



**Special Work Session Meeting Agenda
2 Park Drive South, Great Falls, MT
Gibson Room, Civic Center
January 06, 2026
4:30 PM**

The agenda packet material is available on the City's website: <https://greatfallsmt.net/meetings>. The Public may view and listen to the meeting on government access channel City-190, cable channel 190; or online at <https://greatfallsmt.net/livestream>.

Public participation is welcome in the following ways:

- Attend in person.
- Provide public comments in writing by 12:00 PM the day of the meeting: Mail to City Clerk, PO Box 5021, Great Falls, MT 59403, or via email to: commission@greatfallsmt.net. Include the agenda item or agenda item number in the subject line, and include the name of the commenter and either an address or whether the commenter is a city resident. Written communication received by that time will be shared with the City Commission and appropriate City staff for consideration during the agenda item, and, will be so noted in the official record of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMENT

(Public comment on agenda items or any matter that is within the jurisdiction of the City Commission. Please keep your remarks to a maximum of five (5) minutes. Speak into the microphone, and state your name and either your address or whether you are a city resident for the record.)

WORK SESSION ITEMS

1. Airport Board Candidate Interviews.
4:35 Elizabeth (Liz) Whiting
4:55 Ryan Villines
5:15 Debra Evans
2. Growth Policy Update - Presented by Brock Cherry (estimated 20 minutes)

DISCUSSION POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS

ADJOURNMENT

City Commission Work Sessions are televised on cable channel 190 and streamed live at <https://greatfallsmt.net>. Work Session meetings are re-aired on cable channel 190 the following Thursday morning at 10 a.m. and the following Tuesday evening at 5:30 p.m.

Wi-Fi is available during the meetings for viewing of the online meeting documents.

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

City Commission Work Session - Tuesday January 20, 2026 5:30 p.m.

City Commission Meeting - Tuesday January 20, 2026 7:00 p.m.



**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
CITIZEN INTEREST FORM**
(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Thank you for your interest. Citizen volunteers are regularly appointed to the various boards and commissions. This application subject to Montana Right to Know laws.

Board/Commission Applying For: AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD		Date of Application: MAY 10, 2024
Name: ELIZABETH (LIZ) WHITING		
Home Address: 1329 DIXIE LN GTF, MT		Email address: Liz@whittings.org
Home Phone: 406-202-0067	Work Phone: 406-401-8127	Cell Phone: —
Occupation: DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION		Employer: TOURO COM - MT
Would your work schedule conflict with meeting dates? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (If yes, please explain) I CAN FLEX MY TIME		
Related experiences or background: SERVED AS COMMISSIONER : CHAIRMAN OF HELENA AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD 2016-2021		
Educational Background: MASTER'S IN MANAGEMENT : LEADERSHIP BACHELOR'S IN BUSINESS		
IF NECESSARY, ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET FOR YOUR ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING:		
Previous and current service activities: PEACE HOSPICE VOLUNTEER 2021 - CURRENT MT STATE PARKS ; REC BOARD (APPOINTED BY GOV) 2021 - PRESENT HELENA COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD 2016-2018 HELENA SCHOOL BOARD COMMUNITY RELATIONS CMTE 2013-2016		
Previous and current public experience (elective or appointive): MT STATE PARKS ; REC BOARD (APPOINTED BY GOV) MT STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HD 80 2011-2014		
Membership in other community organizations: HELENA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CONVENTION : VISITORS BUREAU 2009-2011 YMCA VOLUNTEER 2000-2005		

Have you ever worked for or are you currently working for the City of Great Falls? Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, where and when?

Do you have any relatives working or serving in any official capacity for the City of Great Falls? Yes ☐ ~~No~~ ☐ If yes, who, which department, and relationship?

Have you ever served on a City or County board? Yes ☒ No ☐ If yes, what board and when did you serve?

HELENA AIRPORT AUTHORITY 2016 - 2021

Are you currently serving on a Board? Yes ☒ No ☐ If yes, which board?

MT STATE PARKS : RECREATION BOARD

Are you a Qualified Elector? Yes ☒ No ☐

(Any citizen of Cascade County 18 years of age or older who meets the registration and residence requirements provided by law is a qualified elector unless he is serving a sentence for a felony in a penal institution or is of unsound mind, as determined by a court.)

Please describe your interest in serving on this board/commission?

I LOVE TOURISM AND PROMOTING OUR CITY : STATE. I THOROUGHLY ENJOYED MY SERVICE IN HELENA AND WANT TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN GREAT FALLS.

Please describe your experience and/or background which you believe qualifies you for service on this board/commission?

