

**Journal of Proceedings**  
**Missoula City Council Meeting**  
**August 16, 2021, 6:00 pm**  
**ZOOM Webinar**

Members Present: Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Jesse Ramos, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West

Members Absent: John P. Contos

Administration Present: Mayor John Engen, Jim Nugent, City Attorney, Marty Rehbein

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The virtual meeting of the Missoula City Council was called to order by Mayor John Engen at 6:00 PM.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**3. SCHEDULE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

3.1 Committee Schedule for the week of August 16, 2021

Budget Committee of the Whole, August 18, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Budget Committee of the Whole (continued), August 18, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Administration and Finance Committee, August 18, 2:45 - 3:05 p.m.

Public Safety and Health Committee, August 18, 3:20 - 4:45 p.m.

Mayor John Engen Thank you Ms. Rehbein. Changes to the committee schedule? Ms. Anderson.

Alderperson Anderson I'm guessing that I might have my hand raised for the same reason that Mr. von Lossberg has his hand raised but I noticed that the Budget Committee morning session ends at 11:30 a.m. and then it says that we don't start again until 12:30 p.m. but yet the lunch break is from 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. So, I'm guessing that that was just a kind of a scheduling block error. That, in fact we have a break from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., which I'm hoping is the case.

Marty Rehbein Oh man.

Alderperson Anderson Bryan's shaking his head now. So, clarification of that would be great.

Mayor John Engen Mr. von Lossberg.

Alderperson von Lossberg Thanks. The morning session is supposed to go to 12:00 noon and then the break from 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. then we pick back up again. I think the 11:30 a.m. part just didn't get updated. So, it's supposed to go to noon.

Marty Rehbein And I think we did build in two 15-minute breaks, right Bryan? And so, there will be an intermission and the 8-12 stretch of 15 minutes, get up stretch your legs, and there will be an intermission for the afternoon so.

Alderson von Lossberg I'm not promising that there will be the full 15 minutes. It will depend on how we move things along.

Marty Rehbein There you go.

Mayor John Engen All right thank you. So that then is the committee schedule, I appreciate the clarification. We will move on folks to the public comment portion of our agenda.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor John Engen This is your opportunity to comment on items not elsewhere on the agenda this evening and if you'd keep your comments to about three minutes. And Bob Campbell.

Bob Campbell Yes thank you Mr. Mayor, good evening members of the City Council. Bob Campbell, candidate for City Council Ward 5. I just want to take a minute to go over last week's vote on the Energy and Climate Team and the preceding committee meeting that took place, the deliberation thereof. I didn't have a chance to watch those live, I watched them after the fact, but generally speaking I felt a little let down, a little disappointed over the selections that were made. I think we had a good opportunity with Mr. Ballard, to put someone on that team with practical background with an opportunity with his business in the private sector to add to the Climate Team a little bit more value overall to its ability to go for more the theoretical aspect to practical aspects of things like energy renewal, recycling, things of that nature. And you know, particularly looking at the meeting from the committee meeting the week prior, it seems to me we set aside some of the more practical concerns going forward with selection and instead we kind of accentuated the superfluous concerns and I, I just feel that, you know, when we make decisions like this, we need to look at practicality. We need to look at, you know, we had an opportunity here to take this Energy and Climate Team and go from a top-to-top mode to more of a walk-the-walk mode if you will and I think the selection that we made last week failed to accomplish that. So hopefully going forward, we could, when we address boards or teams like this going forward that we could look more towards a practical considerations and pragmatic solutions. Thank you very much for your time.

Mayor John Engen Thank you Mr. Campbell. And seeing no additional hands up among participants, we will move on to our consent agenda.

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor John Engen Items here were approved by the Council committees unanimously and placed on the consent agenda to save a little time on Monday evenings. Ms. Rehbein will read the list of the consent agenda items aloud so those watching and participating as attendees will know what we're considering, and we'll take comment before we vote. Ms. Rehbein.

AYES: (11): Alderperson Anderson, Alderperson Becerra, Alderperson Harp, Alderperson Hess, Alderperson Jones, Alderperson Merritt, Alderperson Ramos, Alderperson Sherrill, Alderperson Vasecka, Alderperson von Lossberg, and Alderperson West

ABSENT: (1): Alderperson Contos

Vote result: Approved (11 to 0)

### **5.1 Accounts Payable (claims) for checks dated August 17, 2021**

Approve accounts payable in the amount of \$986,129.90 for checks dated August 17, 2021.

Vote result: Approved

### **5.2 Montana Trail Stewardship Grant**

Accept the Montana Trail Stewardship Grant in the amount of \$50,000 and authorize the Mayor to sign.

Vote result: Approved

### **5.3 Referral – Professional Service Agreement with Woith Engineering, Inc for W.**

#### **Beckwith water main replacement**

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a construction agreement with Woith Engineering, Inc. for the design and construction of a water main replacement on W. Beckwith from Woodford to Rollins Street at a cost not to exceed \$75,185.00

Vote result: Approved

### **5.4 Referral – Professional Services Agreement with Morrison-Maierle for E Central and E Sussex Water System Improvements**

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Professional Services Agreement with Morrison-Maierle for the East Central and East Sussex Water System Improvements project at a cost not to exceed \$129,514.

Vote result: Approved

**5.5 Referral – Professional Services Agreement with Morrison-Maierle for Mount Ave Water Improvements**

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Professional Service Agreement with Morrison-Maierle for Mount Ave Water System Improvements from Park Street to Thames Street at a cost not to exceed \$64,647.

Vote result: Approved

**5.6 Referral – Professional Services Agreement with HDR for Worden and Turner**

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Professional Services Agreement with HDR for engineering consulting services on Worden/Turner, N. 5th St. W. to Scott St., Infrastructure Project at the cost not to exceed \$154,259.00.

Vote result: Approved

**5.7 Referral – Professional Service Agreement with IMEG for Ivy/Franklin/Park S. 4th St. W to Pattee Cr. Infrastructure Project**

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Professional Services Agreement with IMEG for engineering consulting services on Ivy/Franklin/Park, S. 4th St. W. to Pattee Creek Dr., Infrastructure Project at the cost not to exceed \$130,150.00.

Vote result: Approved

**5.8 Street Lighting Improvement District Assessments for fiscal year 2022**

Set a public hearing on August 23, 2021, on a resolution of the Missoula City Council levying and assessing a special assessment and tax on the lots, pieces and parcels of land situated within all special lighting districts of the City of Missoula, Montana, in the amount of \$368,471.00 to defray the cost of street lighting in special lighting districts during the fiscal year 2022.

Vote result: Approved

**5.9 Linda Vista 23rd Supplement Final plat Approval**

Approve the Linda Vista 23rd Supplement Final Plat

Vote result: Approved

Mayor John Engen Thank you Ms. Rehbein. Are there questions or comments from Council members this evening? Seeing none, anyone among attendee's care to comment? I see no hands there so we will have a roll call vote.

