

CITY OF HELENA
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
March 5, 2001
6:00 P.M.

Time & Place A regular City Commission meeting was held on Monday, March 5, 2001, at 6:00 p.m., in the Commission Chambers, 316 N. Park Avenue, Helena, Montana.

Members Present Mayor Colleen McCarthy indicated for the record that Commissioners Morrison, Netschert, Smith and Groepper were present. City Manager Tim Burton, City Attorney David Nielsen and Deputy City Clerk Cathy Beck-Jenkins were present.
HCC representative was Michael Weller.

Pledge of Allegiance Mayor McCarthy asked those persons present to please stand and join her in the pledge of allegiance.

Presentation CONFIRMATION OF HELENA FIREFIGHTER KEN WOOD

Fire Chief Steve Larson introduced Helena Firefighter Ken Wood and his family and gave a brief background history of Mr. Wood's achievements and training over the past year. He asked the commission to approve Mr. Wood's confirmation.

Motion Commissioner Morrison moved approval of the confirmation of Helena Firefighter Ken Wood. Commissioner Netschert seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Consent Agenda CONSENT AGENDA
A. Claims
B. Contingency Fund request – arbitration fee
C. Request for utility bill insert – Race for the Cure

City Manager Tim Burton recommended approval of the claims.

Motion Commissioner Groepper moved approval of consent agenda items A-C. Commissioner Morrison seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Public Communications PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS
A. Hamlin Construction – request for sidewalk variance

Pat Ford, project manager for Hamlin Construction, addressed the commission and stated Hamlin Construction is in the process of building a home at 709 Red Letter Street. He explained the existing grade from the back of the existing curb to where the sidewalk would be installed is excessive and would require a retaining wall in order to install the sidewalk. He referred to photographs he had submitted to the commission that showed the excessive grade. Mr. Ford felt that installing a retaining wall would be unsightly and create a dangerous situation from the driveway. The street is in a cul-de-sac and is the last home to be built on Red Letter Street. There are no sidewalks on this side of the street and the existing homeowners have landscaped the properties out to the street. It is doubtful anyone on this side of the street will ever install sidewalks. There is a boulevard sidewalk in existence on the other side of the street which

does allow pedestrian access along Red Letter Street.

Mayor McCarthy asked City Manager Tim Burton what the process is for a request such as this.

Mr. Burton explained there isn't any set criteria for sidewalk variances in the ordinance, however, one of primary criteria for the variance might be the grade of the area.

Mayor McCarthy asked if this would need to come back before the commission under a staff report or if the commission should consider taking action this evening.

Mr. Burton replied that when staff engages the commission on a variance, it has to do with perhaps a subdivision standard. Staff does not perpetuate reports on sidewalk variances due to the fact the ordinance is very clear. However, the opportunity is made available for someone to engage the commission in considering a variance.

Commissioner Groepper asked what it would take for all of the property owners on the south side of Red Letter Street to put in sidewalks.

Mr. Burton replied there is a volunteer program in place for property owners to borrow money and have engineering staff bid out several sidewalk projects or property owners could use an SID to install sidewalks in their area. The commission could order sidewalks installed citywide, however, a voluntary approach is currently utilized.

Commissioner Groepper asked what the subdivision requirements were for the subdivision. He asked if there was an agreement that sidewalks would be put on one side and not the other.

Mr. Burton replied he was unable to answer that question, however, the files could be researched for an answer.

Commissioner Groepper and the applicant discussed the layout of the driveway and entryway into the home.

Commissioner Netschert relayed there would be physical hardships incurred with installing a sidewalk and the prevalence is no sidewalks on this side of the street.

Motion

Commissioner Netschert moved to approve a sidewalk variance for Lot 13, Block 2, Second Addition to Bull Run Acres. Commissioner Morrison seconded the motion.

Amendment

Commissioner Groepper asked for a friendly amendment stating the action would be contingent on the sidewalks not being included in the original subdivision regulations.

Commissioner Netschert replied he respects the tenor in which the amendment is submitted, however, if numerous accesses will be put in, there will be grade and slope conditions that will have to match up with any sidewalks going in at a later date. He asked the applicant what he thought of the amendment.

Mr. Ford replied all of the sidewalks are on the north side and the south side where the slope is has no sidewalks. He thought this would be quite costly to go back and install sidewalks on the south slope since they would require retaining walls to make a semi-flat sidewalk available.

Commissioner Groepper stated he still doesn't know if sidewalks were a requirement and all of the homes on the south side would require a variance.

