

# City Council Work Session

September 5, 2006

5:30 PM

Community Center

## ATTENDANCE:

**Mayor/Council** (please check)  Tussing,  Ronquillo,  Gaghen,  Stevens,  Brewster,  Veis,  Ruegamer,  Boyer,  Ulledalen,  Jones,  Clark.

**CONVENE TIME:** 5:30 P.M.

**ADJOURN TIME:** 9:25 P.M.

## Agenda

TOPIC #1	PUBLIC COMMENT
PRESENTER	
<b>NOTES/OUTCOME</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>KEVIN NELSON OF 4235 BRUCE AVE. spoke on barking dogs. He said his neighbor's dog started barking Sunday night at 7:00 p.m. and continued to bark until 12:00 p.m. Mr. Nelson said the response from the Police Dept. was totally inadequate. He said there were 7 or 8 calls to the Police Dept. and they refused to respond saying it is an Animal Control issue. Mr. Nelson had a petition signed by 14 neighbors on the barking dog issue. He would like a meeting with the Police Chief and Animal Control Supervisor.</li><li>City Administrator Tina Volek said the dog owner has been issued numerous citations and is due for a hearing on September 19<sup>th</sup> on those charges. She said the officer responding to the Sunday night calls stated that the owners were not home and an additional charge would be issued. Ms. Volek said the Police Dept. must prioritize calls and a criminal offense will take precedence over a barking dog complaint. Chief Rich St. John said Sunday evening the Dept. experienced a heavy call volume, but the Sgt. still sent an officer to the location. Ms. Volek said she and Mr. Nelson had discussed this issue and noted that he wants his neighbors to be cited under the general noise ordinance. Ms. Volek said she talked with the City Attorney and the noise ordinance is not intended to cite owners of animals because there is already an animal control ordinance. She added that the Council could allocate additional resources to Animal Control and could amend that code.</li><li>Councilmember Ruegamer asked if an individual could be arrested for a barking dog. Chief St. John said it is a City ordinance violation, so the owner would be cited, but not arrested. Councilmember Boyer asked what it would take to increase the penalties. Chief St. John said the Municipal Judge can set higher fines, but it would not be a cumulative case where multi-misdemeanors equal a felony. He said instead the fines would increase.</li><li>Councilmember Clark asked if an officer can take a dog from its owner. Chief St. John said taking a dog would be "unlawful search and seizure without probable cause". City Attorney Brent Brooks</li></ul>	

said Yellowstone County got sued for something very similar. Animal Control would need to go to the Court with an extreme situation in order to obtain a court order. Councilmember Brewster asked if the Council could amend the code to forfeit the dog after two offenses. Mr. Brooks said it would have to be structured in such a way that the owner could contest the removal of the animal on a permanent basis. He added that it could not be made a felony unless there was a cruelty to animal issue.

- Councilmember Gaghen asked if there is something to impede barking and could that be required. Ms. Volek said “debarking an animal is a surgery”. Councilmember Stevens asked if the animal was declared a public nuisance, could a suit be brought against the owner. Mr. Brooks said either the City or the neighbors could bring forth a suit, but the defense would be that the wrong code is being used.
- **LORI NELSON OF 4235 BRUCE AVE.** said she brought a petition to the Council that had been signed by her neighbors regarding the barking dog. She said the barking has been going on since July 15<sup>th</sup> and she has called the Police Dept. on numerous occasions. She wants to see a written statute stating that the Police Dept. does not need to enforce this issue. Councilmember Gaghen asked if this is a new dog to the neighborhood. Ms. Nelson said the dog came when the neighbors moved into the neighborhood. Chief St. John said the Police Dept. is working on this issue and is very attuned to the quality-of-life issues. Councilmember Ronquillo asked if the City has an emergency Animal Control Officer (ACO). Chief St. John said in extreme cases an ACO can be called. Councilmember Clark asked how many ACOs are employed by the City. Ms. Volek said the City has 3 ACOs.
- **JOE WHITE OF 926 N. 30<sup>TH</sup> ST.** said he protests the sale of 4<sup>th</sup> and Broadway and gave the Council a letter listing his concerns. He said it was an illegal process and he is considering pursuing a legal remedy with monetary damages from the City.
- See attached handouts.

