



Item: Public Hearing on Resolution 9792, Creating Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) No. 1307

From: Martha Capps, Operations Supervisor

Initiated By: Great Falls Area Lodging Association Committee

Presented By: Coleen Balzarini, Fiscal Services Director

Action Requested: Conduct public hearing and adopt Resolution 9792

Public Hearing:

1. Mayor conducts public hearing, calling three times each for opponents and proponents.
2. Mayor closes public hearing and asks the will of the Commission.

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move the City Commission (adopt/deny) Resolution 9792.”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, and calls for the vote.
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Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the City Commission adopt Resolution 9792 and create Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) No. 1307.

Background: The City Commission is authorized by M.C.A. 7-12-1101 - 1144 to create a business improvement district for the purpose of promoting tourism, conventions, trade shows, and travel to the City of Great Falls. The City is also authorized to assess the applicable property owners within the district any or all of the costs of funding all uses and projects for tourism promotion within Great Falls.

On October 21, 2008 staff received signed petitions, on file in the City Clerk’s office, from more than 60%, the required minimum, of the hotel owners in Great Falls, asking for the creation of the TBID. The boundary lines of the district are designated as the boundaries and limits of the City of Great Falls.

Property owners had 15 days after the date of the first publication of the Legal Notice or written notification to make a written protest to the City Clerk against the proposed creation of the TBID. No such protests were received.

A Board of Trustees, comprised of applicable property owners within the district will have the powers and duties to oversee the District. A work plan and budget for the district shall be submitted each fiscal year to the City Commission for final approval.

Concurrences: Representatives from Fiscal Services have been working with the property owners and tourism marketers throughout the review and approval process.

Fiscal Impact: The assessment for the costs of tourism promotion and operating the TBID will be placed upon all parcels with hotels, with six or more rooms, as defined as any structure, or any portion of any structure, which is occupied or intended or designed for occupancy by transients for dwelling, lodging, or sleeping purposes and includes any hotel, inn, motel, or other similar structure or portion thereof, within the boundaries of the district.

The assessments will be a flat fee of one dollar (\$1.00) per occupied room night as prescribed in Section 7-12-1133, subsection (c), M.C.A. This assessment may be modified annually by adoption of a resolution or adoption of the City's budget.

Alternatives: The City Commission could choose to not adopt Resolution 9792 and thereby deny the Creation of the Tourism Business Improvement District No. 1307.

Attachments/Exhibits: Resolution 9792 w/Exhibit A

Cc. Gayle Fisher, Russell Country Tourism Region