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Study commission finding job hard, and nobody cares about any change

Every ten years the registered voters in the city are asked whether they wish to remain under the same form of city government or whether they would like to see changes made. In a primary election last year, Baker's voters requested that a study commission be established to study our city government and

recommend changes. In the general election, Jim Stark, Bernie Heiser and Cora Moser were elected to serve on the commission.

Several meetings were held by the commission. These meetings were publicized, but the public did not turn out at these meetings to voice their opinions. At the

best-attended meeting, 15 voters were present to speak with the study commission members. From the input gained at this meeting, the study commission concluded that the majority of these voters wanted no change in the present form of city government.

At the present time, Baker, like

almost all cities in Montana, uses the commission/executive form of government, commonly referred to as mayor-council. Under this form of government, there are several options that can be implemented in the management of city business. The commission discussed various ways these options could possibly benefit the local government. However, without opinions from the voters who elected them, the commission could not recommend any drastic changes.

Why did Baker's voters establish the commission if they were not interested in seeing changes implemented in local government? Cora Moser, secretary-treasurer of the commission, had a few ideas. At election time, Baker's voters were aware that the City of Baker, like most small cities in the state, had some financial difficulties. When the election results were in, Baker had a new mayor and two new councilmen. Perhaps, Moser surmised, the people feel that this change will make things better. Maybe they felt we should give the new group a chance to see if they can improve conditions.

The study commission has just about completed the task they were elected to fulfill. They will hold their final meeting on May 5 to present their final report. The report will indicate that no change is wanted by the public at this time.