<b>TOPIC #2</b>	<b>Board &amp; Commission Reports</b>
<b>PRESENTER</b>	<b>None</b>

**NOTES/OUTCOME**

<b>TOPIC #3</b>	<b>Board &amp; Commission</b>
<b>PRESENTER</b>	<b>City Attorney Brent Brooks and Assistant City Attorney Bonnie Sutherland</b>

**NOTES/OUTCOME**

- Assistant City Attorney Bonnie Sutherland referred to the “Board & Commission Summaries” and a “Checklist for Direction to Staff on Boards/Commissions” that the Council had received in its Friday packets. City Attorney Brent Brooks said the Council had directed the City Legal Dept. to revise the Board/Commissions application in order to standardize the application. He said during the process of revising the application it was noted the various lists of qualifications for appointment which lead to examination of the various commissions. Many of the qualifications required were different from board-to-board.
- Mr. Brooks said there are 19 permanent Boards/Commissions. Councilmember Stevens asked for the difference between Boards and Commissions. Mr. Brooks said there is no difference between the two classifications. Mr. Brooks said the general qualifications for being appointed were:
  - U.S. Citizen

- Resident of City of Billings for 3 years
  - Not currently serving a sentence for a felony
  - Additional qualifications may be added by the City ordinances or by State statutes
- Mr. Brooks said there are numerous inconsistencies between the various Boards/Commissions. He said he and Ms. Sutherland decided that it would be appropriate to look at the specific requirements to serve on a Board/Commission. Mr. Brooks said the current application form is lacking in substantive information. He said now would be a good time to review the list of Boards/Commissions and decide which are and are not necessary. Mr. Brooks said for example, the Human Rights and the Ethics Board duplicate a State statute. He spoke on the difference between “permanent vs. ad-hoc” commissions. Mr. Brooks said most of the City Boards/Commissions are permanent, but the Council has the authority to appoint ad-hoc committees at any time. He noted the draft application form was included in the packet.
- Mr. Brooks said the rules of operation for the various Boards/Commissions need to be standardized. He recommended the following:
  - Adopting Council procedures
  - Adopting Robert’s Rules of Order
  - Appointing someone to make sure all procedures are observed including: (1) minutes (2) minutes approval and (3) a public comment period
  - Currently each board sets its own rules, agenda and meeting rules
  - Council could change the code to dictate the rules for all Boards/Commissions
  - Oaths of office are not required for most Boards/Commissions
  - Appointments, vacancy, removals and staff assignments – currently filled in January and July of each year does not work well. Recommended filling immediately and staggering times of year
  - City Charter dictates appointment authority; currently the Mayor makes an appointment with the Council’s approval
  - Council could establish appointment and review procedures for applicants
  - Removal of Board/Commission members currently there is no formal process; missing 3 consecutive meetings could constitute removal from a Board/Commission.
  - Liaison between Boards/Commissions and Council may be helpful; currently Staff personnel attend, but there are no formal appointees.
- Mr. Brooks reviewed the “Checklist for Direction to Staff on Boards/Commissions” with the councilmembers. Councilmember Brewster said except for the Boards/Commissions required by State law, all the Boards/Commissions should be ad hoc and should be reviewed periodically and have a sunset. Councilmember Veis said the Council should get rid of most of these Boards/Commissions right now. He proposed 10 Boards/Commissions that could be eliminated.
- Councilmember Ulledalen said the trail process should be assigned to the Parks & Recreation Planning process. Councilmember Stevens said she is concerned about the trails because they go into County property.
- Councilmember Ulledalen said the Animal Control Board should be accountable to the Animal Shelter operations. Councilmember Stevens asked how much of a role the Animal Control Board will have with the upcoming changes. City Administrator Tina Volek said all the Boards/Commissions, except statutory Boards/Commissions are advisory Boards/Commissions. She said the daily operations of the facility are the responsibility of City Administration not the Animal Control Board. Councilmember Veis said the Animal Control Board is a perfect example of a Board/Commission that needs to be changed to an ad hoc committee and given a specific task

to complete with a specific timeframe.

