

Missoula City Council Committee of the Whole Minutes

**July 28, 2021
12:35 PM
ZOOM Webinar**

Members present: Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, John P. Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Jesse Ramos, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West

Members absent: Amber Sherrill

Others present: Lily Griego, US Census
Donna Gaukler, Director of City of Missoula Parks and Recreation
Ashley Brittner Wells, Bacchus fellow student, National League of Cities and Towns Missoula JEDI Coordinator
Dale Bickell, City of Missoula Chief Administrative Officer
Jamar Galbreath, Missoula County Equity Coordinator

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 Minutes from the June 30, 2021 Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Matts Larson, Ward 3, asked when the public will be able to come to hybrid version of meetings, is glad to see the hybrid model being put in place. Gave feedback about thoughts on current COVID stats and new recommendations in Missoula and wants to know what is going on and thinks vaccines should be administered in the jail and those statistics shared with the community.

Bryan von Lossberg mentioned the county operates the jail not the city, so they would have that information.

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 US Census Findings - Informational only

Bryan von Lossberg introduced Lily Griego to present on US Census findings.

Lily Griego explained the reason for the presentation today and shared what census data is used for and how the public can access the data and resources that are available. She explained that the information gained from each census determines each state's federal funding and number of representatives for the next ten years, and provided examples of how they use the collected data for programming in each community. She talked about the COVID resources available on the US Census website.

Bryan von Lossberg asked for questions from Council and invited public comment after.

Heather Harp thanked Lily for the presentation. She asked if the information on censusreporter.org comes from the US Census.

Lily Griego said yes, and gave an example of how another community used this data. She talked about how the Census is the largest data gatherer in the country.

Matts Larson (unable to hear - bad connection)

Bryan von Lossberg thanked Lily for the presentation.

3.2 Resolution - Establishing the City's commitment to a Just, Equitable, Diverse, and Inclusive Missoula

Bryan von Lossberg introduced Donna Gaukler to present.

Donna Gaukler provided background of developing the resolution in partnership with the National League of Cities, and other local community partners that contributed to it's development. She explained that this resolution's intention is to re-commit, build on past successes and learn from past mistakes regarding a Just, Equitable, Diverse, and Inclusive (JEDI) Missoula. She discussed disparities in the Missoula community.

Ashley Brittner Wells shared a PowerPoint presentation including a timeline of this project, description of the role of the JEDI advisory committee, details of the action strategies and budget requests to reach identified goals.

Donna Gaukler highlighted a few other aspects of the resolution.

Jamar Galbreath talked about the shared existing work that is happening in the community and challenges in the community.

Dale Bickell talked about the City's approach and that it's process is different than the county's and university's approach, but that everyone will continue working together through the advisory committee. He specified that this resolution is specific the the City of Missoula's business process.

Gwen Jones asked if Donna and Jamar could provide more details about the LEARN team and where they are in the process.

Donna Gaukler provided an update and mentioned they will have a report ready later this year.

Gwen Jones asked about the additional staff the resolution asks for and how long they would be employed.

Donna Gaukler provided more details about the budget requests and hopes the staffing will be ongoing.

Sandra Vaseka asked if they are setting a public hearing for this today or to adopt the resolution today.

Bryan von Lossberg said they are voting to adopt today, but COW is an advisory committee so it will not be final until the City Council approves at the next City Council meeting.

Mirtha Becerra thanked everyone for their work on the resolution. She explained why she believes this resolution will be beneficial for the city and made the motion.

Bryan von Lossberg stated the motion is in order.

Jesse Ramos asked if they could set a public hearing on August 9th with final consideration of the 16th to allow more time for public comment.

Bryan von Lossberg asked if Donna has concerns.

Donna Gaukler said that this type of resolution does not require a public hearing, but they are happy to present at a public hearing.

Council members discussed collectively what the dates would be in order to set a public hearing for this resolution. Discussed that because a public hearing is not required, the resolution could come out of committee and go directly from committee report on the 9th, with final consideration on the 16th, instead of requiring council to set the public hearing.

Mirtha Becerra states she is ok with the motion revisions.

Julie Merritt said she is in full support of the resolution.

Stacie Anderson asked about for clarification about last years investment with the LEARN team and the budget requests this year.

Bryan von Lossberg clarified that the LEARN item was a one time ask with the understand that there would annual investments to continue equity work.

Jim Nugent noted that there hasn't been public comment for this item yet.

Bryan von Lossberg said public comment will be invited after Council comments, they are not voting yet.

Sandra Vasecka said she will make her specific comments after public comment today during the City Council meetings.

Matts Larson mentioned the demographics of the Missoula jail, and how many police officers are CIT trained, and that the jail issue he mentioned earlier should be a collaborative effort between the city and county.

Bryan von Lossberg clarified previous comment.

Stacie Anderson provided a clarifying response about the mobile crisis unit.

Jess Ramos stated he supports the motion today but is unsure how he will vote during final consideration.

Bryan von Lossberg clarified they are voting today to bring this resolution to the August 9th City Council meeting under committee reports and be held for final consideration on August 16th and called for a vote.

Moved by: Mirtha Becerra

Place this item under committee reports on the August 9, 2021 City Council agenda for public comment and to take it up under final consideration on August 16, 2021.

AYES: (11): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Jesse Ramos, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (1): Amber Sherrill

Vote results: Approved (11 to 0)

4. ADJOURNMENT

Bryan von Lossberg adjourned the meeting at 1:50 pm.