Mayor John Engen And the consent agenda is approved.

**6. COMMENTS FROM CITY STAFF, AGENCIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AUTHORITIES AND THE COMMUNITY FORUM - None.**

**7. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor John Engen We do have one special presentation in the form of a proclamation.

**7.1 Proclamation - Suicide Prevention Week**

WHEREAS, this proclamation recognizes suicide as a community-wide problem and suicide prevention is requiring a community effort; and WHEREAS, Montana's suicide rate is the third highest in the nation and is ranked among the top five states with the highest rates of suicide for the past four decades; and WHEREAS, since 2017 Missoula County has suffered 120 suicides; and WHEREAS, suicide by firearm accounts for 51% of all suicides in the United States and 68% of all suicides in Montana, and guns stored in the home are used for suicide 40 times more often than for self-defense; and WHEREAS, it is important to support our new national suicide prevention lifeline call center here in Missoula, along with our new mobile response units who can effectively and empathetically intervene in crisis situations; and WHEREAS, our community will support suicide prevention efforts to the maximum extent possible with initiatives like Project Tomorrow Montana, which works to reduce Missoula County suicide deaths and suicide attempts through educational programs and evidence-based policy. Now THEREFORE, in coordination with National Suicide Prevention Week, I, John Engen, Mayor of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, do hereby recognize the week of September 7th through 14th as Suicide Prevention Week.

Mayor John Engen And I believe Ms. Ayers is here on behalf of Project Tomorrow to say a few words. Rosie.

Rosie Ayers Hi, everybody thank you so much. We just wanted to say a special thank you to all of our founding supporters and all of the members here that are with us today in our community who have been supporting Project Tomorrow Montana and our aim to reduce our state suicide through education awareness, training, intervention, prevention, and recovery. Of course, we are having lots of events coming up in September, but I wanted to say a special thank you especially to the people on this Council who have made it possible for this last year to be ahead of the curve in trying to, in trying to give treatment and help to everyone in our community, especially making it possible to lower barriers for

help seeking. So, thank you for your great example and we look forward to continuing to bring our community together to fight suicide in the best way possible by coming together to bring about positive solutions. Thank you.

Mayor John Engen Thank you Ms. Ayers. And with that, we have no additional special presentations. We'll move on to the public hearing portion of our agenda.

## **8. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **8.1 Fiscal Year 2022 Budget**

The City Council will hold this public hearing open until it is taken up for final consideration during their meeting on August 23, 2021.

Mayor John Engen State law and our own Council rules set guidelines for inviting community comment in a formal way on a variety of issues and following a staff report on each, the Council and I will invite comment. During the pandemic, of course, we are holding the, we are holding our public hearings open for a week and then voting the following week unless there's a requirement for final action the night of a public hearing. And in this case, our budget public hearing will remain open for at least two weeks, as Council continues its deliberations. So, this is just the beginning of the public hearing process for our fiscal year 2022 budget, and I will begin this evening by reading my budget letter to Council conveying the final executive budget for this coming fiscal year, actually the fiscal year we're currently in. Members of the Missoula City Council, this letter conveys my final executive budget for the City of Missoula's fiscal year 2022. A budget crafted to ensure that the essential services our residents and visitors deserve are delivered effectively and that reflects our strategic plan and goals and the values of the majority of our community, as expressed in our resident survey and through my daily conversations and interactions with residents, elected officials, and our staff. Fiscal year 2021 presented unique budgeting opportunities as a function of the CARES Act, which provided financial help to local governments along with other assistance to governments, the NGOs, businesses, and individuals. Last year, we used CARES to support pandemic response and public safety efforts, as well as new programs intent on tempering the broader effects of the pandemic, particularly on the most vulnerable among us. Because of the CARES Act funding, we were able to maintain a high level of service and expand programs to meet changing community needs, some pandemic related, some not. In addition, that funding allowed us to keep our tax levies flat. Fiscal year 2022 presents similar unique opportunities and this budget takes advantage of those opportunities. When Congress passed President Biden's American Rescue Plan Act, I drafted guiding principles for the 14.2 million dollars the City of Missoula will receive over two years from the act to wit. The city government must be sustainable and prepared

for new emergencies to ensure the community thrives in the wake of the coronavirus epidemic. We will use resources appropriately to balance the City's budget through fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2023. People come first in every investment we make whether it's sustaining local government, maintaining, improving or building new infrastructure to serve residents and visitors, supporting middle class and low-income residents, providing assistance to small businesses, and addressing the pressing challenges of a post-pandemic environment. We will clearly communicate our reasons for spending ARPA funds and be exceptional stewards of these resources, ensuring that we account for expenditures in a thorough, understandable, accurate, and timely manner. And we will seek opportunities to combine existing resources and programs to stretch ARPA dollars. Based on those principles, the FY 22 budget keeps our levees flat for the third year in a row, invests in maintaining and enhancing essential services, addresses critical community challenges and housing inventory and affordability through significant investment, strategically and holistically expands programs that prevent and ease homelessness, supports residents experiencing behavioral health crises, shores up our rainy day fund, stockpile's essential personal protective equipment, supports business and commercial development through regulatory reform, and investment in the Missoula Economic Partnership and more. In addition, ARPA resources allocated through the State of Montana will support maintenance and expansion of our utilities and while we're not still sure of all of the numbers, potentially other projects that are defined in our Community Investment Plan. We will work collaboratively with Missoula County on many of these issues and make joint investments where practical. We received our certified taxable values from the Montana Department of Revenue earlier this month and the news was good. Our tax base grew at pre-recession levels and new growth, in and outside of urban renewal districts, was robust. This growth allows us to accomplish the goals we'd hoped for in the preliminary budget partly and with a couple of additions to the police department and parks and recreation. As a reminder, our mission memorialized in our strategic plan is that the City of Missoula is committed to fostering an organization of employees charged with providing high quality, accessible, responsive, and innovative services efficiently and effectively. To that end, our strategic goals for fiscal year 22 are highlighted here along with our proposed investment in achieving those goals. Organizational excellence is among the categories. Here, we'll build a comprehensive plan to address system of racism and inequality that may be embedded within cities policies, procedures, and systems. We'll invest \$150,000.00 of one-time funding allocated to services to address city government, policies and procedures, to provide the local equity cohort created as a result of the City's involvement in the National League C cities of opportunities cohort. We'll make permanent positions supporting the city's equity efforts that started through UM Master of