I LEARNED SO MUCH IN THE 5 YEARS I SERVED IN HELENA. I UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGES WITH GETTING AIR SERVICE : CHANGING FAA REGULATIONS. I ALSO WENT THROUGH THE ENTIRE REMODEL PROCESS.

Additional comments:

I WOULD BE HONORED TO SERVE!

Signature

ij whitney

Date:

May 10, 2024

If you are not selected for the current opening, your application may be kept active for up to one year by contacting the City Manager's office. Should a board/commission vacancy occur within 30 days from the last City Commission appointment, a replacement member may be selected from citizen interest forms submitted from the last advertisement. For more information, contact the City Manager's office at 455-8450.

Return this form to:

Mail: City Manager's Office
P.O. Box 5021
Great Falls, MT 59403

Hand Deliver: City Manager's Office
Civic Center, Room 201
2 Park Drive South

Email:
kartis@greatfallsmt.net



**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
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(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Agenda #1.

Thank you for your interest. Citizen volunteers are regularly appointed to the various boards and commissions. This application subject to Montana Right to Know laws.

Board/Commission Applying For: Airport Authority Board		Date of Application: 2025-11-26
Name: Ryan Villines		
Home Address: 3024 5th Ave S		Email address: rvillines@hotmail.com
Home Phone: 406-564-6535	Work Phone: 424-354-9011	Cell Phone: 406-564-6535
Occupation: Civil Engineering - Water & Fuel Systems		Employer: United States Air Force
Would your work schedule conflict with meeting dates? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (If yes, please explain) I work M-F, however I should have no problem attending meetings as I can schedule time off accordingly.		
Related experiences or background: Active Duty Air Force - 15 Years. Very familiar with GOV & CIV airport operations, project management, contracting (I currently oversee \$15M in annual service contracts), facility maintenance, liquid fuel systems, deicing system design & ops, PAX generation & movement, economic development & income generation, value capture tools like TIF/BID/CID/SID's, freight movement & brokerage, etc		
Educational Background: AAS - Mechanical & Electrical Technology Airport Tycoon (2000)		
IF NECESSARY, ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET FOR YOUR ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING:		
Previous and current service activities: Emergency Operations Center, Multiple Locations - ESF's 3,12,14 (2019 - Present) Society of American Military Engineers, Big Sky Post - Secretary (2016-2020) BSA Scouting (1995-2005)		
Previous and current public experience (elective or appointive): Director: Teal Bend Public Water Supply - 250 household PWS. Prepared and completed several major capital projects to bring the system to and beyond modern standards.		
Membership in other community organizations: Founder: Mid-America Housing Providers - Political organization which engages in legislative efforts to increase housing stocks and protect housing providers. Director: Missouri Vacation Home Alliance - 501(c)6 nonprofit that leads nationwide housing advocacy and STR education events. Community Leader: Volunteer who leads a local Airbnb host club, organizing meetups and liaising between homeowners, hosts, corporate entities, and state legislators.		

Have you ever worked for or are you currently working for the City of Great Falls? Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, where and when?

Do you have any relatives working or serving in any official capacity for the City of Great Falls? Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, who, which department, and relationship?

Have you ever served on a City or County board? Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, what board and when did you serve?

Are you currently serving on a Board? Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, which board?

Are you a Qualified Elector? Yes ☒ No ☐
(Any citizen of Cascade County 18 years of age or older who meets the registration and residence requirements provided by law is a qualified elector unless he is serving a sentence for a felony in a penal institution or is of unsound mind, as determined by a court.)

Please describe your interest in serving on this board/commission?

I have an interest in serving the community and ensuring that our airport is operated in an efficient, responsible, forward looking manner for benefit of the community. I believe the airport is in a great position to succeed and would love an opportunity to protect and expand on the hard work that's been poured into the airport over the last 15 years.

Please describe your experience and/or background which you believe qualifies you for service on this board/commission?

I have a myriad of first hand experiences, both professionally and personally that qualify me for service on this board. I believe I can leverage my experience and unique skill set to enhance our airport operations, customer satisfaction, profitability, pax counts, and more. I work well with others and have an excellent understanding of Montana law, federal regulations, and I'm a student of finding both simple and creative solutions to any range of problems.

Additional comments:

It would be a pleasure to serve my city in this capacity, and welcome the opportunity to assist.

Signature

Ryan Villines

Date:

2025-11-26

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BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
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RECEIVED

DEC 22 2025

CITY MANAGER

Agenda #1.

Thank you for your interest. Citizen volunteers are regularly appointed to the various boards and commissions. This application subject to Montana Right to Know laws.

