

SUMMARY OF SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING

April 28, 2019– 1:30 p.m.
Room 326, City-County Building
316 N. Park Avenue

1. Call to order, introductions, opening comments – Mayor Collins called the meeting to order. Commissioners Haladay, Noonan, O’Loughlin and Wicks were present.

Staff present was: City Manager Ana Cortez; Assistant City Attorney Iryna O’Conner; Public Works Director Randall Camp; Assistant Public Works Director Libbi Lovshin; City Engineer Ryan Leland; Interim Parks & Recreation Director Craig Marr; Finance Director Glenn Jorgenson; Budget Manager Nikki Davidson and City Clerk Debbie Havens.

Others in attendance was Don Humi, Steve Skinner, Richard Schute, HCC Representatives Dick Sloan and Meg Bishop and Noel Patrick.

2. External Organization Support – Finance Director Jorgenson stated staff is asking for commission consensus on the amount to include in the preliminary budget for Helena Area Friends of Pets and Wild About Cats Rescue and Sanctuary. Both organizations have requested an increase in funding.

Commissioner O’Loughlin noted there was not commission consensus at the April 17 administrative meeting; she noted two commissioners supported funding both at \$3,500 and the mayor and one commissioner supported an increase in funding.

Manager Cortez stated nothing is final until the budget is adopted; staff would like to get a number to include in the preliminary budget.

Commissioner Wicks stated she would support bringing both organizations up to \$4,000. Commissioner O’Loughlin noted prior to FY19 one request was submitted; however, the two organizations split and in FY19, they each received \$3,500.

Commissioner Noonan commented the work both of these organizations is valued. He would support the \$500 increase as recommended by Commissioner Wicks. Commissioner O’Loughlin stated her challenge with this is the commission does not receive a budget from either organization; it is hard to know what other revenue they have and what the money is used for.

Ms. Patrick asked what type of information would the commission like to see and noted all of the funding received goes to local veterinarians for spay/neuter and rabbi shots. The members of the group pay all other expenses.

Commissioner Wicks again stated she is comfortable with the \$4,000 for each entity; recognizing a new process will be used for FY21. Mayor Collins stated he supports \$4,500 for Helena Area Friends of Pets and \$4,000 for Wild About Cats. Commissioner O’Loughlin stated she is comfortable with \$4,000 for each entity; given the fact the process will be revised for FY21. Commissioner Haladay concurred.

Commissioner Noonan stated he would support the \$4,500 to Helena Area Friends of Pets and \$4,000 to Wild About Cats as his number one priority and \$4,000 to each as his number two priority. Commissioner Wicks stated she would support \$4,000 to each organization.

Mayor Collins asked that this be on a regular city commission meeting agenda for a formal vote. Manager Cortez noted staff will bring this forward in May.

3. General Hearing and Rate Adoption Timeline – Manager Cortez referred the commission to the memo with the following information: The City of Helena follows these general timelines for Rate adoption:

- Agenda Submission Date: Early July
- Resolution of Intent to Set Hearing: Mid-July
- Independent Record Advertisements: Early and Mid-August
- Agenda Submission Date: Mid-August
- Public Hearing and Adoption of Resolution: End of August

This timeline is subject to change and the timeline will be updated with actual City Commission meeting dates once they become known and that agendas for each meeting will be available prior to each meeting date.

Assessments – Parks & Recreation Department – Director Marr referred the commission to the Additional Information and the History of the Open Lands Assessment that showed the history of the Open Lands Assessment from FY15-FY19.

Manager Cortez stated the question the commission had was what the impervious rate is that we are using. She also referred to the history of the open land assessment and noted the recommendation is to have the same impervious rate for FY20 and FY21.

Commissioner O’Loughlin asked if the original presentation included what the proposed increase would be. Director Marr referred to page 9 of the handout and noted the proposed monthly increase for Open Lands would be \$.75 per parcel/per month. Commissioner O’Loughlin asked if the \$.75 factors in the \$20.00 base rate and the increase to the impervious area. Finance Director Jorgenson stated the average increase for residential properties is \$.37.

Commissioner O’Loughlin stated by looking at the impervious rate, we are no longer adjusting the base rate at the level that was previously proposed. For most residential property owners, they will see an increase of \$.37. Director Jorgenson concurred.

Commissioner Haladay noted that all property owners pay the base rate. Commissioner O’Loughlin asked what percentage of the residential property owners pay just the base rate. Finance Director Jorgenson stated approximately 50/50.