Commissioner Netschert replied he would not accept the amendment.

Mayor McCarthy stated she had gone to the area to look at the proposed

variance being requested and felt a sidewalk would promote a dangerous situation.

Commissioner Netschert asked that staff look into the subdivision requirements for the area.

Vote **Commissioner Groepper voted nay, motion passes 4-1.**

City Manager Burton stated they would look into Commissioner Groepper's concerns and stated he would schedule this as a topic at one of the administrative meetings.

Commissioner Groepper stated the subdivision regulations would be good information to have when these variances come before the commission.

Agenda Change Mayor McCarthy relayed the golf course fees would be moved up on the agenda to allow Parks and Recreation Director Randy Lilje to leave early.

Golf Course Fees CONSIDER A RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ESTABLISH FEES TO BE CHARGED FOR THE BILL ROBERTS MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE FOR THE 2001 SEASON

Staff Report Parks and Recreation Director Randy Lilje presented the proposed fee schedule for the 2001 season at the Bill Roberts Golf Course. Because of the financial deficit the golf course finds itself in, the Golf Advisory Board, along with staff, are recommending a fee increase for the 2001 golf season. Other methods are also being investigated at this time, such as budget cuts and increased marketing. The proposal would increase golf fees according to the recommended fee structure which is approximately five percent. This will assist in moving the golf course fund into a better cash flow position. However, this will also require some cuts in the FY2001 budget and some promotional efforts to get the revenues increased. Mr. Lilje also stated the fees are still within the same fee structure as other communities and in many cases less.

City Manager Tim Burton responded and explained that during last year's budget process the golf course deficit was reviewed and it is an accumulative estimate of \$121,000, which has happened over a period of years. He stated the city shouldn't expect a resolution to the problem to happen overnight, however, as part of the incremental approach, the next fiscal year will bring a review of any and all management schemes relative to municipal golf course organization. Mr. Burton noted that certain golf course users have voiced concern that the city administrative fees have risen and are too high. He stated that he is unwilling to take this change and approach to the commission because it affects all city organizations that are part of that cost allocation plan.

Commissioner Groepper referred to the budget information from the golf course and stated the revenues seem to continue to drop due to people moving into season tickets.

Mr. Lilje replied the numbers indicate that in the last four years, season ticket sales remain level and bring in approximately 33% of the revenues. Season ticket players play approximately 65% of the rounds. The nine-hole greens fee rounds have dropped. Last August and September, those fees dropped significantly.

Commissioner Groepper stated this doesn't support the rounds played

unless all of the extra rounds played are by season ticket holders. He noted the emphasis on revenue increases may not be in the right direction.

Commissioner Groepper asked how much water is put onto the golf course in the summer.

Mr. Lilje replied there is approximately 550,000 gallons of water per night on one nine-hole green in peak season. The other green uses a combination of well water and city water for watering. Together there is approximately 900,000 to 1,000,000 gallons of water daily.

Commissioner Groepper asked how much of the water comes from the city water system.

Larry Kurakowa, golf course superintendent, addressed the commission and explained flow meters are not installed on all water sources. The amount of city water used to supplement the wells varies depending on the time of year and the underground flows. However, there is approximately 650,000 to 700,000 per night on the total system. There is probably somewhere between 20 and 30,000 hcf per year of city water used annually which is 748 gallons for every hcf.

Commissioner Groepper referred to a memo from Shelly Laine regarding a shortfall in water fund revenues due to the possibility of drought. He felt that citizens of Helena are subsidizing the golf course with water. He would like to see the rates split so people that aren't city residents bear more of this deficit than people who are residents. He thought the nine-hole and eighteen-hole fees should rise to pick up some of the deficit.

Motion

Commissioner Groepper moved to table the resolution of intention to establish fees to be charged for the Bill Roberts Municipal Golf Course for the 2001 season. Motion dies for lack of second.

City Manager Tim Burton stated the information requested will be provided and another option for consideration would be to call for the public hearing. The information can be provided prior to the public hearing and made available before any future meetings relative to the issue. If the item is tabled for two weeks, it will extend into the new season when the golf course would be selling season tickets.

Commissioner Groepper voiced concern that the rate structure based on a years worth of information is not going to be enough to pull the golf course out of the deficit. He stated when rounds played are going up and season tickets are going up but the revenues aren't, we're not on the right path to solve the budget deficit. He would like the opportunity for the commission to have some dialogue with the Golf Board to discuss the options.