- Councilmember Ulledalen said the Emergency Medical Advisory Commission is one example of a Board/Commission that has outlived its function. He said the Council needs to give clearer roles and/or change the scope for the Commission in order to make it more effective.
- Councilmember Stevens said the Board of Ethics is an important Board to have in place for public trust. Councilmember Gaghen said the Council should talk with Staff to assess which commissions are helpful to them before eliminating them. Councilmember Veis said, “Staff can have commissions if they want one, but these are our committees.” Councilmember Brewster said the Council should appoint ad hoc committees by the issue at stake. Councilmember Ronquillo agreed that a time limit with specific goals promotes better responsibility. Councilmember Ulledalen said he served on the Aviation and Transit Commission and it did not contribute much because they have no authority. The MET is better served by an ad hoc committee.
- Councilmember Ruegamer said he knows members of these boards and being involved with the boards/commissions provides connection to the City, which is a “good thing”. Councilmember Gaghen noted the Airport and Transit Board is where the retired councilmembers “go to pasture”. Councilmember Stevens said some councilmembers have been on a Board/Commission prior to becoming a councilmember and it might be a good training ground for the Council.
- Councilmember Boyer said Neighborhood Councils are a good place for City involvement. Ms. Volek said the City tried to get neighborhood task forces in the past, but there was no money to fund them. Councilmember Veis said an ad hoc commission could work as well as any commission. Councilmember Stevens said in the past, ad hoc commissions have been made up of friends of the Councilmembers, adding she does not like that and it still needs to be an application process.
- Ms. Volek suggested asking Board/Commission members about their roles, goals, continuation and function in order to assess its role in the community. The Councilmembers were in agreement with Ms. Volek’s suggestion. Councilmember Stevens said she likes the idea of sending a letter and asking the boards for its opinion. Councilmember Clark noted each applicant for Parks and Recreation Director praised their current boards. Councilmember Gaghen said she is the liaison with the Community Development Board and she sees that involvement of a councilmember on a board as giving clarification and direction to the board.
- Mr. Brooks said the Council could appoint councilmembers to some or all of the boards. Councilmember Ruegamer asked about the number of Boards/Commissions of other cities. Mr. Brooks said the City seems to have an “expanded list” of boards. Ms. Sutherland said Ethics is not usual and customary, but Missoula uses a staff committee for staff members. Councilmember Veis asked if the Zoning Commission was optional. Mr. Brooks said he would check on the requirement of a Zoning Commission. Councilmember Veis said perhaps the Council should eliminate some of the Boards/Commissions if they are redundant, especially regarding ex parte communication.
- Ms. Volek said the Board of Adjustment case that was filed in regard to the Rimrock Foundation has been withdrawn. She said a statement regarding ex parte should be put on the website for any and all to access.
- Councilmember Ulledalen said he served on the Zoning Commission and it may not be needed and may be duplicative. He said some of the frustrations of being on the Commission and making a decision was when the Council reversed the Commission’s decision.
- Discussion on changes to the qualifications required for Boards/Commissions were discussed. The following procedures were requested:

- Continue current manner of appointment by Mayor with consent of Council
- Create ad hoc Council advisory Committee by resolution only
- Create permanent Advisory Boards by ordinance only
- Qualifications:
  - Over 21
  - Qualified to be Mayor
  - Billings resident for 2 years
  - Montana resident for 3 years
  - No longer under supervision for a felony conviction
  - Application in the form of a checklist
  - Rules of procedure set by Council
  - Immediately fill vacancies instead of only in July and January
  - Letter of appointment
  - Draft a Handbook to be distributed with appointment letter
  - Set methods for Council involvement by ordinance
  - Require copy of all minutes be posted online in a timely manner
  - Verbal report to Council once a year
- Ms. Volek said the Staff will review the Council's choices and determine if ordinance changes are required and inform the Council of the Boards/Commissions required by law. She said Staff will also contact the Boards/Commissions and ask them for input for improvement in their specific area. Ms. Volek noted this is a policy and procedure matter. She complimented Ms. Sutherland on her good work.
- See attached handouts.

