

CITY OF HELENA
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
February 9, 2015
6:00 P.M.

Time & Place

A regular City Commission meeting was held on Monday, February 9, 2015 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 Thomas Jodoin and Deputy City Clerk Robyn Brown were present. Others present were Dick Sloan representing the Helena Citizens Council.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith asked those persons present to please stand and join him in the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes

The minutes of the regular City Commission meeting of January 26, 2015 were approved as submitted.

Presentations

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Confirmation of Police Officer Steven Renshaw

Police Chief Troy McGee introduced Officer Renshaw and gave his education and work experience. Chief McGee recommended approval of Officer Renshaw's confirmation as a member of the Helena Police Department (HPD).

Officer Renshaw introduced the members of his family in attendance and thanked them and the HPD for their support during his probationary period. He spoke to the many duties and responsibilities of a Police Officer and the highlights and lowlights he has witnessed while on the job. He stated he is proud and humbled by the opportunity to serve the Helena community on the HPD.

Comment

Commissioner Ellison commended Officer Renshaw for his desire to serve and protect the citizens of Helena and expressed delight in supporting his confirmation as a Police Officer for the City of Helena. He noted the amount of fellow HPD officers in attendance to support his confirmation.

Commissioner Haque-Hausrath thanked Officer Renshaw for his comments and willingness to serve the citizens of Helena, noting she was very touched by his speech.

Mayor Smith and Commissioner Elsaesser concurred with Commissioner Ellison and Haque-Hausrath's comments and congratulated Officer Renshaw on his confirmation.

Public comment

Mayor Smith asked for public comment, none was received.

Motion

Commissioner Haladay moved approval of the confirmation of Steven Renshaw as a Police Officer with the Helena Police Department. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Chief McGee presented Officer Renshaw with the HPD's Challenge Coin and explained its purpose of instilling pride and sense of unity among the officers of the HPD.

Assistant Chief Steve Hagen and his wife, Barb Hagen, presented Officer Renshaw and his wife, Brittany Renshaw, with the book, "*I Love a Cop*", which speaks to the challenges that family members of law enforcement officers face.

Consent Agenda

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Claims
- B. Amend the FY2015 Police Department Budget to allow the Police Department to increase sworn officer staffing from 51 to 52 officers, using monies from the Lewis and Clark County Attorney's Office High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) grant funding to cover additional salary.

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

Commissioner Haladay requested item B be removed for discussion.

Item B

Commissioner Haladay asked if there are currently two HPD officers assigned to the Missouri River Drug Task Force (MRDTF). Chief McGee agreed and explained one officer is 100% generally funded, the other officer is funded by the annual Byrnes Justice Grant at approximately 60%; the remainder is funded by the general fund.

Commissioner Haladay asked if the budget is amended to accept the grant money and increase staffing, how long does the grant run for and what happens when the grant runs out? Manager Alles explained it is the intent of the County Attorney's Office is to fund the position in perpetuity. He explained the relationship between the County Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Department and HPD in relation to funding for the MRDTF program. He noted if the funding were to run out the program would be reduced by one HPD officer unless the City Commission chose to fund the position out of the general fund. He gave a summary of the funding for the MRDTF program.

Commissioner Haladay asked if the grant funding could be manipulated to aid in funding the other positions currently being paid for by the general fund. Chief McGee explained how the funding is broken down with the County Attorney's Office and explained alterations to the allocation have been discussed with HIDTA out of Denver are not allowable.

Commissioner Elsaesser asked what operations this officer would be responsible for. Chief McGee explained this officer would oversee the HIDTA grant and related federal drug cases. They would ensure all of the paperwork is done properly and the cases run smoothly; as they usually involve multi-state, large-scale cases that involve other jurisdictions, such as the FBI.

Public comment

Mayor Smith asked for public comment, none was received.

Motion

Commissioner Elsaesser moved approval of items A and B on the consent agenda. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion.