Mr. Burton stated a lot of the information is available and it won't take long to put together a packet of information that demonstrates what the various options would do over a four or five year period.

Commissioner Groepper stated he could make a motion to set a public hearing but before the rates are published, staff would need to get information to the commission regarding rate structures.

Mr. Burton replied this would enable the golf course to respond to their customers who want to purchase season passes and punch cards.

Commissioner Groepper withdrew his previous motion.

Motion

Commissioner Groepper moved to proceed with the public hearing

to establish fees to be charged for the Bill Roberts Municipal Golf Course for the 2001 season with the understanding that staff will bring additional options to the next regular administrative meeting. Commissioner Morrison seconded the motion.

Kathy Doughty, Chairperson of the Golf Advisory Board addressed the Commission and stated that in 1999 the Golf Advisory Board came before the commission to talk about problems with the golf course. One significant issue was in 1997 when the golf course paid \$61,646 to help with the development of the Ten Mile well. The same price was paid again in 1998 to help the city with water problems at the golf course. In 1999, a \$37,000 debt for the clubhouse was paid off and the Golf Advisory Board advised the city to look at the bonds and the interest rate being paid on the debt load. After the city looked into this, the golf course saved \$12,000. She noted there has been a 5% increase ever since the golf course improvement went forward. She further noted the budget grows faster than revenues can be raised. She stated the increases in administrative fees and street improvement fees are difficult for golfers to absorb.

Commissioner Groepper replied that the responsibility of the commission is to ensure the budget balances at the end of the year. With a \$121,000 deficit, a plan must be devised to correct the situation. He noted the proposed plan is a step in the right direction, however, wasn't convinced that the best course is just a 5% increase. He was puzzled by the data that more rounds of golf were played with less revenue. He stated he isn't comfortable cutting maintenance for more than one year and would like some alternatives in the rate structure.

City Attorney David Nielsen stated the motion needs to be made flexible to accommodate variations. If the published notice states the commission is considering a 5% increase, it can't be exceeded at the rate hearing.

Commissioner Groepper replied his intention was not to publish any rates until after the public hearing. He stated this would leave time to discuss the matter at the administrative meeting and obtain more data with which to make a decision.

Mr. Nielsen stated notice must be given twice over a two-week period and this wouldn't leave time before the public hearing on March 19.

Mayor McCarthy clarified the commission must state their intent on what the rates will be when the public hearing notice is published.

Commissioner Groepper asked if it was feasible for the rate to be advertised at 20% across the board and be negotiated and adjusted after the public hearing.

Mr. Nielsen concurred.

Commissioner Groepper withdrew his previous motion.

Motion

Commissioner Groepper moved approval of a resolution of intention to establish fees for the Bill Roberts Municipal Golf Course with a 20% increase across the board, direct the city manager to bring options for fees to the March 14 administrative meeting and set a public hearing for March 19, 2001. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried. **Resolution No. 11611**

City Manager Tim Burton stated that as part of the additional information

the commission needs to look at is what goes beyond the conversation with the Golf Advisory Board in terms of management. He noted the golf pros contract will expire in a year and a half and should be reviewed for consideration. He also stated the volunteers on the Golf Advisory Board have worked hard and have taken this issue very seriously and should be congratulated for their efforts.

**Public
Communications**

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

There were no persons present wishing to address the commission.

Communications

COMMUNICATIONS/PROPOSALS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Smith referred to the Getchell Street parking structure in the Great Northern area and the previous discussion on officially naming the structure. He felt staff time was too valuable to engage in a lengthy community dialogue over what the name of the structure should be.

Motion

Commissioner Smith moved to name the Getchell Street parking structure the Great Northern Parking Garage. Commissioner Morrison seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Morrison stated he had heard rumors that the Lyndale-North Main project may be delayed another year because of some problems letting the bid. He asked the city manager to respond.

City Manager Tim Burton stated the engineer had told him they are still not finished with the condemnation proceedings and there may be a delay on part of the project. He stated if they can approach the bridge work and not tear up the whole project at once, it may be beneficial for public safety and moving traffic.

Commissioner Morrison asked Mr. Burton to put together a delegation to meet with Mr. Galt of the Department of Transportation. He was not enthusiastic about having the streets torn up for two years waiting for the condemnation issues to be solved.

Mayor McCarthy relayed to the commission that the \$500.00 cost for the Kay McKenna Foundation to use the Civic Center would come out of the Turner Grant funding.