Board/Commission Applying For: Great Falls International Airport Authority		Date of Application: 12/19/2025
Name: DEBRA K EVANS		
Home Address: 3504 Centennial Court		Email address: deb@bresnan.net
Home Phone: /	Work Phone: /	Cell Phone: (406) 868-7723
Occupation: retired from financial industry	Employer: —	
Would your work schedule conflict with meeting dates? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (If yes, please explain)		
Related experiences or background: - prior experience on this Board and as the Chair - - financial background and industry experience		
Educational Background: BSBA - Finance - University of Nebraska Pacific Coast Banking School Executive Development Program		
IF NECESSARY, ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET FOR YOUR ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING:		
Previous and current service activities: - Great Falls Symphony Board - United Way of Cascade County - Board - American Red Cross - Board - University of Great Falls - Board - Aging Service Commodity Food Program - volunteer These are all prior experiences.		
Previous and current public experience (elective or appointive): Great Falls International Airport Authority - Board (prior)		
Membership in other community organizations: Athena Women's Leadership through the Great Falls Chamber of commerce.		

Have you ever worked for or are you currently working for the City of Great Falls? Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, where and when?

Do you have any relatives working or serving in any official capacity for the City of Great Falls? Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, who, which department, and relationship?

Have you ever served on a City or County board? Yes ☒ No ☐ If yes, what board and when did you serve?

Great Falls International Airport Authority 2013-2021

Are you currently serving on a Board? Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, which board?

Are you a Qualified Elector? Yes ☒ No ☐

(Any citizen of Cascade County 18 years of age or older who meets the registration and residence requirements provided by law is a qualified elector unless he is serving a sentence for a felony in a penal institution or is of unsound mind, as determined by a court.)

Please describe your interest in serving on this board/commission?

I learned much about the airport, its operations and funding sources from my prior experience. I am interested now in how to assist the airport to maintain and grow airline service despite challenging conditions.

Please describe your experience and/or background which you believe qualifies you for service on this board/commission?

Same as above.

Additional comments:

Signature

Debra K. Evans

Date:

12/19/2025

If you are not selected for the current opening, your application may be kept active for up to one year by contacting the City Manager's office. Should a board/commission vacancy occur within 30 days from the last City Commission appointment, a replacement member may be selected from citizen interest forms submitted from the last advertisement. For more information, contact the City Manager's office at 455-8450.

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Future GREAT FALLS

GROWTH POLICY 2025 - 2045

GROWTH POLICY UPDATE

GREAT FALLS CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
JAN. 6TH, 2025

WHERE WE ARE & NEXT STEPS

Phase 1

Vision & Foundations

- Project Identity
- Stakeholder Roundtables
- Existing Conditions Report

Phase 2

Broad Public Engagement

- Planning Week
- Community Survey
- Identifying Consensus

Phase 3

January - March

Draft, Public Comment, Review, Repeat.

- Drafting the Growth Policy – **Available Jan. 12!**
- Multiple reviews by the Steering Committee, City Staff, and the public.
- Mini-Planning Week:
 - 1/12 - Open House @ 11:30 AM – Gibson Room
 - 1/13 – Presentation to Planning Board @ 3:00 PM – Commission Chambers
 - 1/14 – Open House @ 5:30 PM – Gibson Room
 - 1/15 – Open House @ 5:30 PM – Gibson Room
 - Neighborhood Councils Update.
 - Konveio Online Public Commenting & Engagement!

Phase 4

March - May

Hearings & Adoption

- Finalized Draft to begin public hearing process.
- Recommendation from the Planning Advisory Board
- Approval by the City Commission.

We are here!

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THIS STAGE



1. The Draft Phase Surfaces Disagreement

Earlier engagement focused on ideas and values. Now, with a draft, people react to specific words, maps, and policies, which can lead to disagreement and pushback. This is normal and signals the plan is taken seriously, not a sign of trouble.

2. Comments will be more focused, louder, and more polarized

Fewer “blue sky” ideas and stronger positions. Some groups will advocate hard for their interests, while others may oppose elements they previously supported once tradeoffs are clear.

3. Staff will be asking clearer yes-or-no policy questions

This phase requires decisions. Feedback is used to refine, adjust, or defend policy direction: not to restart the process. Not every comment results in a change, and that is intentional.

4. Expect iteration, not perfection

The draft will develop further during this period. Feedback will improve clarity and align with the Community. The main goal is to create a legally sound, clearly written Growth Policy, not to achieve complete community consensus.

WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?

1. The Growth Policy Draft will be published to the public for comment on January 12th for 45 days – READ IT:

The draft reflects the past year and a half of public input, technical analysis, and policy discussion. Reviewing the entire document, including the maps and policy language, is necessary to provide informed and constructive feedback. Comments based only on general impressions or section headings are less helpful at this stage, as meaningful input requires familiarity with the draft.