Public Administration Bacchus Fellowship. We'll implement new technology to improve collaboration, communication, and project management. This includes \$343,000 invested in the City's collaboration community, communication and project management systems that support a robust virtual environment and includes a new FTE software administrator. We'll modernize our communications approach with \$1,000,000 of one-time funding to support the modernization of our communications approach. We'll also provide funding to support the of specific city initiatives. We will plan for the city, for city government's capacity and infrastructure needs through a facility's master plan. We're investing \$650,000 to support the planning and design for the city's acquisition and transition to the historical federal building and \$102,000 for planning and design for the administration and patrol functions of the Missoula Police Department. Access to quality housing is another category. The City of Missoula is committed to ensuring that every person regardless of economic status has access to quality housing that is safe and affordable. We will purchase land and partner with the private sector on innovative new development models. We're investing \$500,000 to support the redevelopment at Scott Street, West Broadway, and Johnson Street, city-owned sites. We are adopting a program to incentivize the creation of affordable homes and we're spending 2.7 million dollars of additional one-time money to support the Affordable Housing Trust Fund through the sale of city-owned land and ARPA funding. And we will innovate to align the City's regulatory codes to better support our housing goals, which means we'll spend \$850,000 over the next two fiscal years to overhaul your City's Regulatory Code and align it with our housing, transportation, and green infrastructure goals. We will invest in community safety and wellness. Working with partners in the community, the City of Missoula will provide a high level of public safety and wellness that reflects a thriving community in which to live, work, and play. We'll support policing practices that result in the best service to our community and prioritize professionalism, accountability, and efficiency. We'll spend three million dollars to upgrade the system that our first responders rely on to communicate, which keeps them and our residents safe. We will invest in community services that support working families and provide a place for connection including the expansion of our childcare programs and community centers through a \$74,000 budget line for continuing our base camp childcare program at the former library building, \$78,000 in ARPA funding to support access for all to summer and after school programs, and \$112,000 in Impact B Funding for planning a community center at McCormick Park. We'll invest in programs to serve our most vulnerable residents including the creation of a homeless navigation center and the expansion of our mobile support team. 1 million dollars in ARPA and other funding will be used to expand the mobile support team program in partnership with Missoula County. 3.5 million dollars will establish veterans and other



supportive housing with our partners at the Poverello Center in Missoula County, using ARPA, other federal grants and TIF funding. We'll spend \$311,000.00 to support emergency winter shelter and will provide \$238,000.00 in operating support for the Poverello Center. Finally, our investment in the Built and Natural Environment, the City of Missoula will invest in projects that lead to equitable, responsible, and adaptive growth, reflect our community values, and improve our natural environment. We'll invest more than 18.9 million dollars in infrastructure in the Mullan Road area through the successful implementation of the Build Brant. We'll complete the Rattlesnake Dam Restoration Project. We'll create a Waterworks Hill trailhead and invest in other universal access trail improvements. We'll invest more than 15 million dollars in utility projects with the help of Federal ARPA dollars. We will implement the Neighborhood Traffic Management program and prioritize investments in safety, accessibility, and alternative modes of transportation. We'll also convert seasonal positions to full time in Parks to better maintain facilities. I'd like to emphasize that these goals and investments are not exclusive of all the day-to-day work and initiatives the City of Missoula is already engaged in, nor do they account for the fact that we may face unexpected opportunities or challenges that may require us to adapt or change these priorities during the course of the year. I also look forward to hearing from residents about our stewardship of these collector resources as Council continues its deliberations. I thank you for your service and consideration in viewing and reviewing this document and all of our budget materials with care. And Ms. Griffing will provide some additional detail.

Leigh Griffing Thank you Mayor. Hello folks, this is Leight Griffing, Finance Director for the City of Missoula. I just want to go over a few of our details in our budget today and our process. I'm sorry Bryan I see that your hand is up, should I pause?

Mayor John Engen Mr. von Lossberg.

Aldersperson von Lossberg Thanks, I'd, Mr. Mayor I just wanted to point out you had mentioned the public hearing would be a couple of weeks. We actually have been working off a schedule for adoption next week on, a week from today, I think that's the 23rd and I just wanted to clarify that.

Mayor John Engen My apologies, thank you.

Aldersperson von Lossberg Yep.

Mayor John Engen Ms. Griffing.

Leigh Griffing Thank you. So, today we are opening the public hearing. We have a few public hearings that are required by Montana State Law. We have to publicly notice these, and they are part of the larger budget process. Annual appropriations, that is the Budget and Community Improvement Program. The Permissive Medical Levy which is a levy that we're allowed to increase or decrease, to

help cover some health care costs fee increases, business licensing, wastewater hauler, a few fire and policies. And the budget and work plans for the road district, park district, business improvement district, and tourism improvement districts. And each of those under the budget and work plans will be presenting on Wednesday of this week at Budget Committee of the Whole. We did, in fact, lower our mills by a tiny percent but we were able to do this with the increase in taxable value that the Mayor referenced earlier. So last year, we levied the equivalent of 286.12 mills. This year, we are proposing to you, to set the mil level at 285.82. So, that is a small amount of a decrease in that mill level, but with the reappraisal year this year that will still result likely in an increase in some taxes for some homeowners. So, what this means is a tax effect for \$100,000.00 of market value for a homeowner, you can see that either from the reappraisal notice that you receive them from the Department of Revenue or the Missoula County website, you can navigate to your respective property and find those values. City taxes per \$100,000.00 of market value are \$385.86. This is a 40-cent decrease from last year. Another item that the Mayor mentioned was the ARPA funding That we were able to leverage and do quite a few of our programs this year. So, I pulled together this list of exactly what it is that we are funding via ARPA. The City of Missoula has been allocated 14.3 million dollars. We receive our funding directly from the Treasury Department. We have received half of that allocation already and we are due to receive the second of half of that allocation sometime in FY 22, but each of these items so far, within the Mayor's executive budget, come out to 7.4 million dollars. So, that is less than half of the ARPA allocated to date. Next steps, Wednesday of this week, we have a budget our last Budget Committee of the Whole Meeting. As mentioned earlier in this meeting, it starts at 8:00 a.m. and ends at approximately 2:30 p.m. You will be hearing from Public Works, Mobility and Infrastructure, the Parks and Recreation Department, our City-County Health Department, our Community Investment Plan, otherwise known by its acronym of CIP and its connection to the operating budgets. You'll also be hearing from the TBID, Tourism, Business, Improvement District, and BID, Business Improvement District. You will receive additional detailed budget documents. A lot of this covers the funds that we don't drive into the details, as they tend to be funded by certain stable grant funds and so forth, and there will also be time for City Council deliberations. And then a week from today, there will be final consideration at the City Council meeting on Monday evening and we are hoping for an approval of the budget at that time. A week later, on August 30, 2021, our City Clerk will be bringing forward the assessment levels for the Road and Park District. Thank you.

Mayor John Engen Thank you Ms. Griffing. And with that, are there questions or comments from Council members this evening? Mr. von Lossberg.

Alderperson von Lossberg Thanks. I just wanted to mention to folks in the public that if they're interested in, for instance, your letter that you read or other materials, since I don't believe they're attached to the agenda. They are on the fiscal year 2022 website for the City, that we've been taking all the budget presentations in. Thanks.

Mayor John Engen Thank you. Ms. Anderson.