**Report of the City
Attorney**

REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney David Nielsen reported there is a hearing before Judge Sherlock on Thursday regarding the issue of the attorney's fees on the lawsuit filed by MEIC and Mr. Hendricks against the city. He stated he would report the outcome of that hearing when it is complete.

**Report of the City
Manager**

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

A. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

City Manager Tim Burton stated there will be a Large Cities meeting on Thursday, March 8, at 9:30 a.m. to review legislation that affects cities and discussion of the Big Bill.

Community Development Director Michael Barros addressed the commission and reported Building Official Brandt Salo just returned from a conference in San Diego. He noted they continue to make upgrades in the Building Division and Mr. Salo has been able to make a significant number of improvements in service. Mr. Barros also introduced Charles Jones as the new commercial plan checker and Kathy Harris as the new transportation coordinator.

Resolution 11560 CONSIDER A RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 11560 AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED, AND FIXING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA IN THE 2000-2001 BUDGET

Staff Report Administrative Services Director Shelly Laine stated she would volunteer to be the last item on the agenda since there were members from the public waiting and she had some items to present regarding the mid-year review.

Bid Awards BID AWARD
A. BULK CHEMICALS FOR WATER TREATMENT

Staff Report Water Superintendent Leonard Willett reported the Water Treatment Department regularly purchases chemicals for use in treating Ten Mile Creek and Missouri River to drinking water standards. Some existing annual chemical contracts have expired and rebidding was necessary to insure competitive prices. Costs of chemical prices have increased from the previous year. Mr. Rundquist recommended approval of awarding bids for bulk chemicals in accord with staff's bid award recommendation table.

Motion Commissioner Morrison moved to award bids for bulk chemicals in accordance with staff's bid award recommendation table. Commissioner Netschert seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

B. MANHOLE REHABILITATION 2001, PROJECT NO. 01-3

Staff Report Engineering Manager Doug Krebs reported this construction contract will rehabilitate approximately 23 brick manholes. Rehabilitation restores manholes to a watertight condition. This is important to prevent inflow and infiltration (I and I) of groundwater and stormwater. I and I can consume valuable treatment capacity at the wastewater treatment plant and adds to the cost of treatment. The project was advertised and bids were opened on February 8, 2001. The bid tabulation sheet shows only one of the three bids received was less than the engineer's estimate. The apparent low bid has a math error in the extension, which lowers the bid by \$65.00. Only Schedule 1 is recommended for award at this time, No other bidding irregularities are present. The low bidder is Industrial Coatings, Inc. of Great Falls, Montana, with a bid of \$25,740.00.

Motion Commissioner Morrison moved to award the Manhole Rehabilitation Project, No. 01-3, Schedule 1, to Industrial Coatings, Inc. in the amount of \$25, 740.00. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Mayor McCarthy asked that these be referred to as utility hole covers in the future.

Mr. Burton replied staff would implement this consistently.

RFP-Bus CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE HELENA AREA FIVE-YEAR TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN, DIAL-A-RIDE BUS

Staff Report

Shop Fleet Superintendent Ed Robinson reported the objective is to advertise a Request for Proposals to solicit consultants to develop a five-year transportation plan for the Helena Dial-A-Ride Bus and the greater Helena area. This is a requirement of the Montana Department of Transportation for Section 5311 grant funding. The FY2001 MDT Section 5311 grant includes \$16,000 for this study matched by \$4,000 by from the Dial-A-Ride Bus general operation budget for a total of \$20,000. In the FY2002 Section 5311 grant, an additional \$4,000 is requested with a \$1,000 match from the general bus operating budget. The total projected funding of this study is \$25,000. The previous plan was completed in 1996. The proposal is to develop a five-year Transportation Development Plan for the Helena Dial-A-Ride Bus that includes the greater Helena area comprised of the Helena Valley, the town of East Helena, and northern Jefferson County. The recommended selection committee would consist of:

1. City Commissioner
2. Shop and Fleet Services Manager
3. Assistant Public Works Director
4. Helena Citizens Council Member

Motion

Commissioner Morrison moved approval of the advertisements and Request for Proposals for the development of a five year Transportation Plan for the Helena Dial-A-Ride Bus. Commissioner Groepper seconded the motion.

Mayor McCarthy asked if this plan was a requirement.

Mr. Robinson replied it is a requirement to obtain federal money and the last plan will be use as a base.

Commissioner Netschert asked how much money would be lost if the study is not done.