Commissioner Noonan commented this is a good proposal. Commissioner Wicks concurred and referred to the information on why the increase is necessary.

Manager Cortez asked if the commission is comfortable with the impervious rate of .0063 for FY20 and FY21. If a change were to come in the future, it would be for FY22.

Commissioner Noonan spoke on the importance of educating the public on the proposed rates and the explanation on what it pays for. There was consensus for the .0063 impervious rate and no change in the base rate.

Manager Cortez noted in light of proposed changes, when the preliminary budget is released, staff is putting an educational program in a place for the public. In addition, staff has reached out to many service organizations offering to present the preliminary budget at their meetings. This is to prevent misinformation and to continue to educate the public.

Urban Forestry Assessment - Commissioner O’Loughlin asked if there is a reason why the commission has not considered an impervious rate for the Urban Forestry assessment. Director Jorgenson stated the original ballot language stated every parcel would receive equal value from the assessment and therefore use a flat rate. Manager Cortez noted staff investigated the legality of implementing an impervious rate for all utilities. The logical question is why

some utilities and not others. It is not impossible; it will take additional time to see what can be done, if anything at all.

Commissioner Noonan clarified we are talking mainly about boulevard trees and not privately owned trees. Director Marr stated this assessment is for boulevard trees and city park trees, not privately owned trees.

Manager Cortez confirmed the changes to the average household would be an increase of \$.37 for the Open Lands Assessment on the impervious area and an increase of \$1.50 for the Urban Forest assessment.

4. Rates – Public Works Department

Street Maintenance/Sidewalks - Assistant Public Works Director Lovshin referred the commission to the handout with the following bullet points:

- Street Maintenance and Improvements District – Policy Framework
- Streets Current Monthly Assessment
- Streets Proposed Monthly Assessment
- Why Multiyear
- Streets Capital Projects – Big Ticket Items
- In Summary: What’s in the Rate
- How the rates will change
- Why should a citizen of Helena pay more
- How the city of Helena compares to other cities
- The ask

Funding for streets is primarily from assessments paid by property owners in the City.

Assessment funding supports

Personnel + Operations + Capital + Debt Service + Overhead

Current streets assessments generate approximately \$4.98 million annually.

Residential Monthly Assessment = \$14.33

Mobile Home Monthly Assessment = \$5.73

Commercial Monthly Assessment = \$19.02

Commercial Lots > 6,000 sf = \$0.00317/sf (capped at 1 million sf)

To maintain existing operations and capital needs, total streets revenues would need to increase. Applied evenly across the categories, maximum proposed monthly assessments would be as follows.

Residential Monthly Assessment = \$19.90

Mobile Home Monthly Assessment = \$7.96

Commercial Monthly Assessment = \$26.41

Commercial Lots > 6,000 sf = \$0.00478/sf

This calculates to an average monthly increase of \$5.57 for a City of Helena resident.

Commissioner O’Loughlin asked how many properties qualify for the State Property Tax Assistance Program. Finance Director Jorgenson estimated between 230-250 residents. Commissioner O’Loughlin asked is this a typical policy for municipalities to have. Director Jorgenson concurred. Commissioner O’Loughlin referred to the commercial lots and asked what was the policy reason to cap the square footage at one-million. Director Jorgenson noted most

properties over the one-million square footage is open space; however, Carroll College and the Airport are both over the one-million.

Manager Cortez referred the commission to the “What’s in the Rate?” information and stated this is the information that supports the proposed rate increase.

Commissioner Wicks asked if sidewalks are included in the street rates proposal. Manager Cortez concurred.

Assistant Public Works Director Lovshin noted in the handout there is the proposed monthly assessment for FY19-FY24 and spoke on the benefit proposing a multi-year proposal with the planning of future capital purchases and projects.

Commissioner O’Loughlin referred to the Streets Capital Projects – Big Ticket Items and asked if the dedicated snow plows (4) is all equipment or operation. Assistant Director Lovshin stated it is equipment; however, staff is investigating lease programs for equipment, as there may be advantages in doing so.

Commissioner Noonan referenced the two pickups with plow/sander and asked if the liquid melt was used and how did it work. Director Camp reported the liquid was not used; with all the changes to the program, staff took this year to analyze the entire snow removal program. Commissioner Noonan asked if it is staff’s recommendation to stay with sand. Director Camp concurred.