Alderperson Anderson Sorry, trying to calm the dogs real quick. They have opinions on this. My question is, in your letter in your presentation we've been hearing a lot about ARPA funding and the, you know, various programs that we are putting that money towards. And I just want clarification on the record that, per the limitations that were in the law when it was passed, we're not able to basically use that money as general fund and lower mills accordingly, even more significantly. That the lowering of mills really has to do with an increase in taxable value, that we are not allowed to use that ARPA funding. So, if somebody thinks that one of the programs, for example, that we're using ARPA funds is superfluous and just says well why can't you just lower my taxes instead of paying for XYA program, we're not legally allowed to. I just want to make sure I have that correct understanding.

Mayor John Engen You, you are indeed correct, yep. All right seeing no further questions or comments from Council members, I will open the public hearing and ask that you keep your comments again to around 3 minutes, if possible. And I have a hand up from a person named Donald.

Donald I am here. Can you hear me?

Mayor John Engen We can.

Donald I want to start by saying democrats lie [inaudible]. China lied and Americans died. Hunter Biden is a pedophile; Biden is a pedophile. While Tara Reid's case was not heard. And I moved to Missoula about 10 years ago. It is the ugliest, dirtiest, polluted city I've ever lived in my life. I'm a person of color and mid-eastern and I never met a more holier than thou, racist, liberal city where people think....look they're all white. It's time we elect a black mayor to Missoula.

Mayor John Engen Would you like to talk about the budget in any way sir?

Donald Yes, your budget is a bunch of bull crap. All those things could be avoided and none of those help black people. None of those bring more black people to Missoula. You want, you want people like me thousands of miles away so you can put up your Black Lives Matter sign everywhere and pretend you care. You would poop in your pants if you had to spend a week in 149th Street and Third Avenue in the Bronx. The rest of the country looks at you as rape nation and basically an alcoholic city where on Main Street you could run over high school kids, kill them, and get 6 months in jail, but then again you are called rape nation and there isn't much respect for women. All those projects do nothing for the

poor people or the homeless people and I'm a republican and a conservative. I left the democratic plantation. You all should be ashamed that you're sitting up there all white, probably with your little BLM signs pretending you care, but you shiver when I go into a store and follow me around. I've had guns pulled on me. I've been called a nigger. I've been called a spic. I've been called a Mexican, all by your holier than thou city that pretends they really care about racism. This City doesn't care about racism, this city hates Hispanics. I've talked to people, and I hear what they say when nobody's around. Jerry Nadler, I worked in the media, told me he hates fag, but the media would never put that up because he's a democrat. Jerry Nadler said a lot worse than that, what AIDS stood for. Yea, I guess you can cut me off, but the bottom line is, it's just an embarrassment. It's an embarrassment.

Mayor John Engen Thank you sir. And Mr. Larson.

Matt Larson Yeah, this is Matt Larson. Good to see you Mr. Mayor and City Council. I just wanted to remind the public that the City Council can lower no levees whenever they want, and it has nothing to do with state law but has more to do with the gaping holes in the city budget. These gaping holes are, you know, continued and perpetuated by pretty much everyone on City Council and it includes, you know, stuff like the, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and many of these like superfluous and useless things that have yet to even come to fruition, which are mostly used by the City Council to defray the effects of their own legislation that they've passed in the city, such as deregulating Airbnb and many of the City Council members themselves make money off of Airbnb. So, I think it's pretty ironic that we're gonna revamp the whole coding and Title 20 stuff, to basically close the holes that the City Council has opened up and we can't even see a complete and unedited capital assets list. And we can't even see a complete list of all insured vehicles and all insured real property by the City. All of these things are very alarming to those of us that have our eyes open, but to many of the others in City Council, it appears apparently doesn't even matter. So, congratulations for getting another superficial and very lacking and not substantive budget together. Thank you.

Mayor John Engen And Mr. Campbell.

Bob Campbell Thank you Mr. Mayor. If I may first, just to get clarification. Are we making comment just generally on the entirety of this year 22 budget or we do break down to sections, as we proceed, or?

Mayor John Engen Any, anything pertaining to the budget sir.

Bob Campbell Okay, well that's a mouthful for 3 minutes, but I'll do my best. So, Bob Campbell, candidate for City Council Ward 5. Boy, where to begin? I guess I'll share my comments mainly on emergency services part of the budget and I'll just throw out there that what I'm saying here is of my own opinion, it's not representative of any other department agency that I work for but I look at

preliminary budget and I look at what was presented to the Mayor's Office, and what came down from there to the budget committees, and there are a number of items that were gutted. From Fire Department, both from fire, from Chief Brandt, and listening to Chief White's presentation. The Fire Department brought up, you know, a need for alternate response units, needed for rapid intervention teams, brought the need for training, for personnel response, maintenance repair of the apparatus and equipment that they use. Chief White brought up, you know, a need for patrol supervisors. You know our patrol or patrol section of Missoula Police Department is made up of very young officers. You know, I believe we said 6% have less than 3 years' experience and you know to see that, you know that was brought forward to committee that the two supervisors that requested were cut gives me positive concern, that you know that's going to be made available to them. I, I hope it would, that we don't defer to any more of these superfluous considerations with other things we're talking about like the \$112,000.00 for a community center. We're talking \$230,000.00 for the Poverello Center for continuing operations and support of their operation. And I guess I'll have more on that at another time but getting back to emergency services. You know, I'd like to see that incorporated back into that budget. You know, I think it's shameful that, you know, we're trying those things out and emergency services need these things. The Chief has requested these things. You know it's, it's a want and a need. It's most definitely a need of these departments and you know, I know at the end of every budget cycle, you know there's a need to wait for what the Department of Revenue says for money. It comes down to the city and then we do a recalculation. I, I get that, I get the numbers come down from the State, but you know we look at what we're wasting our tax dollars on throughout the year, it would be a corporate welfare for TIF, be it motels, tree nurseries, maybe now even a ski area. You know we looked at the ARPA money that's come down from the State, 14 million dollars, and you know a tiny, tiny percentage of that ARPA fund is going towards emergency services. I think my calculation was around 2% of that going towards these needs that chiefs brought forward within emergency services. So, you know, I think we need to reconsider where it is we're putting our ARPA money. You know my understanding is it's something we use over a span of 1, 2, possibly 3 years. It's not burning a hole in our pocket. We don't need to spend it all today. We're throwing a lot to Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which you know is another government takeover of the housing situation in Missoula to the point where you know when ARPA funding runs out, you know where we're going to get the funding to maintain that level of service for those folks? And what's gonna come down to general fund revenue, I believe, and taxation for those that have homes elsewhere in Missoula and trying to keep in their homes. You know I care for the folks in Missoula. I care for those they have lived here their whole lives. I care for people able to get into the

housing market now, but it just seems a lot of these things will make it more and more difficult for people to get in that situation going forward. And with that, thank you for your time.