Mr. Robinson replied the city would lose approximately \$146,000.00 in the upcoming year.

Commissioner Netschert asked what the contribution of Jefferson County would be to this program.

Mr. Robinson replied the state identifies Helena as the largest participant in the 5311 grants and therefore authorized to do the study to include the other entities involved. This doesn't mean Helena will extend services to those areas.

Commissioner Smith asked if the dollar amount is available for the work published when the RFP is issued.

Mr. Robinson replied it is in the RFP and comes back in the same amount.

City Manager Burton stated that federal and state regulations are much more stringent and the primary funding source for this is federal money as a conduit through the state of Montana. He noted the last time this study was done, an outreach was done to see if there were any transportation demand management issues and perhaps this review will show advantages to partner and jointly fund a service with other entities.

Vote

All voted aye, motion carried.

Public Hearings

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. CONSIDER A RESOLUTION FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (CUP) TO ALLOW A TOWNHOUSE USE LOCATED IN AN R-2 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) DISTRICT. LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS LOTS 13-16, BLOCK 74 OF THE NORTHERN PACIFIC ADDITION, HELENA, MONTANA; GENERALLY LOCATED AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF BILLINGS AVENUE AND LAMBORN STREET WITH A PROPERTY ADDRESS OF 1800 BILLINGS AVENUE

Staff Report

City Planner Lucy Morell-Gengler presented the proposal for a conditional use permit to allow a townhouse to be located in an R-2 (Single Family Residential) District. The applicant is proposing removing the existing single-family home and constructing two townhouse structures, with two dwelling units each, on four existing lots. The proposed single story townhouse units, 2,474 square feet each and covering approximately 35% of the lot, would require a variance from the maximum 30% lot coverage requirement of the R-2 zone. Each existing lot is approximately 50 feet wide so the applicant is also requesting a variance from the required minimum, 70-foot lot width. The applicant had indicated that the units would be handicapped-accessible. Currently, the property contains a single-family home located on lots 15 and 16. Lots 13 and 14 are currently vacant. The applicant would be able to construct two duplex style townhouses with one dwelling unit per lot. The development would provide infill development and greater housing options for the community. The disadvantage would be granting the variance from the minimum 30% lot coverage would allow structures disproportionate to the existing neighborhood which would be inconsistent with the intent of the R-2 District. Approval of a CUP could slightly increase traffic congestion in the alley. The approval of a conditional use permit would be subject to the following conditions:

1. **Lot Coverage**
If the variance from the maximum 30% lot coverage is not granted to allow 35% lot coverage, the proposed townhouse design must be modified to comply with the lot coverage requirements of the R-2 District.
2. **Building Permit**
The applicant shall obtain a building permit within one year.

Discussion

Commissioner Morrison noted that staff had concerns with allowing a variance for lot coverage from 30% to 35%. He asked what impact this would have on the area.

Ms. Morell-Gengler explained the lot coverage is much higher than any other parcel in the area. Also, in an R-2 District, there are not allocations for increased lot coverage. In the oldest parts of town where there are pre-existing conditions, often times there are variances for increased lot coverage. In this instance, the condition is self-imposed by the applicant and his design. After looking at the variance criteria used by the Board of Adjustment, the proposal didn't seem to meet the criteria. Because of that, staff recommended denial of the variance.

Commissioner Morrison recalled the Board of Adjustments considered criteria would be hardship or prevalence in the area. He asked Ms. Morell-

Gengler if these conditions were met in this proposal.

Ms. Morell-Gengler replied there are no topographical constraints on the lot. The lot coverage in the area is generally 19% to 29%.

Commissioner Morrison asked what would happen if the lot coverage variance was not granted.

Ms. Morell-Gengler replied the applicant would be required to re-evaluate his design and perhaps remove the garage.

Commissioner Groepper asked if this would set precedence in the area and people would start putting up duplexes as long as they were within the same constraints.

Ms. Morell-Gengler replied granting the variance for the lot width would not set precedence because most of the lots are 50 foot lots with current development present. As for the lot coverage, it would be setting precedence.

Public Testimony

Mayor McCarthy declared the public portion of the hearing open and called for any persons wishing to address the commission.

Joe Campeau, architect and applicant, addressed the commission and explained the design for a handicapped accessible structure. He noted the area was especially suitable to elderly or handicapped individuals since it is close to shopping, restaurants, a local park and churches. He urged the commission to approve the proposal and the requested variances.