Comment

Commissioner Haladay indicated he would support item B

despite some reservations about the funding. He indicated his preference would be to keep two individuals assigned as is, and use increased funding for domestic violence and/or quality of life issues. He stated he is always cautious about increasing drug enforcement, regardless of the definition of "high intensity drugs", and spoke to his time spent as a public defender and seeing the MRDTF profit off of minor crimes such as marijuana possession. He requested these positions be watched in the future; just because they are free doesn't mean they need to exist if they are not the type of policing that is wanted for the community. He reiterated his support for increased funding to fight domestic violence.

Commissioner Elsaesser commended the increased police presence at the Capitol.

**Vote on Consent
Agenda**

All voted aye, motion carried.

Bid Award

BID AWARD:

Pressure

- A. Missouri River Water Treatment Plant (MRWTP) – High Zone/Low Pressure Zone Connection, Project #13-21

City Engineer Ryan Leland reported the City opened 2 bids for this project on September 29, 2014. Hard Rock Road Building & Utilities Inc. was the lowest responsive bidder with a bid of \$122,750.00. The other bid came in at \$161,000.00. The budget for this project is \$175,000.

The project was designed to provide for water circulation during low demand periods (October–June) in the MRWTP area. Presently there are two separate dead-end water transmission mains that lead from the MRWTP to the City's water distribution system. These two transmission mains sit mostly stagnant during periods of low water demand in the City when MRWTP is off line. Tying the two mains together will allow for the circulation of water during low demand periods and will prevent the stagnant water remaining in the mains for extended periods of time.

The delay between project bidding and bid award was due to the necessity of MRWTP being off line to complete this project. The project also needed to follow the completion of the recent clearwell cover and liner projects at Ten Mile Water Treatment Plant (TMWTP).

Engineer Leland recommended award of the project to the lowest responsible bidder, Hard Rock Road Building & Utilities, Inc., while the MRWTP is off-line so that the project can be completed before the City's high water demand and will solve stagnation issues.

The addition of the high zone/low zone intertie will eliminate the need to treat stagnant water for disinfection by products or treat stagnant water with additional chlorine to meet State Standards for chlorine residuals in drinking water.

Public comment

Mayor Smith asked for public comment, none was received.

Motion

Commissioner Haladay moved approval of the bid award for the MRWTP High Pressure Zone/Low Pressure Zone Connection Project #13-21, to the lowest responsible bidder, Hard Rock Road Building & Utilities in the amount of \$122,750.00. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Communications

COMMUNICATIONS/PROPOSALS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Elsaesser referred to the FY2011 Commission Budget Resolution of Intent and stated he was feeling nostalgic for the old process of setting a resolution outlining the Commission's budget direction and intent for increased rates and multi-year capital projects. He spoke in support of reinstating such resolutions during future budget processes.

He indicated this year he would be asking staff to incorporate any Commission direction on previous year's rate increases into the budget. He stated he would also be proposing the city set up and fund a full Montana Conservation Corp crew for Helena's Open Lands.

Report of the City Attorney

REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

No report was given.

Report of the City Manager

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

Manager Alles reported the Capitol Shuttle had 1,032 riders last week; the shuttle is averaging 1,000 riders per week.

Report from the Helena Citizens Council

REPORT FROM THE HELENA CITIZENS COUNCIL

HCC member Dick Sloan reported the HCC is looking forward to participating with the city on the following issues: recycling, Solid Waste Efficiency Study, quiet zones and the city's snow removal policy.

Public Communications

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

No public communications were given.

Meetings of Interest

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

The next Administrative Meeting is February 18, 2015 and the next Commission Meeting is February 23, 2015. Commissioner Elsaesser stated the Transportation Coordinating Committee would be meeting on February 10, 2015.

Commissioners Ellison and Haque-Hausrath reported they would be out of town the week of February 16th and would be absent from the February 18th Administrative Meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

/S/ James E. Smith
Mayor James E. Smith

ATTEST:

/S/ Debbie Havens
Clerk of the Commission