Mayor John Engen Thank you Mr. Campbell. And seeing no additional among attendees. Donald, you've gone, and we don't go twice. We will keep this public hearing open for another week unless I see any questions or comments from Council members this evening, we'll move on. All right with that, we will move on to final consideration.

## **9. FINAL CONSIDERATION**

Mayor John Engen Items here have had a public hearing and Council will take final action on those items this evening and the chairperson of the standing City Council committee will make a motion and we will invite comment on these items. First is the Street Maintenance District. And Ms. Jones.

Aldersperson Jones Okay. Let me just get to the right screen. Alrighty, I'd like to make the recommended motion that we adopt a resolution levying a special assessment and tax on the lots, pieces, and parcels of land situated within Street Maintenance District #1 of the City of Missoula, Montana generally located in the downtown area in the amount of \$135,543.00 for the purpose of defraying the cost of flushing and removing street rubbish from streets and avenues in the district during the fiscal year 2022. And I'll speak to that briefly, if I may?

Mayor John Engen Ms. Jones.

Aldersperson Jones Thanks, this is something that we see every year. This is a special district created to keep the downtown clean because basically it gets so much use and it has been going on for decades and decades, as Marty Rehbein the City Clerk presented to us last week. So, I am happy to support it. It provides a valuable service and downtown owners have been supportive of this.

Mayor John Engen Further discussion on Ms. Jones motion? Seeing none, anyone in the audience care to comment on the motion? Mr. Larson.

Matt Larson Yes, Matt Larson, Ward 3. This is just another superfluous and much unneeded expenditure, such as you know the structures for the porta johns in the parks and it's just another bending over of the taxpayers back to basically drive over it for the rich people in the community.

Mayor John Engen And seeing no additional hands up, we will have a roll call vote.

### **9.1 Annual Assessments for Street Maintenance District #1 -- Downtown**

Moved by: Aldersperson Jones

Adopt a resolution levying a special assessment and tax on the lots, pieces, and parcels of land situated within Street Maintenance District #1 of the City of Missoula, Montana generally located in the downtown area in the amount of \$135,543.00 for the purpose of defraying the

cost of flushing and removing street rubbish from streets and avenues in the district during the fiscal year 2022.

AYES: (9): Alderperson Anderson, Alderperson Becerra, Alderperson Harp, Alderperson Hess, Alderperson Jones, Alderperson Merritt, Alderperson Sherrill, Alderperson von Lossberg, and Alderperson West

NAYS: (2): Alderperson Ramos, and Alderperson Vasecka

ABSENT: (1): Alderperson Contos

Vote result: Approved (9 to 2)

Mayor John Engen Our second item for final consideration is a Resolution - Establishing the City's commitment to a Just, Equitable, Diverse, and Inclusive Missoula. And that motion comes from Mr. von Lossberg.

Alderperson von Lossberg Thank you and a quick question for Ms. Gaukler. I believe the August 9, 2021, (the 08-09-2021 draft) is the most recent draft. If she could confirm that?

Mayor John Engen Ms. Gaukler.

Donna Gaukler Yes, that is accurate.

Alderperson von Lossberg Okay, thank you. I move we adopt the 08-09-2021, the August 9, 2021, resolution establishing the City's commitment to a Just, Equitable, Diverse, and Inclusive (JEDI) Missoula and may I speak that briefly?

Mayor John Engen Mr. von Lossberg.

Alderperson von Lossberg Thanks. First off, I wanted to again thank Ms. Gaukler, Ms. Brittany Wells, Mr. Bickle, other staff members, our colleagues at the county, and everyone else that's worked on this. The resolution is in part a historical accounting and a statement of values that should guide us as we move forward. I'm grateful for that history and I am wholeheartedly willing to affirm my commitment to those values articulated in the resolution. I particularly wanted to say thank you for the public comment that we've received from a lot of individuals in the community, as well as many organizations. I will admit some of that comment, particularly the comment that really, the comments that are really rooted in fear are very foreign to me and the community I've come to know here, but so much to that public comment that we've received, was very positive and reminds me of why I have so much faith in this community to move forward. Faith to look at the past, to look around, look in the mirror, and declare our will to become better. You know there's Dr. King's quote, we hear a lot about the arc of the moral universe being long and bending toward justice. I'll confess that my faith in that vision has been shaken

somewhat over the past several years, but tonight is a night to recommit ourselves to that vision and I enthusiastically do so. So, the resolution has my full support.

Mayor John Engen Thank you Mr. von Lossberg. That motion is in order. Is there a discussion on the motion? Ms. Jones.

Aldersperson Jones There we go, sorry. Thank. I also am in support of this. I thought one of the written comments we got said it very well and to just plagiarize a sentence that I thought was very well written. Missoula is not exempt from the national recognition that there is that there is much work needing to be done to ensure that our local, state, and federal governments are working equally well for all of us regardless of race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexuality. I thought that summed it up really well. I think this is a good step forward. I do want to acknowledge that I hope there is good progress that we make with this program but I'm sure that there will be more to do that we aren't aware of now. We don't know, what we don't know yet. So, it's, it's going to be an ongoing process and I think this is a strong step forward but I think also it's a, we'll be shaping it in the future and hopefully this gets us to the next stage so we can see what needs to be done next because it's going to take a long time and take a lot of work, a lot of energy, but I appreciate, I appreciate this proposal and Donna Gaukler, Ashley, all of your work on this. Thank you so much and I'm happy to support it.

Mayor John Engen Ms. Becerra.

Aldersperson Becerra Thank you. I do have a question first about the, the language, and the resolution for Donna or Ashley. The commissioners are in the process of reviewing the resolution and I thought we, I saw some, a version of the resolution that included more granular, specific demographic information. Is that something that we are considering adding to this resolution or I thought it was dated, had a different date stamp on it? Could you clarify for me please?

Donna Gaukler Sure. Donna Gaukler, Director of Parks and Recreation, but providing information on the JEDI Resolution for the entire city. The county did add some additional demographics related to aging, which I think would be perfectly excellent edits or additional whereas. We can make those available here on the screen in just a moment by sharing them with you. Certainly, the information already provided is inclusive of all primary or core demographics of diversity and, and recognizes that there's intersectionality. Obviously, we, we all age. We're all, you know identify with a variety of core dimensions of diversity. Would you like to us to share the two WHEREAS, statements that the county has added related to aging?

Aldersperson Becerra With the permission of the chair and the Mayor, yes I think that they add some, some specificity that I think supports the, the overall statements in the resolution.



Mayor John Engen Ms. Gaukler.