With no further persons wishing to address the commission, Mayor McCarthy closed the public hearing.

Discussion

Commissioner Netschert stated he shared some of the concerns that Commissioner Morrison brought up. However, after learning the buildings would promote autonomy for the challenged citizens within the community he felt this would be a good proposal. He wasn't concerned with setting precedence because it addresses some concerns for the community and this is a welcome precedence.

Commissioner Groepper asked if they went with three units instead of four, would it reduce the density to under 30%.

Ms. Morell-Gengler replied it would depend on the design. If the lots were combined it would, however, each unit is on a separate lot.

Commissioner Smith asked if there are sidewalks in the area.

Ms. Morell-Gengler replied there are boulevard sidewalks on the adjacent properties, however, there do not appear to be any on Lamborn. She noted with the heavy snow it was hard to determine unless they were shoveled.

Commissioner Smith asked if there are not currently sidewalks, would exceeding the 30% standard impede the possibility of installing sidewalks.

Ms. Morell-Gengler stated the current proposal would allow for sidewalks.

Mr. Campeau stated there are sidewalks in the proposal with handicap curb cuts for each unit.

Motion

Commissioner Smith moved approval of a resolution for a conditional use permit to allow townhouses, two duplex style structures with a total of four dwelling units, for property located in an R-2 (Single Family Residential) District; approval of granting a variance from the lot width requirement for the R-2 District to allow 50-foot widths for the subject property, and approval of the requested variance to allow more than the maximum lot coverage of the R-2 District for the property legally described as, Lot 13-16, Block 74 of the Northern Pacific Addition located in the E ½

Section 29, T10N, R3W, Helena, Lewis and Clark County, Montana; generally located at the northeast corner of Billings Avenue and Lamborn Street with a street address of 1800 Billings Avenue subject to the listed conditions. Commissioner Netschert seconded the motion.

Commissioner Groepper stated he could not support this issue because it is setting a precedent.

Vote **Commissioners Morrison and Groepper voted nay, motion passes 3-2.**
Resolution No. 11612

Budget Amendments CONSIDER A RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 11560 AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED AND FIXING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA IN THE 2000-2001 BUDGET

Staff Report

Administrative Services Director Shelly Laine reported the objective is to review the status of the fiscal year 2001 budget at midyear and to ensure compliance with municipal budget law by amending the original budget resolution for fiscal year 2001 in areas where the total budget authority granted by the city commission is likely to be exceeded. On October 30, 2000, the city commission approved certain budget amendments (numbers one through seven) and on January 8, 2001 (numbers eight through eleven); and on January 22, 2001 (number twelve). Staff has completed a comprehensive midyear review and has become aware of thirteen additional situations where the budget authority granted will be insufficient. Ms. Laine further explained there are two additional amendments that have surfaced since the preparation of the packet. One of which, when the commission approved the transfer of \$150,000 from the Open Space Maintenance to the acquisition fund, inadequate budget authority exists. There is approximately \$120,000 in the budget fund. Parks and Recreation Director Randy Lilje does not believe all of the funds will be expended and much of the budget authority can be taken from this fund. He feels the budget authority must be increased by \$60,000 to effect the transfer. The second is for additional grant funds, which have been received or authorized from the Montana Board of Crime Control for voice stress analyzer training. If the City Commission approves the resolution of intention, a public hearing will be advertised for March 19, 2001. Ms. Laine asked what kind of presentation the commission would like on March 19 for the public hearing.

Commissioner Groepper asked if a one page executive summary could be done for the public hearing to let the public know these are minor adjustments. He also asked about the cost of the chemicals for treating water and the utility costs. He asked if some of the chemicals are related to natural gas products and if this is the reason for the price increase.

Public Works Director John Rundquist replied the reason for the increase is that the Missouri River Treatment Plant has been in operation as opposed to the Ten Mile Plant. The Ten Mile Plant uses less energy and chemicals. This trend will continue through the next year until a recovery from the drought situation.

Motion **Commissioner Groepper moved approval of a resolution of intention to amend Resolution No. 11560 as previously amended, and fixing**

the annual appropriations for the City of Helena, Montana in the 2000-2001 budget with the two additional amendments and set a public hearing date for March 19, 2001. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried. **Resolution No. 11613**

Meetings of Interest

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

City Manager Tim Burton stated the administrative meeting scheduled for March 14 is also a Special City Commission meeting for the sale of the bonds for the Open Space issuance.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CLERK OF THE COMMISSION