Mayor Collins asked what the final outcome was of using wood chips. Director Camp stated the wood chips were not used this year, as they are most effective with icy conditions. Manager Cortez reported staff would be attending the National Conference of Public Works with the intention of exchanging information with other municipalities and what is being used; what works and what does not work in regards to the snow removal program. In addition, it is staff’s intention is to have a community conversation on the snow removal program on what worked and what did not.

Commissioner Haladay asked Director Camp to expand on the proposal for the four dedicated snowplows that are new; are we still capitalizing the previous 10-12 plows we already have. Director Camp stated the mountain plows are extremely effective in the alleys and steep slopes. The current equipment does not meet the needs of the program. The intent is to follow the county’s program to have a fleet of snowplow trucks that would be idle during the summer; however, the life the equipment would be extended.

Commissioner Haladay asked with regard to two new dump trucks and motor patrol, non-snow related purchases, what we are envisioning for expanding services. Director Camp noted the equipment would be used for building streets and maintaining alleys, specifically for the west-side annexation properties.

Commissioner Wicks referred to the commission street projects with \$5-million listed for FY20 and \$1-million for FY21-24; she asked if there is a list of what the projects are. Assistant Director Lovshin noted last summer the city had the Pavement Management Assessment Study completed, staff will be working on having the conversation with the commission on the content of the study and the priorities of what streets come next.

Commissioner Wicks noted the commission has received comments on the lack of sidewalks and many of them not being ADA assessable; are sidewalks included in these budgets. Assistant Director Lovshin stated there is no designated line item for sidewalks; however, there is also funding from the state’s gas tax that would also fund sidewalk projects.

Manager Cortez requested the commission to step back to the policy level. The \$1-million per year is for the various projects that will come from the commission priority list.

Ultimately, the commission will decide. She then noted there are two pots of \$1-million dollars; one is the gas tax and the other is from rates. The gas tax cannot be used for debt payment; if that is not the case, it will be used for projects as we go. However, the other \$1-million can be used for debt payment. The proposed rate includes big ticket items and the \$1-million to be used for debt payment. Sidewalks will be treated the same as street projects.

The rate is reflecting both streets and sidewalks. One area of concern is do we have the capacity to go into debt. Part of the money will be used to hire new people. We are missing a “construction team”. There is a lot more information that needs to be discussed.

Commissioner Haladay noted in FY17 the commission first started raising rates after recognizing we were underfunded because rates had not been increased to address the capital needs and that is when the improvement portion was added to streets. He then asked how we are going to make sure the budgeted amount is not going to be used for operational purposes. Manager Cortez stated staff would be directed to work with the percentages; this year staff used the money for snow removal and downtown operations. If proper funding is available, this will be corrected.

Manager Cortez stated the goal is to ensure the programs are two separate program areas and not by needs that occur, but have a robust snow removal and street operations. As we move forward, if we are asking for increases we need to have performance measures to warrant the increase. The intention is to show the residents what they are getting for the increase.

Commissioner Haladay noted the revenue being generated with the proposed rate is just under \$5-million; however, the capital projects are just over \$5-million; is the request for the increased rate covering all of that or are we debt servicing some of it. Assistant Director Lovshin explained staff developed the capital list of \$5-million and the recommended rate increase would not cover capital projects, staff would look at other options.

Commissioner O’Loughlin referred to Page 4 of the handout and asked if the recommended rate increase from FY19 to FY24 is a result of the capital investments. Assistant Director Lovshin concurred and noted in the street’s operating budget there is \$300,000 to \$400,000 for ADA ramps.

Commissioner Haladay referred to the street capital projects and asked if some of them will be deferred for a period of time and are those items being deferred indefinitely or budgeting them for future years. Does the commission need to begin to think about an increase in rates for FY21. Assistant Director Lovshin stated all options are possible.

Manager Cortez stated we do not have \$5-million to fund all of the capital projects; however; we have the capacity to enter into debt and look for other savings/revenues.

Commissioner Haladay referred to the \$1-million budgeted for commission street project priorities; is that envisioned as debt services or pay as you go or a combination of both. Manager Cortez stated if we do not address the internal capacity challenge; it will be pay as you go. The goal is to have the placeholder for the \$1-million for street/sidewalk projects.

Commissioner O’Loughlin asked staff for their comments on the rate increase from FY19 to FY21; if there is a way to smooth the rate increase the first year; how much of an investment do we need to make; and that it is prudent to explain to the residents that it is necessary and they will not see an big bump the second year. Assistant Director Lovshin stated there is a way to average the rate increase over the next few years. That would be a policy decision of the commission.

