional \$700,000.

Chief Jones added that Great Falls Fire Rescue has tried to prioritize projects to keep the doors open and the lights on. He reported that another sewer line recently collapsed in one of the stations. They have been delaying the inevitable.

Commissioner Wolff commented that this really shows the 50 years the City was not able to invest at the level that was needed. Inflation is also being factored in here too.

Commissioner McKenney commented that there is a lot of trepidation in the community. Not all people understand that it has been 54 years of defunding public safety - Fire Department, Police Department, and the Court. It is a big ask. It started out a lot bigger. It has been minimized as far as it can be. But, it is not enough to get us where we need to be to serve our community public safety wise - health and welfare. Great Falls needs another fire station. Our community is growing significantly. He inquired if it was anticipated having property tax revenue to take care of that sixth fire station in the five to six year range.

City Manager Doyon responded, historically, that has not been the case. But, there are a few things that are happening differently now than in the past. Great Falls seems to be more attractive to folks because of the cost of living and so forth. Things are happening at Malmstrom that will have an impact on housing and population. He has never seen a fully funded budget, or fully funded capital improvement plan in his career. The incremental adjustments in water, sewer and storm rates really stave off having to come back and make big asks. Now the stations are in a situation similar to the Natatorium. It is getting to a point where repairs need to be made on the facilities, or the service is not going to meet acceptable levels from the public. The only way to fund the business that we are in as it relates to this is support through taxes. It is not like an enterprise fund that the City can offset with user fees.

Director Kinzler clarified that the mill levy will address new employees that will be added. It is not addressing all of the other employees or other issues. She also pointed out this Legislature is trying to put in place law that will take away some of the revenue that the City actually survives on, including some of the newly taxable property, and limiting the total expenditures of the budgets which would be catastrophic to the general fund and all the governmental funds that the City has. Her gut instinct would be no. The City would not have enough revenue in six years to build another fire station unless it went out for another vote.

Commissioner Hinebauch noted that this makes sense to him, and it shows what 54 years of deferred maintenance looks like.

Police Chief Jeff Newton reported that in 2012 they started looking for a new facility because they outgrew the Police Department. The Police Department building is kind of cobbled together and is an engineer's nightmare trying to figure out all the infrastructure in that place. They looked at the Strain Building that turned out not to be feasible either logistically or financially. During that time frame, there were discussions about potentially building an entirely new Police Department. As Chief Jones indicated, the land was one issue. The cost 10 years ago was estimated at \$18 to \$20 million dollars to set up a building that would serve their needs. Factor in today's costs and it is entirely unreachable. They also had the opportunity to look at the *Tribune* building and quickly realized that the cost to refurbish that building was out of touch.

Circling back to where they are today, looking at the personnel and the mill levy and looking at their current space, they would have to do some significant renovations. Specifically, they would be looking at four areas. The Northwest corner is where the old jail was. Those cinder block rooms were converted into office space and now storage space for the agency. They would be looking at renovating that corner to make it into usable office space.

The new evidence building going on the south side of the building would vacate the current evidence area. That area could be refurbished to expand the locker rooms again. The last thing they would look at renovating is to expand the size of the upstairs training room. It is financially advantageous for the Police Department to bring trainers in house, but have found out that trainers refuse to come to Great Falls because of the lack of space to hold big enough classes. He then looks at off site locations, which is horrendously expensive.

Commissioner Wolff received clarification that the Police Department building was originally a Chevrolet parts warehouse.

Mayor Kelly clarified that the terms debt capacity and non-voted debt capacity are determined through a mathematical formula with the governmental accounting service.

Director Kinzler added that those debt computations are done by State statute by looking at the total market value of the real and personal property, 2.5% of the total assessed value, and what is outstanding. Right now, the City's 2.5% of the total assessed value is \$159,839,466, general obligation debt outstanding is negative \$637,159, that computes to \$159,202,307.

City Attorney David Dennis reported that the numbers Manager Doyon discussed identified the amount that it might take to do light modifications to whatever space might become available for expansion of the City Attorney's office. It would allow space to add a couple of attorneys, and locate all of the attorneys in the same workspace.

Mayor Kelly noted that all of these numbers were set months ago before the reality of supply chain issues and inflation.

He added that about \$6.5 million dollars of Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District funds were used for the repairs to the Civic Center building that never affected the general taxpayer. The TIF balance is still rather robust and has money that can be spent in the district. The police station may be in the TIF district and he wants to look for the most efficient financing means with the least amount of pain requests to the taxpayers going forward. It might be worthwhile if TIF dollars could be used as was done for the Civic Center facade project.