Donna Gaukler So, on my screen you should be able to see there was a date change just to reflect today because these would be amendments made on the floor by City Council and the changes are here. They include some demographic whoops, excuse me. WHEREAS, Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color represent 30% of those incarcerated at the Missoula County Detention Facility, despite making up 8% of the overall Missoula County population (Missoula County Monthly Jail Population Dashboard, June 2020 to July 2021); and WHEREAS, older residents of Missoula County are disproportionately impacted by chronic health conditions, as the CDC indicates 85% of older adults have at least one chronic health condition and 60% of have at least two chronic health conditions, resulting in significant challenges in paying for care and navigating complex health care systems; and WHEREAS, older adults are also disproportionately impacted by rising costs of housing, general goods and service, and taxes, as over 90% rely on a fixed income that does not increase at the same rate as expenses, resulting in higher poverty levels. Those would be the changes. Otherwise, everything else remains. I believe that the county felt it important because as you look at the county resolution, of course, we're looking county-wide and the county overseas and has been doing quite a bit of work, concentrated work, around this first fact under incarceration of people of color and also as, as we look county-wide, I think what the commissioners are wishing to do is recognize that our population is indeed aging. The cost of living is indeed going up and so we need to make critical investments in equity and program services and take aging into consideration, as we had intended but they wanted to bring attention to that.

Mayor John Engen Thank you Ms. Gaukler. Ms. Becerra, would you like to move these as amendments?

Aldersperson Becerra Yes, please. I would you like to move this as amendment to the motion that's on the floor right now.

Mayor John Engen That motion is in order or Mr. von Lossberg could accept them as friendly.

Aldersperson von Lossberg Yeah, I would definitely like to accept them as friendly. Thank you.

Mayor John Engen All right. So, we'll continue discussion on the motion as amended. Ms. Becerra.

Aldersperson Becerra Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I believe that that additional information reinforces the need for a resolution such as this one. It's simply not acceptable to not work on dismantling the systems that perpetuate this disparity. It is absolutely necessary to know what the issues are in our community so that we can begin to address the changes that are needed. Does that require a financial commitment? Absolutely. In order for us to know how and where to fix or install sidewalks, for example, we first do an inventory. Before we decide what streets need to be resurfaced, we first assess the condition of the pavement. This work is no different. We need to identify where our system is

broken so that we can then fix it. Ensuring that Missoulians have access to resources and opportunities regardless of their skin color, culture, background, etc., is important and therefore, I think resources should be allocated to this work, much like we do any other department that works to improve the quality of life of our residents. The issue of equity inclusion justice is not unique to Missoula. I think across the nation, we can see examples of how broken the system is. Across the world, we see this play out perhaps, perhaps less so based on race but very predominantly is the exclusion of individuals based on religious belief, ethnic background, and socio-economic status. So, what's unique to Missoula is how we choose to solve this issue and I think that this resolution is not about putting blame on individuals. It's about ensuring that our system, policies, and initiatives are working for everyone. So, I ask that we take the first step in making Missoula the best it can be and support this resolution. Thank you.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Sherrill.

Alderperson Sherrill Yea, thanks and Mirtha thanks for those comments, and I appreciate all my colleagues' comments so far and everyone that's worked on this. I hope that the whole Council will support this and to me it's as simple as this is the right thing to do and it is past time that we do it. So, it has my full support.

Mayor John Engen Ms. Merritt.

Alderperson Merritt Thank you. This also, this resolution has my full support, as well. You know over the past few years; I've seen lots of memes that attempt to reduce the issues of systemic racism and discrimination down to a few simple talking points. And this does a tremendous disservice to everyone in our community when we simplify our problems. The barriers that people experience, that prevent them from reaching their full potential, are varied and complex. It stands to reason that the ways that we choose to reduce those barriers must also be varied and complex. It's critical that local government commit to being a part of the process of removing barriers for people. We cannot keep doing the same thing and expecting a different outcome. This resolution is not going to fix the challenges we face, but it establishes clear goals about where we are and where we want to go in the years to come. And without setting those goals clearly and publicly, we can't expect to make progress with these challenges. So, again, I'm fully in support of the JEDI Resolution.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Anderson.

Alderperson Anderson Thank you so much Mr. Mayor. And thank you for the eloquent comments of my fellow Council members. I also stand in support of this resolution. I also understand that many of the comments that we heard that came out of a place with fear were because they felt that there was some blame that was being associated with this and it's not. Simply stating at the very beginning of this

resolution that we are on the ancestral lands of the Salish, Pend d'Oreille, and Kalispell people. That's just a fact, that's not a statement of blame and I think that for us to really move forward, we have to understand the facts of the way our society was created. The systemic racism that is ingrained in our day-to-day processes, some of which are seen or unseen and as Ms. Becerra said, this is allowing us to take an inventory of really understanding where we are so that we can make meaningful steps forward. This isn't going to solve everything, but it is an acknowledgement of the facts, where we are, and that our willingness and our goals to move forward and acknowledge it and make Missoula the community that we all want it to be. And I think that, you know, this a lot of the work that we will be able to do with this is built upon the investment that we made last year in the budget when we allocated funding for the LEARN Team. The work that they have done has helped, you know, put us in a better place to move forward on this resolution in conjunction with the National League of Cities and Towns, and I'm really proud that Missoula is the only town in Montana that is a part of that program. And I also think it's really important to acknowledge that we're doing this in conjunction with the County and we're two separate government jurisdictions with different elections, but the fact that both of us recognize that this is something that we both, as a collective, need to work on. You know, you rarely see that and when you do it's on the bigger initiatives around, you know, climate change, waste, and issues really large ambitious systemic problems that we combine and work in conjunction with the county with and this is one of them. And so, I think that really shows the commitment from both the city and the county and the fact that this is an issue that we need to really take seriously and take steps to address. So, I'm proud to support this resolution tonight.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Vasecka.

Alderperson Vasecka. So, a couple of Mondays ago during the LGBTQ+ resolution, we talked about how inclusive the community we are. And today, we're talking about how terrible and systematically un-inclusive we are. Many folks have reached out about their dismay about how our tax dollars are being spent on this, on this virtue signaling, and I have to agree. I was raised on that the content of your character is more important than the color of your skin or your sexual orientation or where you're from. And I believe that's still true today and our residents, our constituents, they agree. I want to reiterate what I said during the previous resolution and expand upon that. All Montanans, all American's, all refugees, and legal immigrants are absolutely welcome here. We don't need resolution after resolution to say that. I would rather us just be welcome to everyone than make specific accommodations. What you do is up to you, you as an individual have the right to pursue happiness as you so choose. I don't think it's up for the government to decide that for you. So, with the whole resolution, I am in support of

what the resolution says, but I am not in support of spending over \$220,000.00 of our taxpayer dollars. So therefore, respectfully I will not be supporting this today.

Mayor John Engen Mr. Ramos.