<b>TOPIC #4</b>	<b>Councilmember Replacement Policy</b>
<b>PRESENTER</b>	<b>City Attorney Brent Brooks</b>
<b>NOTES/OUTCOME</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● City Attorney Brent Brooks referred to a copy of a 2002 ordinance that had been sent in the councilmembers Friday packet. Mr. Brooks said the ordinance was prepared when the issue arose from the incapacitation of a former councilmember, but was never pursued by the Council. He said the ordinance was based upon State statutes and recommended that the Council consider using this for removal of Board and Commission positions also.</li> <li>● Councilmember Veis asked about the “incumbent’s removal from office” statement. Mr. Brooks said part of it could be from a recall petition. Councilmember Boyer asked if a councilmember could be removed if they missed too many meetings. Councilmember Brewster said councilmembers have the right to not attend a meeting as a form of protest. He said if recall is “legit”, people will sign a petition. Councilmember Brewster noted the issues used to recall a councilmember are “relatively narrow”.</li> <li>● Councilmember Ruegamer asked about the requirement to be bonded in #9 and for an explanation of the term “competent tribunal” in #10. Mr. Brooks said that some positions do require the individual to be bonded and the wording in #10 could be changed to just “tribunal or court”. Councilmember Veis asked about #7 which states the incumbent not “showing up for 3 months”. Councilmember Brewster said the Council should not decide to discharge a councilmember; there are recall petitions available if the need arises.</li> </ul>	

- Councilmember Stevens said #9 does not belong in this ordinance because councilmembers are not required to be bonded. Mr. Brooks agreed and said he'll make that change. Councilmember Ronquillo said the Council should be bonded. Councilmember Brewster said collecting money has not been a part of official duties. Councilmember Boyer asked for a consensus on #7 and #5. There was not a consensus of the Council. Councilmember Ruegamer said his greater concern is a member just missing meetings. City Administrator Tina Volek cited an instance in another city of a member missing meetings due to military service. Councilmember Ruegamer said his concern is "willful" non-attendance. He said the voters would not know of willful non-attendance. Councilmember Ulledalen said he was concerned about a councilmember that showed up, but did not participate.
- Councilmember Brewster suggested letting the councilmember stay in office, but restricting pay for excessive absences. Councilmember Gaghen asked how other cities deal with an absence problem. Councilmember Veis asked what is "open neglect and failure to perform duties". Mr. Brooks said there are definable duties in the present State statute. Councilmember Stevens questioned "moral turpitude". Mr. Brooks noted this document is for "talking points only" and may need to be revised. Councilmember Veis said he would like to keep #5 with more definition. Mr. Brooks said attendance could reflect in forfeit of pay. Councilmember Veis suggested 3 unexcused absences in a row, forfeit 1 month pay. He also asked to strike "moral turpitude" in #8.

<b>TOPIC #5</b>	<b>Police Study Update</b>
<b>PRESENTER</b>	<b>Chief Rich St. John</b>

#### **NOTES/OUTCOME**

- Chief Rich St. John said this is an update since the issuance of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) report in March of 2005. He said, "I did not inherit a dysfunctional or broken Police Dept." Chief St. John said the changes in the Police Dept. have been so subtle that many people have not noticed the changes. IACP lists the following priority recommendations:
  - Capacity Building –
    - Moved to 3 shifts each with command, currently have a day, night and afternoon shift;
    - Re-staffing - 7 new officers were sworn in today;
    - Early promotions to come January 1<sup>st</sup> with a new organizational chart; 1 captain, 3 lieutenants & 2 sergeants.
  - Office of Professional Standards –
    - Captain assigned to command the administrative support;
    - Support Services Manager has been reassigned to the Animal Control shelter.
  - Crime Prevention and Reduction –
    - Made a concerted effort to bombard the media with good news;
    - Lower requirements for complaints; feedback to complainants; mediation process to give citizens recourse after speaking to the Chief;
    - Hiring additional staff as authorized; intensify use of directed patrols; forge stronger patrol-investigations nexus
    - Improved interaction between divisions and cross-training.
  - Productivity and Resource Management Actions –
    - Collaboratively established structure of objectives for planning, decision-making,

evaluation, and officer performance measurement;

- Actively manage increase in calls-for-service.

- Chief St. John said Animal Control's goal is to maintain peak efficiency by:
  - Creating position of Shelter Manager
  - Re-opening dialogue with Yellowstone County to combine animal shelters
  - Working to implement "Animal Care Coalition" - first meeting October 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Library
- Chief St. John listed the Intangibles of the Police Dept.:
  - Successfully negotiated MPEA contract
  - Improved public trust in BPD
  - Created climate of trust within organization
  - Improved morale
  - Increased consistency and accountability
  - Excellent rapport and cooperation with local, state, and federal agencies
  - Minimized negative publicity
  - Enhanced positive public image
  - Improved promotion and selection processes
- Chief St. John said the public mill levy is required to make the additional changes that the IACP report recommends. The IACP report recommends:
  - Service modifications
  - Reallocation of current resources
  - Productivity enhancements
  - Staff augmentations
- Ms. Volek said there has been a marked change in attitude between the Police Dept. and Administration. She receives feedback letters and complimented the Chief on the open communication and improvements in the Dept.
- See attached handouts.