Mayor Kelly requested that staff explore exactly what TIF uses the City can use that have been laid out by the departments. Much like the Commission added fire suppression, safety and the facade program, he thinks the Commission has the capability to do other types of improvements that are inside the TIF district that have public benefit. Certainly saving taxpayers money is one public benefit, and having better facilities would be another public benefit.

Director Kinzler added that use of TIF funds would also have to do with blight, and she would look into it.

Commissioner Hinebauch commented that he would like to learn more about the TIF process. In his mind, that is a tool for business attraction.

Commissioner Wolff commented that she would hope that the Commission could get that information and have enough discussions that perhaps a decision could be made before August.

Mayor Kelly noted his concern that the voting people will not fully understand the difference between the bond and the levy.

Commissioner Hinebauch clarified that, if the mill levy passes, the increase in taxes for a \$200,000 home would be \$280, and if the bond passes, the increase is \$44 per \$200,000.

Mayor Kelly's concern is that people will see the two ballot issues and only go for the \$44 bond amount. There will need to be a lot of education that this is a package, and then the City will have to be ready to deal with what if one passes and the other does not. If the bond passes, it will probably still be okay because the City has to build a fire station and allow for growth for the police, legal and court. However, he does not think he has consensus on delaying the bond until another election.

Commissioner Wolff commented that, months ago when the conversations started, she thought both the operational and capital costs could be one package on the ballot, which cannot be done. It has to be two separate issues.

Commissioner Hinebauch agreed it would be a challenge. But, the Commission dedicated a lot of money to education to make sure that the public fully understands what is being asked.

Commissioner McKenney commented that the legislature has companion bills. If there were two different subjects, it required two bills. If either one failed, then the one that passed was voided.

Mayor Kelly responded that if one passes and the other one does not, he does not think that is any reason to kill both of them. He thinks the City would benefit in either case.

Manager Doyon summarized that it does not sound like the department head team is missing anything out of this request. He will double check the numbers, and break out the items further to make it more clear what it is being asking for. He will also check into utilizing TIF funds, move this along on the calendar, and check on Commissioner McKenney's companion bill concept.

	2023 Great Falls Public Safety Levy Summary							
Requests as of	1/5/23							
Capital Request Summary								
Proposed	Public Benefit							
\$4,358,000	Long-Term Equipment/Apparatus replacement purchase.							
\$10,000,000	Improve citywide GFFR coverage and response.							
\$14,358,000								
Proposed	Public Benefit							
\$6,500,000	Reconfigure existing building to maximize space for personand operations, which is financially less expensive than a facility.							
\$6,500,000								
Proposed	Public Benefit							
\$317,000	Office renovation/expansion relocation							
\$317,000								
\$21,175,000								
	\$4,358,000 \$10,000,000 \$14,358,000 Proposed \$6,500,000 Proposed \$317,000 \$317,000							

Requests originally presented during 1/17/23 Work Session

Potential Tax Impact										
Request Type		Fire		Police		Legal	Munic Cour			Total
Capital Requests	\$1	14,355,564	56	5,500,000	\$3	19,436			52	1,175,000
Annual Debt Service Levy (5%)	\$	1,151,928	\$	521,577	٧Ą	25,632			w	1,699,137
Per \$100,000 Home	5	15.05	\$	6.82	ş	0.33			\$	22.20
Per \$200,000 Home	5	30.11	\$	13.63	ş	0.66			\$	44.40
Per \$300,000 Home	5	45.16	\$	20.45	'n	0.99			\$	66.60
Combined Operational and Capital Requests										
Per \$100,000 Home	\$	84.10	ሳ	67.94	w	7.19	\$:	5.03	w	162.26
Per \$200,000 Home	\$	168.21	\$	135.87	\$	14.38	5 6	5.06	\$	324.52
Per \$300,000 Home	\$	252.31	\$	203.81	\$	21.57	\$ 9	9.10	\$	486.79

DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that budget discussions would begin at the May 2 work session, lead and copper rule and semi-annual litigation updates on May 16, and solid waste study on June 6. Budget discussions will be on the agenda thereafter, and he will add in time to discuss the GO Bond and Safety Levy topics.

Mayor Kelly noted if the Library levy passes, it will free up \$350,00 of general fund money that Commissioner Tryon has pushed hard to make available to law enforcement.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly adjourned the informal work session of April 18, 2023 at 6:42 p.m.



