

**AGENDA REPORT**

**DATE:** December 19, 2006

**ITEM** RESOLUTION 9623, A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF THE LITTLE SHELL TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS OF MONTANA

**INITIATED BY** THE LITTLE SHELL TRIBE

**ACTION REQUESTED** ADOPT RESOLUTION 9623

**PRESENTED BY** PEGGY BOURNE, CITY CLERK

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt Resolution 9623 on final reading.

**MOTION**

“I move the City Commission adopt Resolution 9623.”

**SYNOPSIS**

In 1984 the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana petitioned the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Federal Acknowledgements (OFA) for federal recognition, and has made several supplementary submissions to the OFA since then. On July 14, 2000, the OFA issued its favorable Proposed Findings to acknowledge the Tribe and requested additional information from the Tribe and the Little Shell Tribe responded to the OFA’s comments and requests and awaits the OFA’s review and analysis of the documentation.

Federal recognition is expected to bring benefits and services to the Little Shell people, including health care and child welfare services.

In an effort to demonstrate community support for this formal recognition, leadership of the Little Shell requested local governments to adopt resolutions of support and forward them to the appropriate federal agency. In 2001, the State Legislature adopted a House Joint Resolution showing support. In 2004 and again in 2005 Cascade County adopted resolutions supporting the Little Shell recognition. In October 2006, Governor Schweitzer signed a declaration supporting recognition of the tribe.

Resolution 9623 is submitted to honor the request of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians for the City Commission to support the Tribe’s efforts to obtain recognition by the federal government.