Commissioner O’Loughlin asked what the consequence would be if that were the decision. Manager Cortez specifically asked what happens if we do not generate the \$6.6 million

in revenues. Director Camp stated staff would cut back on some of the purchases, which would affect the services. Manager Cortez stated it would be a balanced approach, take from both streets and sidewalks.

Commissioner Haladay stated looking at the numbers, the street snow plowing was a world of difference from last year; however, the bounce back is the same level of service needs to continue. How much are we looking at for next year, putting aside capital projects, but generating enough revenue to keep the level of service and recognize the large concerted effort did not happen until mid-January. Assistant Director Lovshin stated in order to maintain our level of service and capital needs, the recommendation would be to increase the assessment to \$17.18; however, to generate the \$6.7-millions, the rate would be increased to \$19.90 for an increase of \$5.57 per month. Manager Cortez suggested the commission consider an increase somewhere in between the current rate the proposed rate.

Commissioner Wicks referred to the increase from FY19 to FY24; it looks like an increase of 50 to 60 percent. She is concerned this increase needs to be specifically tied to what will be purchased, the specific projects. Commissioner Wicks suggested spreading the increase out over the next few years; we want to continue the level of service and purchase capital equipment. When these rates do come out in June, we need educate the public on why we have taken this direction.

Commissioner Haladay stated this increase is a 38.5% increase on both the base rate and square footage, which has not been done for three years. The one additional lever, we can smooth it over the course of two years and consider bringing the residential rate down. There is a way to generate the revenue and still look at lowering the residential rate.

Manager Cortez stated staff would re-work numbers to lower rates and be more creative on how we distribute the rates, but most importantly, staff will present a two-year rate and not a five-year rate. The commission needs to be confident that staff can deliver the priorities established. Commissioner O'Loughlin referred to the monthly rates for FY15 and asked prior to FY16 was it standard practice to raise all the rates the same percentage. Assistant Director Lovshin stated yes.

Commissioner Noonan referred to the capital projects and that staff will be gathering new data at the upcoming conference. There is potential that some things may change. The commission discussed other options last year and he would like to have all the data available. Manager Cortez stated she will follow-up with the direction the commission has provided.

Commissioner Haladay stated everyone who lives in Helena pays the assessment and they also pay a county general fund; of that money how much does the county pay for inter-city streets. Commissioner Haladay stated everyday many non-residents use the streets and do not pay any assessments and county taxes are not paying for any city roads. City residents are essentially paying double and it is important to remind people of that. It is important the county commissioners be reminded of this also.

Mayor Collins asked how we begin the discussions with the county to correct this. Commissioner Noonan stated after our discussion with MDT, we should find an opportunity to re-consider the Custer Avenue project.

Mayor Collins stated the city residents cannot continue to pay for everyone. Manager Cortez stated the commission may want to begin with an internal committee to discuss "community benefits" with the county, streets being one of them.

Mayor Collins concurred with the previous comments that a major public education is necessary. Manager Cortez stated a tourist tax is very important and would bring in additional revenue, recognizing this would be a difficult task.

Assistant Director Lovshin noted information from what other cities rates was not readily available at this time. Staff is looking for commission direction at this time. Manager Cortez asked if there is commission concurrence to bring the residential rate forward at \$18.00 for an increase of \$3.67.

Storm water - Assistant Public Works Director Lovshin referred the commission to the handout with the following bullet points and reviewed the information:

- Storm water Assessment – Policy Framework
- Storm water - Current Monthly Assessment
- Storm water – Proposed Monthly Assessment
- Why Multiyear
- Storm water Capital Projects – Big Ticket Items
- How the rates will change
- In Summary: What’s in the Rate
- How will Helena’s rates change
- Why should a citizen of Helena pay more
- How the city of Helena compares to other cities
- The ask

Funding for storm water is primarily from assessments paid by property owners in the City. The assessment includes a flat or minimum charge plus an amount times the square feet of impervious area on the property in excess of 2,222 square feet. The impervious area is the developed part of the property that does not allow water to soak in (generically this is pavement, concrete, or a building).

Assessment funding supports

Personnel + Operations + Capital + Debt Service + Overhead

Current storm water assessments generate approximately \$1.73 million annually.

Residential Monthly Assessment:

Minimum Charge = \$3.32

Impervious Area Charge = \$0.00181

Commercial Monthly Assessment:

Minimum Charge = \$4.79

Impervious Area Charge = \$0.00216

To fund currently proposed future operations and capital needs, total storm water revenues would need to increase. Applied evenly across the categories, maximum proposed monthly assessments would be as follows.