Finance Department Memorandum

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

From: Kirsten Wavra, Deputy Finance Director

Date: April 10, 2023

Re: Total Cash and Investments as of March 31, 2023

The City of Great Falls' total cash and investments at the end of March 2023 was \$112,772,444.61. This included cash in bank accounts totaling \$16,673,402.51. Total cash and investments decreased from \$113.0 million in February to \$112.8 million at the end of March. This amount fluctuates from month to month depending on payments made on large capital projects and funds received from utilities, taxes, and grants, for example. In March, the General Fund cash balance decreased from \$8.1 million in February to \$7.4 million in March. The General Fund cash balance will continue to decrease until the next major tax payments will be received by the City in June. The graphs for the City's total cash and investments as well as the General Fund, specifically, are on the next pages. All cash balances are monitored on a monthly basis.

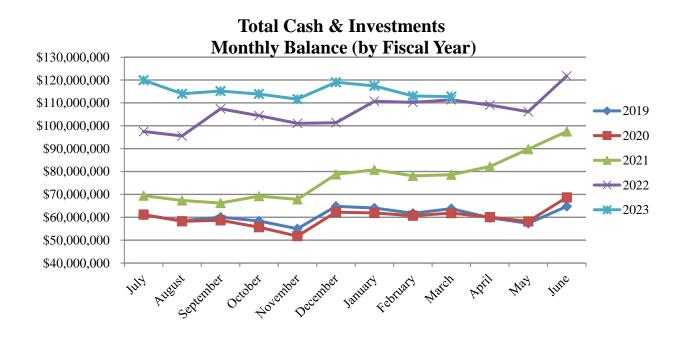
Also on the next page is the summary of the City's total cash and investments. The maturity dates of the City's investments ran through December 31, 2022. Staff is researching new investment opportunities and the investment committee will be meeting to discuss. The City's investment policy specifies the percentage the City of Great Falls must have of the different types of instruments allowed by state statute. The chart below lists those percentages compared to the City's investments as of March 31st. The investments in the Montana Board of Investments (STIP) and US Bank Insured Cash Sweep (ICS) are liquid and may be called at any time. Interest rates of both STIP and ICS have been increasing.

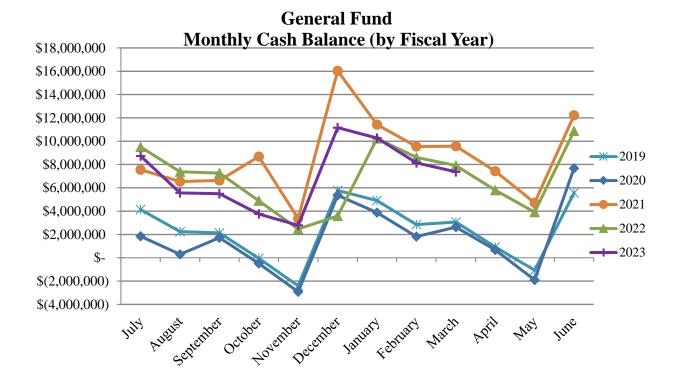
Issuer category	Minimum %	Maximum %	City's Investments % as of March 31, 2023		
Master, savings, and ICS accounts		100%			
Montana Board of Investments STIP	20% combined	100%	100%		
Money Market/Repurchase Agreements		100%			
Direct Obligations of the U.S. which includes Treasury Notes and Bills	0%	80%	0%		
Obligations of agencies of the U.S.	0%	30%	0%		

City of Great Falls
Total Cash & Investment Summary
March 31, 2023

Description	Rate	Due Date	Principal Cost	Market Value
US Bank Investments				
Insured Cash Sweep	1.025%		49,121,969.59	49,121,969.59
Total US Bank Investments			49,121,969.59	49,121,969.59
State of Montana Short Term				
Investment Pool (STIP)	4.537%		46,977,072.51	46,977,072.51
Total Investments			96,099,042.10	96,099,042.10
Cash on Hand, Deposits in Bank			16,673,402.51	16,673,402.51
Total Cash and Investments			\$112,772,444.61	\$112,772,444.61

Compared to previous years, total cash and investments are still at a higher level. The higher levels can be attributed to receipt of American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding and bond funding from the Park Maintenance District and Downtown Tax Increment District. These monies originally accounted for over \$35 million included in our total cash and investments and are being spent down as the Civic Center façade and new recreation center construction is completed. The ARPA funding will be spent down as it is allocated on a project by project basis.





If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (406) 455-8423 or kmyre@greatfallsmt.net.