<b>TOPIC #6</b>	<b>Shiloh Rd. Intersection &amp; Maintenance Alternatives</b>
<b>PRESENTER</b>	<b>Public Works Director Dave Mumford</b>

**NOTES/OUTCOME**

- Public Works Director Dave Mumford gave the Council a handout regarding traffic signals and/or roundabouts. He said last week the Advisory Committee for Shiloh Road met with Councilmembers Veis, Boyer and Jones in attendance. He said the Department of Transportation (DOT) would like both the City and the County to comment on the number of intersections. Mr. Mumford said the County is saying they support roundabouts and whatever else the Council wants because Shiloh Road will soon be part of the City. He said DOT Director Jim Lynch has requested that the City Council make a decision on how the road works and what it would look like before sending it to DOT.
- Mr. Mumford said there was a meeting with Engineering Inc. prior to the Advisory Committee meetings. He said Engineering Inc. recommends 11 roundabouts, but Mr. Mumford said he could not support that recommendation. He said it is a 4 ½-mile stretch of road from Poly Dr. to Zoo Dr. that is under consideration. Mr. Mumford said the original discussion began with signals or other controls at major arterials which are 1 mile apart. Mr. Mumford said that would mean 6 controls

on Shiloh Road. He said since that time Zoo Dr. traffic has increased in volume, which would justify adding another control, bringing the total number of controls to 7. Mr. Mumford said Zoo Dr. does not “fall on the mile mark”; instead it is less than a ½ mile from Hesper Rd., but it is still an arterial street.

- Mr. Mumford explained that the “blue triangle” on the map indicates 3-way turns, “right-turn in and out with left-turn in”. He said there was discussion on the JTL intersection, because it is only a ½ mile from the last intersection, but it allows for the truck traffic coming out of JTL. He said the State is requesting a roundabout which would make 8 intersections to be controlled. Councilmember Ulledalen asked about the safety issue with loaded trucks exiting JTL and turning left at that intersection. Mr. Mumford said that is why the State wants a roundabout at that intersection. It would also allow those exiting Montana Sapphire Dr. and wanting to proceed north to drive south a quarter of a mile to the roundabout and make a U-turn and then proceed north.
- Mr. Mumford said he has recently talked with Doug James, Attorney for St. Vincent Healthcare and Steve Corning, a local developer, and they are okay with the placement of the roundabout. Councilmember Ulledalen questioned how long JTL will stay in that location as a batch plant. Mr. Mumford said JTL has indicated that they anticipate going a long time into the future and plan to develop the area to the east.
- Councilmember Ulledalen asked what the maximum number of vehicle trips (MVT) a day would be on Shiloh Rd. Mr. Mumford said around 35,000 MVT/day. Councilmember Ulledalen referred to an article from Golden, CO where the traffic was about 11,000 MVT/day and compared that number to the projected number of MVTs on Shiloh Rd. is a concern. Mr. Mumford said that as traffic increases, the roundabouts become more efficient because traffic signals are more difficult to time and lead to longer travel times. He said a good friend of his wrote the Federal manual for roundabout designs. He noted they are changing the design because the European roundabouts move more traffic than the U.S., but the roundabouts still move more traffic than signals. Mr. Mumford said he could not recommend more than 8 controlled intersections on Shiloh Rd. He said Grand Ave. will still be rebuilt whether it is with a signal or a roundabout.
- Councilmember Ulledalen said according to his neighbor who worked as a public works director in a suburb of San Francisco, the big cross-traffic intersections will get too congested and will fail. His neighbor said they had to go in and take out the roundabouts and replace them with signals. Mr. Mumford said his experience is that minor streets (low volume) don’t work as well as “equal” volume streets. Councilmember Clark asked what the stacking would be on level of service (LOS) with signals. Mr. Mumford said to levels D & E traffic LOS at full volume, the roundabouts allow continual movement and people will use the street where they continue to move rather than sit at a light. Councilmember Ulledalen said most people won’t use all intersections.
- Councilmember Ronquillo asked if the decision is for 7 or 8 traffic signals or roundabouts. Mr. Mumford said the Montana Sapphire SIA does not guarantee number of accesses. All are subject to the City’s review.
- Councilmember Veis asked why MDT is asking for decisions without the Environmental Assessment (EA) complete. He said that makes the Council predetermine the option. Councilmember Ulledalen asked what the State is looking for in the EA. Mr. Mumford said the State is looking at flood-plains plans, change of drain issues, noise, effect on property owners, moving traffic, etc. Councilmember Veis asked if the EA is being asked what alternative has the least impact. Mr. Mumford said the EA will have a recommendation of 8 controlled intersections. He said MDT does not want to get to FONSI and then have the City protest and cause MDT to have to re-start the process. Councilmember Stevens said the EA has to make a recommendation