2. Remember this is a DRAFT, not the final product

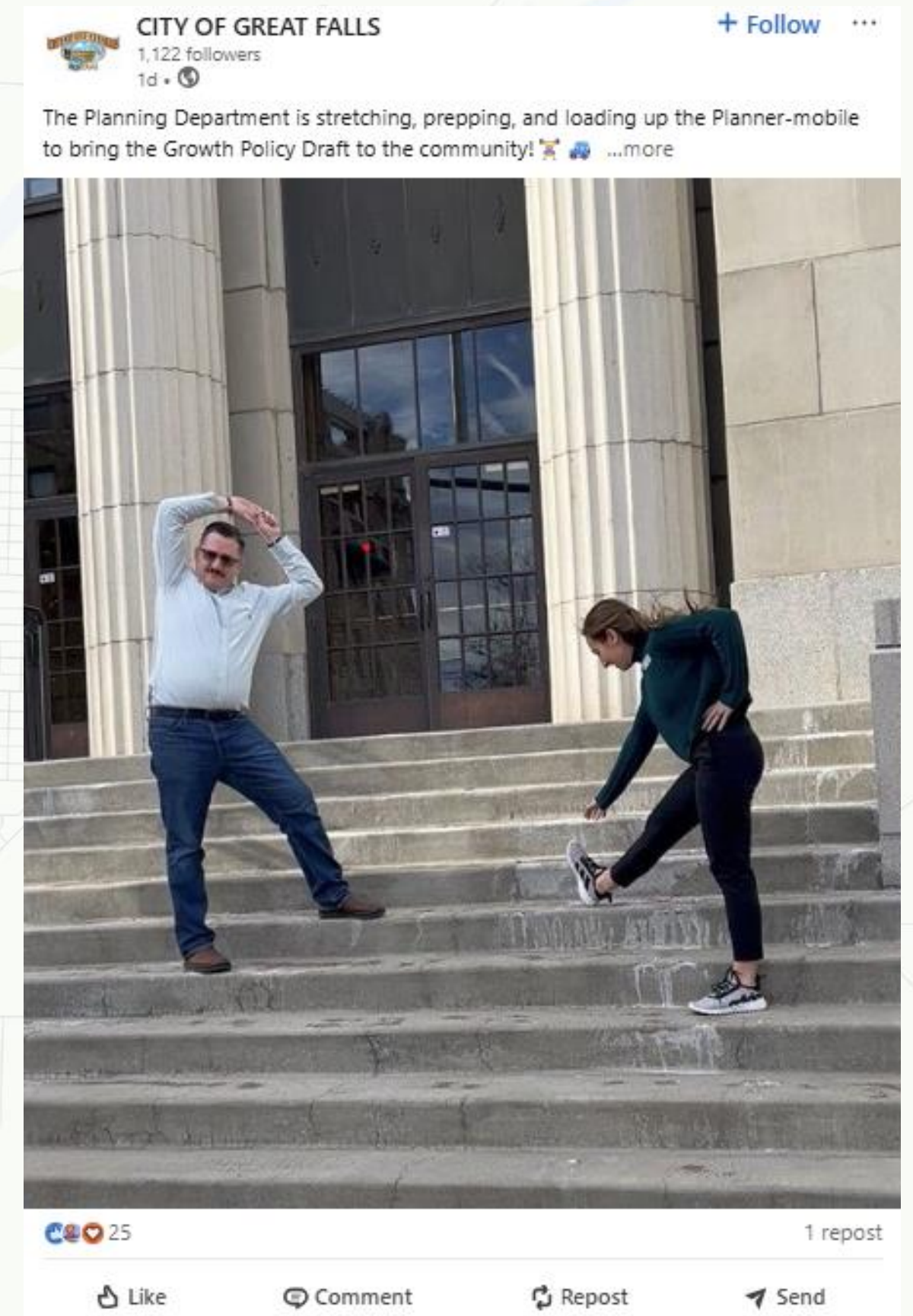
This is a draft, not the final word. If something does not sit right or seems to be missing, speak up. That kind of feedback helps strengthen the policy and should not be taken as a personal or intentional shortcoming.

3. There Will Be Additional Opportunities for Public Input

After the public comment period, there will still be additional opportunities to be heard. If you think the draft needs changes or believe it is right on the mark, you can share your input at a public hearing before the Planning Advisory Board, which will consider whether to recommend approval or denial. The City Commission will then hold its own public hearing and make the final decision on adoption.

4. Get the word out and SHARE!

Help spread the word. The draft will be shared through social media and other outreach efforts. Please also share it with neighbors, colleagues, and community groups so more people are aware of the opportunity to review and comment.



ANY QUESTIONS? FEEDBACK?