Alderperson Ramos Thank you Mr. Mayor. I just want to start by saying, of course, I believe in justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and as a Hispanic, myself and a minority, I think it's super important that we have that in Missoula; but that is exactly why I can't support this resolution today because it will have the opposite effect that it's intending to have. I, like my fellow Council members, believe in reducing barriers to success and in my mind, the government is always the biggest builder of barriers and the biggest obstacles for success in all citizens. And this solution that we're presenting today creates even more government and even more bureaucracy. I don't see any actual benchmarks in this resolution where we can actually measure any progress that may come from this expenditure that's spending \$150,000.00 and \$77,000.00 annually for God knows how long. This is yet another empty platitude that sounds really good, but my opinion doesn't do any good. The only people that benefit from this are of course the politicians that can use this as a re-election campaign and also the bureaucracy that is going to be drawing massive salaries and benefits from far above what the average Missoulian makes. This, in turn, benefits the government but not but does not benefit the citizens least of all the minorities in the community. If we really want to level the playing field for minorities in this community, we need to make the government smaller. We need to make it easier to start a business. We need to make it easier for businesses to employ people and if we make it easier for businesses to come to Missoula, it makes it easier to create higher paying, breadwinner jobs that are so desperately needed in this community. We need to make the government fee, or we need to lower the government fees and reduce the red tape for starting a business. We need to make it cheaper to buy a home by lowering property taxes and reducing red tape and regulations, which serve only as a revenue stream for the massive local bureaucracy. I understand that we're spending north of \$800,000.00 on trying to address this very issue but you have to understand, I have been hearing that we're trying to reduce the regulatory burden in this community since I started running for City Council in 2017 and yet, things have only gotten worse. We need to make rent cheaper by allowing private property rights and lowering property taxes. We need to make it harder to get arrested and thrown into the revolving door of the criminal justice system by reducing the number of ordinances and city laws to make interactions with law enforcement necessary. We need to reduce the fines, fees, and surcharges all of which are used as policing for profit, strategies to support the government's fiscal responsibilities. As you remember, a couple of years ago, the supreme court actually struck down a surcharge that we were implementing on

non-city ordinances, and we weren't able to collect that anymore. That surcharge had a desperate impact on the on the very people that this JEDI Resolution is trying to help. And yes, it struck that down on state penalties and offenses, but we still implement that same surcharge on folks that are violating city ordinances. That \$25.00 we're continuing to implement that on all city ordinances which again has a disparate impact on these folks in the community. The City of Missoula alone has 600 employees, over 600 employees, all making far more than the average Missoula citizen who they're supposed to serve. This massive bureaucracy is funded by the people who are supposedly trying to help. I think that we can, that in effect, what we're doing is always looking out for number one, which is the government, and we don't want to take any of the hard steps that are necessary to actually achieve justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in this community which I've been suggesting everywhere from the fines, fees, and surcharges, to the red tape because all of those are revenue streams to the government. So, no I will not be supporting this tonight, not because I don't support justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, but because I certainly do. And this unfortunately is a benefit only to the politicians in the bureaucracy but not the actual citizens who we claim to help. Thank you very much Mr. Mayor.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Harp.

Alderperson Harp Thank you. I think throughout all of COVID and all of these ZOOM meetings, one of the best things that ever happened is that I got to watch national news correspondents from their own living rooms and look into their bookshelves. And there was a particular book that continued to pop up and when I finally saw it behind Judy Woodruff on PBS, I thought it was about time I bought it, The Origins of Our Discontents, and I really kind of walked into it thinking was about racism and I've come to realize it's so much more than that. It's more about classes and I've just gotten started. So, I can't even summarize it. I read just a small section from that book called the Vitals of History. When you go to the doctor, he or she will not begin to treat us without taking our history, and not just our history but that of our parents and our grandparents before us. A doctor will not see us until we have filled out many pages on a clipboard that is handed to us upon arrival. The doctor will not hazard a diagnosis until he or she knows the history, going back generations. As we fill out the pages of our medical past and our current complaints, what our bodies have been exposed to and what they have survived, it does us no good to pretend that certain ailments have not beset us. To deny the full truths of what brought us to this moment. Few problems have ever been solved by ignoring them. The history of one's country is like learning that alcoholism or depression runs in one's family or that suicide has occurred more often than might be usual or with the advances of medical genetics, discovering that one has inherited the markers of a mutation for breast cancer. You do not ball up in a corner with guilt or shame at these

discoveries. You don't, if you were wise, forbid any mention of them, and, in fact, you do the opposite. You educate yourself; you talk to people who've been through it and to specialists who have researched it. You learn that consequences and obstacles, the options and the treatments available. You may pray over it and meditate over it, then you take precautions to protect yourself and succeeding generations and work to ensure that these things, whatever they are, don't happen again. When this JEDI Resolution came before us, [inaudible], myself, represented in a number of ways. I'm one of those that suffers from depression and talks about it willingly so that other people don't feel like they are alone. And here's a little statistic going back to our earlier proclamation. For every person who takes their life, there are 316 who do not because they called the National Suicide Prevention line. Those are the kinds of things that we learn from, and I think if we can look at this JEDI Resolution as a means to an end of how we can learn about what happened really to others that had experiences that were so, so awful, that none of us can even imagine. And it was authorized and, and legalized in our, in our culture and I appreciate the, the sense of where, where do the freedoms come from in this world, but the reality is that a large number of our population do not get to experience the same kind of opportunities at housing, at credit, or just being human that I get to as a, as a woman in this educated world of Missoula, Montana, but most importantly as a person of white origins. So, I am fully endorsing this JEDI Resolution. I endorse the county commissioner's resolution, as well. There is a lot that our community struggles and if we can just recognize that we all need some better opportunities, we start lifting our boats instead of trying to sink them. Thank you.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. West.

Alderpersion West Hi, thanks. So, I spent several years living in Missoula avoiding driving past Splash Montana because it, you know, the entry fee was too high for me and my family. And I didn't know that I could apply for a scholarship or for funding to reduce those fees. So, I think of this resolution as figuring out where the gaps are because if I didn't know and I'm a pretty informed person, then there's people were missing. And so, I think that this JEDI Resolution isn't, it isn't to pad anybody's pockets. It's not to exclude people but it's to figure out who we're missing and why and what the barriers are. So, I wasn't gonna say anything, but I felt like after Jesse spoke, I had to, you know, respond because I think it, it's that basic. It's figuring out who we're missing in the systems that exist because we are missing people and figuring out how we can include those. So, I support this resolution and I look forward to figuring out who we're missing and how we, how we get everyone to participate more fully.