and MDT is looking for a vote of confidence. Councilmember Veis asked what the Council's recommendation should be when the EA has not made an official recommendation on this project. Mr. Mumford said his recommendation would be that the City would like no more than 8 controlled intersections and would prefer roundabouts with landscaping along Shiloh Rd.

- Mr. Mumford said maintenance and ownership still have to be decided. Councilmember Veis said the County has agreed to proportional cost sharing. Mr. Mumford said the County says the road costs are far less than what they really will cost. FHWA needs to know who maintains before starting construction. He said if MDT maintains the road it will look like a freeway. Councilmember Boyer asked if there was some discussion on a road maintenance swap. Mr. Mumford said "yes" the State did discuss a swap, but it was to swap a state road for a state road.
- Mr. Mumford said commercial land along Shiloh Rd. will pay \$70,000 in street maintenance fees, but road maintenance will cost \$100,000. He said commercial land is subsidized by residential fees. Mr. Mumford said if the City were to get a law change to combine zoning and square footage, this problem would be cured.
- Councilmember Ulledalen asked about a park maintenance district (PMD). Mr. Mumford said the City does not do it on other streets and owners are already paying street maintenance fees, so why would they pay into a PMD. Councilmember Boyer asked if the Council should go to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on Monday morning to discuss the issue because the Council does not have enough information. Councilmember Stevens said maintenance does not matter to the EA; it has to be done regardless of who does it. Councilmember Veis said MDT and the BOCC will say the Council is holding up construction because the Council cannot agree on the maintenance agreement.
- Councilmember Ulledalen said the Council needs to decide which of 3 options it wants to adopt. Councilmember Veis said the style has been decided, urban typical. Mr. Mumford suggested that the Council needs to work out an agreement with the BOCC and get the Legislature to allow MDT to give Shiloh Rd. to the City. Councilmember Veis said MDT will tell everyone the City is killing the deal because it would not agree to maintain Shiloh Rd. He said right now the City has no legal obligation to maintain Shiloh Rd. Councilmember Boyer asked what the Council wants from MDT, money? Mr. Mumford said money is best, but if not, the City wants to own and control everything, including access.
- Mr. Mumford said an issue coming forward from the State is that Shiloh Rd. and Airport Rd. are coming in way over budget and the State is pulling money from the Bench North account to fund them. He said the fund has been "whittled down" to the point that he is not sure that he can build much of anything. He wants to bring the Bench connector decision to the Council soon for direction to the PCC. He reminded the Council that Mayor Tussing sits on the PCC. Councilmember Brewster said the Heights would support an Inner Belt Loop rather than dumping traffic from METRA on a 2-lane street at Bench.

## **Additional Information:**

- Councilmember Brewster said the City Administrator contract subcommittee will meet Friday or Monday. Ms. Volek will email a copy of the contract to each councilmember. Councilmember Brewster requested that everyone write their comments and forward to him. He will call a meeting.
- Councilmember Ruegamer said he will draft a letter supporting the Public Safety Levy and send it to all to review, make comments, then sign as the Council. City Administrator Tina Volek said she

is trying to get in touch with Attorney General Mike McGrath about Council advocacy, but has not had any luck yet. She said there is a question about whether or not the Council can endorse an issue. She added that every other city in the State is being advised exactly as City Attorney Brent Brooks has advised the Council. Councilmember Ruegamer said the letter would be informational only.

- Councilmember Stevens said the constitutional initiative on the “takings” issue is going forward, and asked if the Council is going to give out any information on that issue. She will write and distribute the information.
- Deputy Mayor Boyer adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Tami Greeley, Deputy City Clerk