Maximum Proposed Residential Monthly Assessment:

Minimum Charge = \$3.90

Impervious Charge = \$0.00218

Maximum Proposed Commercial Monthly Assessment:

Minimum Charge = \$5.76

Impervious Charge = \$0.00259

This calculates to an average monthly increase of \$1.24 for a City of Helena residents. Staff will also discuss the possibility of adopting multi-year assessment changes. Calculations for multi-year assessments will be available at the meeting.

Engineer Leland gave an overview of the capital projects proposed for FY20.

Commissioner O'Loughlin asked where Rodney Street is with street projects and would staff factor in storm water. Engineer Leland stated at the point Rodney is rebuilt, the storm water will be replaced at the same time; the project may have additional costs. Any street project that is done, all utilities will be evaluated.

Commissioner Haladay commented looking at the package sheet with the minimum charge and the proposed minimum charge for FY20; he would be curious the next time the commission discusses this rate, what it would look like if we focused almost entirely on impervious area for both residential and commercial properties. It is impervious surfaces that collect water and puts pressure on the storm water system. Many single-family residences would not pay the impervious area rate.

The average monthly assessment for residents would increase for FY20 by \$.97 per month.

Commissioner O'Loughlin echoed Commissioner Haladay's request to maintain the residential base rate and move toward impervious area assessment. Manager Cortez stated for the purpose of the residential assessment there will be the \$.00 increase for the average resident.

Water - Assistant Public Works Director Lovshin referred the commission to the handout with the following bullet points and reviewed the information:

- Water System Rates – Policy Framework
- Water System – Current Monthly Rates
- Water System – Proposed Monthly rates – Multiyear
- Why Multiyear
- Water Capital Projects – Big Ticket Items
- In Summary – What's in the Rate
- How will Helena's rates change
- Why should a citizen of Helena pay more
- How we compare to other cities
- The ask

Funding for water treatment and water utility maintenance is primarily from rates paid by users of the city's water system. Rate funding supports Personnel + Operations + Capital + Debt Service + Overhead.

Assistant Director Lovshin referred to the Monthly Meter Base Rate (by meter size) and the Per Unit Consumption Rate for FY19 of \$8.25. To fund currently proposed future operations and capital needs, total water revenues would need to increase. Assistant Director Lovshin referred the commission to proposed Monthly Meter Base Rate Per Unit Consumption Rate for FY20 of \$8.56

This calculates to an average monthly increase between the base rate and consumption of \$3.41 for a City of Helena resident.

Commissioner Haladay asked if we have a projected comparison based on prior years of what the base rate would generate versus the consumptive rate. Assistant Director stated she did

not bring that information with her; however, will get it to the commission. Commissioner Haladay noted when we switched from base rate to consumption rate to encourage water conservation, we always tried to keep it between the navigational beacons on some percentages because once you slip too far from the base rate reliance you are not encouraging water usage awareness.

City Engineer Leland gave an overview of the FY20 & 21 water capital projects and big ticket items.

Commissioner Haladay referred to the installation of the groundwater wells and asked what kind of capacity we are hoping to see with these wells. Director Camp stated the city of Helena has a 7,000 foot-acre reservation which sunsets in 2025 so we are looking at large capacity wells that will produce 500 gallons per minutes. Engineer Leland noted it would be various wells. Commissioner Haladay asked if the \$1.8 million is for testing wells or hoping we can hit that capacity or if things work out it would be additional expenses for additional wells. Director Camp stated the \$1.8 million is to start to develop a study, do some test wells, and then eventually drill a new functional well. He further explained the details of the project.

Assistant Director Lovshin referred the commission to page seven of the handout and noted there was one change in the personnel with the addition of one mechanic. She also addressed the cost of the testing supplies.

Assistant Director Lovshin also referred the commission to page 8 that showed how the rates would change. Manager Cortez stated the average water rate increase be \$3.01.

Wastewater – - Assistant Public Works Director Lovshin referred the commission to the handout with the following bullet points and reviewed the information:

- Wastewater System Rates – Policy Framework
- Wastewater System Current Monthly Rates
- Wastewater System – Proposed Monthly Rates
- Why Multiyear
- Wastewater Capital Project – Big Ticket Items
- In Summary - What's in the Rate
- How Helena's rates will change
- Why should a citizen of Helena pay more
- How we compare to other cities
- The ask

Funding for wastewater treatment and wastewater utility maintenance is primarily from rates paid by users of the city's wastewater system.

