

HELENA CITIZENS' COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

March 30, 2005

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm. A quorum was present.

Members absent Keith Jones, Robert Clarkson, Bob Habeck Justin Trafton,

Members present George Hoff, Jerry McGee, Thomas Warsinski, Allen Tompkins, Wayne Lewis, Teresa Klotz, Bill Roberts, Delma Sommers, Jim Christnacht, Laura Erikson.

Visitors present Jim Smith, Tim Burton, Dave Nielson, Rachel Peura, Bill Schneider

Minutes of last meeting approved.

Police report Workforce status: three officers are overseas, four new officers have been hired, six officers are on medical leave. The airport substation is currently under construction and will be greatly improved when completed. There have been many calls on domestic abuse, DUI's and abandoned vehicles. The Missouri River Drug Task Force may have its federal funding eliminated and these funds may get redirected to Homeland Security. A federal pre-release center may be coming to Helena.

Legislation concerning seat belt use, open containers, and child safety seats is in the works. The growing city deer population continues to be a concern, the city would prefer FWP handle it. Tim Burton was asked how the police can handle all the new development in the city, is there any funding associated with development and annexation? Unfortunately not, the increase in workforce is normally handled through mill levies.

Tim Burton addressed the growth issue: a rough estimate is 7000 residential and 600 commercial lots (2000 acres) will be annexed and developed in the near future. It is difficult to increase services to match the current rate of growth. The choice is to cut services or get increased funding. One option to handle the cost of services is to charge by the individual service, i.e. per ambulance run.

Old Business

1. Westside update: Teresa gave an update of the March 3rd meeting. It was well attended. The next meeting is set for April 7 th.

2. Walking mall update: Bill Schneider of Friends of the Walking Mall discussed what has transpired in the past year on the walking mall issue. Rachel Peura gave an update on the petition that is currently circulating for signature collection. The Friends of the Walking Mall are trying to get an ordinance on the fall ballot that if passed would require a vote of the people to allow vehicular traffic on the walking mall.

Recommendations none

New Business

1. Updating HCC charter-George Hoff asked for the city's opinion on the current charter. Tim Burton reminded the HCC that the HCC and the city commission are linked but his position is separate from the HCC. Jim Smith was thankful for all the work that HCC has done and feels that communication has increased to the benefit of all in the past few years. It was agreed that it would be good to review the charter citizen's committees of other towns. Again it was emphasized that we should be holding neighborhood meetings and Jim said he would be more than willing to attend these.

District reports

District 1 –Walking mall status has been questioned by district 1 citizens.

District 2 – Potholes continue to be a problem.

District 3 – Kenwood meeting

District 4 – Chrystal Springs Phase III, Fairgrounds

District 5 –Vandalism still a concern, potholes

District 6 –none

District 7 –Assisted living care center proposed south of auto mall complex

Meeting Schedule

Administrative meetings –

Commission Meeting -

Tim Burton's staff meeting -

(call his office for location)

City Zoning Commission

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Erikson

Secretary