

CITY OF HELENA
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
January 27, 2014
6:00 P.M.

Time & Place

A regular City Commission meeting was held on Monday, January 27, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., in the Commission Chambers, 316 N. Park Avenue, Helena, Montana.

Members Present

Mayor Smith indicated for the record that Commissioners Elsaesser, Ellison, Haque-Hausrath and Haladay were present. City Manager Ron Alles, City Attorney Jeff Hindoen and Deputy City Clerk Robyn Brown were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith asked Brandon Stimpson of Boy Scout Troop #207 to please stand and lead those persons present in the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes

The minutes of the regular City Commission meeting of January 13, 2014 were approved as submitted.

Motion

Commissioner Ellison moved approval of the January 13, 2014 Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Elsaesser seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Presentations

PRESENTATIONS:

A. 2014 State of the City Address

Mayor Smith gave the 2014 State of the City Address. A copy of the address is included in the Commission packet as part of the official record.

B. Confirmation of probationary Police Officers Jonathan Cook & Tyler Wood

Police Chief Troy McGee introduced probationary Police Officers Jonathan Cook and Tyler Wood and gave both of their education and work histories. He recommended approval of their confirmation as Officers with the Helena Police Department (HPD).

Motion

Commissioner Ellison moved approval of the confirmation of Jonathan Cook and Tyler Wood as Police Officers with the Helena Police Department. Commissioner Elsaesser seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Both Officers Cook and Wood introduced their family and friends in attendance and thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve with the HPD.

Mayor Smith and the Commission congratulated and welcomed Officers Cook and Wood. Chief McGee presented the newly confirmed officers with HPD Challenge coins. Assistant Chief Steve Hagen and his wife Barb Hagen presented the spouses of Officers Cook and Wood, and Mayor Smith, with the book "*I Love a Cop*".

Consent Agenda

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Claims

B. Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) grant funding of Criminal Investigations Forensics Equipment in the amount of \$6,000

City Manager Ron Alles recommended approval of the claims and the consent agenda.

Public comment

Mayor Smith asked for public comment, none was received.

Motion

Commissioner Haque-Hausrath moved approval of items A and B on the consent agenda. Commissioner Haladay seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Communications

COMMUNICATIONS/PROPOSALS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Elsaesser commended Mayor Smith on his annual State of the City speech and spoke about the update to the Greater Helena Transportation Plan.

Commissioner Haladay introduced the New Helena Citizens Council Chair Aimee Fausser.

Commissioner Ellison congratulated Helena native and former Carroll College quarterback Tyler Emmert on being inducted into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Hall of Fame.

Report of the City Attorney

REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

No report was given.

Report of the City Manager

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

No report was given.

Report from the Helena Citizens Council

REPORT FROM THE HELENA CITIZENS COUNCIL (HCC)

HCC Chair Aimee Fausser stated the HCC held its first meeting of 2014 on January 22nd. She reported the council is focusing on organizational work and filling its vacancies.

Regular Items

REGULAR ITEMS:

- A. CONSIDER A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HELENA TO APPLY FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE THROUGH MONTANA'S FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS DEPARTMENT TO REPLACE AND REBUILD TWO PLAYGROUNDS AT TWO HELENA PARKS.

Staff Report

Parks & Recreation Director Amy Teegarden reported the Parks Department is seeking grant funds to leverage with city funding to replace outdated playground equipment at Waukesha and Barney Parks. The playground equipment was originally installed in 1985 and is in need of replacement. Both playgrounds are old with limited play value for children with special needs. Some of the equipment was recently removed because it was determined to be unsafe and could not be repaired. While these playgrounds are identified in the City's Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan (CCIP) for replacement in 2015, the City does not have adequate funds to replace both sets and to make enhancements for accessibility without grant assistance.

The proposed project will include the removal of existing equipment and installation of new fully-accessible play equipment. Efforts will also include the enhancement of the playground site and surface to ensure accessible access.

Director Teegarden recommended approval of the resolution and noted new playground equipment at both parks would provide the

opportunity to provide essential play opportunities for many children to participate in physical activity and outside recreation. Playgrounds provide both active and passive recreational uses and help children learn, stay active and promote public health. The proposed new equipment will provide a variety of play values and experiences by providing a setting where children can interact on a variety of equipment and utilize their physical, mental and social skills.

Discussion

Commissioner Ellison asked if there is any risk for the city to budget matching funds but not find out if the grant if the was awarded until the next fiscal year. Director Teegarden explained she has discussed that possibility with City Manager Alles. The risk would be that the city moves forward with the funding but could only upgrade one playground. There would be an opportunity to hold off on replacing playground equipment and try to leverage the improvements again using other grant funds.

Public comment

Mayor Smith called for public comment; none was received.

Motion

Commissioner Haladay moved approval of a resolution authorizing the City of Helena to apply for Land and Water Conservation Fund financial assistance from the National Park Service through the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department for the replacement of playground equipment at Waukesha and Barney Parks. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Public Communications

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Eric Regansburger, Helena; requested the Commission fund a Quiet Zone for railroad crossings in the FY2015 budget. Discussion was then held on funding a Quiet Zone.

City Manager Alles updated the Commission on the status of the city's application to the Federal Railway Administration to install a Quiet Zone. The application is in progress and the Commission will be provided a report once it is submitted.

Meetings of Interest

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

The next Administrative Meeting is February 5, 2014 and the next Commission Meeting is February 10, 2014. The City/County Joint Work Session is scheduled for February 6, 2014.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Mayor James E. Smith

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Commission