Rate funding supports

Personnel + Operations + Capital + Debt Service + Overhead

Current wastewater rates generate approximately \$5.175 million annually.

Residential Monthly Rates:

Wastewater Base – per hookup = \$8.48

Wastewater Usage – per unit = \$2.91

Commercial Monthly Rates:

Wastewater Base – per hookup = \$8.48

Wastewater Usage – per unit = \$3.91

To fund currently proposed future operations and capital needs, total wastewater revenues would need to increase. Applied evenly across the rates, maximum proposed monthly rates would be as follows.

Maximum Proposed Residential Monthly Rates:

Wastewater Base – per hookup = \$9.00

Wastewater Usage – per unit = \$3.09

Maximum Proposed Commercial Monthly Rates:

Wastewater Base – per hookup = \$9.00

Wastewater Usage – per unit = \$4.15

This calculates to an average monthly increase of \$1.72 for a City of Helena resident.

Engineer Leland reviewed the capital projects and big ticket items.

Commissioner Wicks referred to the service line charge and asked why other cities do not have it. Assistant Director Lovshin stated other cities do not have a service line replacement program.

Commissioner O'Loughlin asked how many residents of submitted an application for either the water or the wastewater service line program. Assistant Director Lovshin stated there were several residents that reached out; however, at this time there have been two residents who have applied for both the water and wastewater program. She did note that one of the residents who applied was not connected to city sewer and would not be eligible.

Manager Cortez reiterated the monthly increase for wastewater would be \$1.72. She then summarized the proposed changes that were discussed and noted the average increase for city residents would be \$10.76 per month for FY20.

Commissioner O'Loughlin reviewed the following items the commission has asked for:

- Revisiting streets – a flat increase to all rates – look at the different pieces with the aim of potentially of reducing base rate
- Storm water – base rate versus impervious area
- Water/Wastewater – historic info regarding base versus percent usage – compare the wastewater usage between residential and commercial and who is the bigger draw on the system

Manager Cortez recognized these proposed rates might go down; it most likely will not go up. She recommended setting the cap at \$10.50. Commissioner Wicks asked for a comparison of the overall increases for the past four fiscal years. Mayor Collins stated he is comfortable with the recommended \$10.50 cap.

5. Public Comments – HCC Representative Meg Bishop addressed the commission on the assessment for open space and a point was made that it is not just city residents who are using the open space. County residents and tourist are regular users of open space and the HCC would like the commission to consider options of expanding assessments outside the city limits. Ms. Bishop also asked if the city provides any incentives to use pavers to increase storm water run-off.

City Engineer Leland noted the pavers could work; however, with our climate they do not always work to get the benefit that is needed.

Ms. Bishop asked for an update on the Beattie Street parking lot, the design and the costs. Director Marr stated he would get the information to Ms. Bishop. Director Marr addressed the

comment of county and tourists using the open space and not paying an assessment; a regional park district has been discussed; however, it is a lengthy process.

Commissioner Noonan asked if the county is helping us move forward with the park district. Manager Cortez stated she has started preliminary conversations with the County Administrator; it will take time to frame the issue, as there is not a lot of reception right now.

HCC Representative Dick Sloan stated he has received many questions about specific street maintenance projects. In term of public buy-in; he suggested the Engineering Division develop a list of major maintenance projects and a schedule; this would help with public support.

Commissioner Wicks noted the commission has discussed putting together a framework for street maintenance priorities. Director Camp stated staff would bring the information forward at the June 5 administrative meeting.

Steve Skinner, property owner in the city, addressed the commission regarding the conversation on the city versus the county and who is paying what assessments. He also recognized the need for infrastructure improvements; however, the average resident continues to see increases. Rates are going up and landlords will pass the costs on to the fixed income population. Mr. Skinner spoke on the budget process and the importance of educating the public to explain the city's needs. He then asked what happens to the general fund money in this equation. Mr. Skinner also commented on scheduling this meeting on a Sunday.

Mayor Collins stated the city is improving the transparency of government and will continue to do so. Commissioner O'Loughlin noted this meeting today was scheduled to discuss assessments and rates and noted the Police, Fire and Parks & Recreation Departments are all funded out of the general fund.

Mayor Collins noted the meeting scheduled for today was to accommodate his schedule. Commissioner Wicks noted a meeting on a weekend also allows the public to participate. Commissioner Noonan noted the commission has had several meetings regarding the general fund.

Eric Bronston thanked the commission for holding this meeting and spoke on the national debt.

6. Commission discussion and direction to City Manager – No discussion held.

7. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.