Mayor John Engen Any further discussion? Seeing no additional hands raised, I will just say a couple of things. First, I would like to thank, I'd like to thank Donna, Ashley, Dale Bickell, and Eran Pehan for

investing a lot of their time and heart and passion into this project, to bring you this resolution tonight, and to commit to the work that will go on from here. The, the easiest thing to do here is to do nothing. We have that opportunity all day long and, and at this point, no one is no one is beating on our door saying you gotta get better at this, but we recognize that we do and we recognize it in the work we do and I will tell you that Donna Gaukler has been a champion of equity throughout her career at the City of Missoula and equity for Donna really, really boils down to some of what you heard from, from Councilwoman West. That is, that is who is left out. Who's, who's the kid who doesn't get to play because they don't know we have a scholarship program. The, that, that goes for so many things that we do in local government and Mr. Ramos, and I agree on a variety of things, and we have some fundamental disagreements on others. I believe that I believe that government is, is in fact, local government in particular is, is the, the formal social contract whereby we, we create rules and regulations, but we also create opportunities and chances, and we do that through our collective investment. We do that by electing people to represent our interests and our values and if we're not doing it, I don't know who the hell is going to do it. So fundamentally, I think this is actually our obligation as much as anything and what we're doing today is, is with your yes vote, formalizing that obligation and recognizing what I think we have all believed as public servants throughout our careers. And that is that we, we are here to serve everyone and, and, and the system ain't set up to serve everyone. And when we can recognize that within our own organization and begin to solve for it, we're doing the community a favor. We're doing ourselves a favor and we're, we're leading the way in hopes that that others follow suit. So as, as some of you have suggested this evening there's, there's nothing well, in fact, Ms. Merritt was very articulate about suggesting that this is, this is complex and varied and, and, and we're actually built to do complex and varied. We do complex and varied every day and we do it we, we do it from the right place. There's, there's nothing profitable in this except bettering our community and fundamentally though, that's the reward I think we all intend to reap when we commit ourselves to public service and we go to the effort to either get elected or get work in local government. This is a service to our community and ensuring that we're serving as many people as fairly as possible, strikes me as fundamental to who we are and what we ought to be doing. This formalizes that this states it this commits to it and, and allows us to commence with important work with some additional resources. And again, the folks who have been spearheading this for me and for you and for the community collectively, they're doing it on top of their other job and their, their other jobs require a lot of them. Yet, yet they are committed to this because they recognize within their, within their roles today, they are still, they are missing, we are missing out on serving as many people as we can. And so,

they think it's important, the community thinks it's important, I think you all fundamentally think it's important in one way or another. Even if you don't support the resolution, I think you think it's important. So, I thank you for, for considering this, for taking on the hard stuff because it turns out that the hard stuff generally is what matters the most. So, seeing no further discussion, anyone in the audience care to comment? Jason.

Jason Hello can you hear me?

Mayor John Engen We can.

Jason Jesse, Sandra, I'd just like to thank you two for your comments, it's appreciated. There's some people there with a little bit of a clearer mind. I've seen this stuff forever. I mean it's pretty clear among you all who is creating boogeyman and who is being manipulated into fighting the boogeyman. And yeah, Jesse and Sandra, I would encourage you to look at the book, Cynical Theories. It's relatively recent but it really dives into what the dynamic is here. And thank you again. And Bryan, there's no fear. None of this is coming from fear.

Mayor John Engen Thank you sir. And Mr. Campbell.

Bob Campbell Thank you once again Mr. Mayor and members of Council. Bob Campbell, candidate for Missoula City Council Ward 5. Just real quickly, from a practical standpoint, I, I really don't see a need for this at this point in time. You know, I, I feel, you know there's other things I see in the works here. I look at LEARN Missoula. I go to their website, and I look at their header here, which I have before, it me talks about black indigenous, people of color, residence groups, community-based organizations in Missoula, encounter systemic oppression and justice and discrimination as we faced with municipalities in the business sector. We are often confronted with structural inequalities and exclusion which have deleterious effect on our lived experience and sense of place. Given these experiences, [inaudible] are supremely eligible and will be qualified and in best position to offer valuable and relevant action strategies for creating a more just, inclusive, unbiased, and equitable Missoula but it sounds like a lot like JEDI to me. And I click on findings, and I see LEARN Missoula is a new project and we're just at the beginning of our work. You know, as discussed earlier, someone had mentioned you know the need to you know, know what's broke before he could fix it. And it seems to me we have a couple of mechanics on the job as we speak. We have LEARN Missoula here, still doing their work. Obviously, they haven't come up with anything, as of yet. We have, I think, 3 or 4 months ago, we allocated \$75,000.00 plus dollars toward a study of systemic racism within the State of Missoula itself. I haven't heard anything back on that yet. So, why are we spending more money? Why are we rushing headlong to throw out another \$220,000.00 for another program to where, you know, we could, you know, have immediate



gratification, feel good about what we're doing, and we move on and you know somewhere down the line, 6 months down the line here we are maybe perhaps doing it again and calling it something else. And you know, I think we have enough before us. I think we have enough invested with what we have now between these other programs, I mentioned, to you know let's wait and see where that leads us. Let's wait and see what comes of that and to, you know, maybe come back and you know look at this particular resolution at some point in the future and see you know if there's need for it, so it could at least be tweaked. If it needs to be rewritten, but it just seems we're rushing headlong to spend more money that we don't necessarily need to spend at this point in time, given you know the programs that we already have in place. And with that, I thank you for your time.

Mayor John Engen Thank you sir. Seeing no additional hands up among attendees and no hands up among Council members. we will have a roll call vote on the resolution.

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

Moved by: Alderperson von Lossberg

Adopt a resolution (the 08-09-2021 draft) establishing the City's commitment to a Just, Equitable, Diverse, and Inclusive (JEDI) Missoula with amendments to add the following text after the 4th "Whereas:"

WHEREAS, Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color represent 30% of those incarcerated at the Missoula County Detention Facility, despite making up 8% of the overall Missoula County population (3Missoula County Monthly Jail Population Dashboard, June 2020 to July 2021); and WHEREAS, older residents of Missoula County are disproportionately impacted by chronic health conditions, as the CDC indicates 85% of older adults have at least one chronic health condition and 60% of have at least two chronic health conditions, resulting in significant challenges in paying for care and navigating complex health care systems; and WHEREAS, older adults are also disproportionately impacted by rising costs of housing, general goods and service, and taxes, as over 90% rely on a fixed income that does not increase at the same rate as expenses, resulting in higher levels of poverty; and

AYES: (9): Alderperson Anderson, Alderperson Becerra, Alderperson Harp, Alderperson Hess, Alderperson Jones, Alderperson Merritt, Alderperson Sherrill, Alderperson von Lossberg, and Alderperson West

NAYS: (2): Alderperson Ramos, and Alderperson Vasecka

ABSENT: (1): Alderperson Contos

Vote result: Approved (9 to 2)

#### **10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

Mayor John Engen We'll move on to communications from the Mayor. In the, in the early morning hours of Thursday of last week, the community, I think experienced a tragedy. It's a particular tragedy for the family of Brendon Galbreath. We have had internal challenges with with what we can reveal to the public in an ongoing investigation, into the, the officer involved shooting. A couple of things to note, for the record and for all of you, we, whenever there is an officer involved shooting, we ask an independent agency, in this case the Montana Department of Criminal Investigation, to take over, so that the investigation is independent and unbiased and that's what we did in this case as well. And once we turn that, once we turn that investigation over, we have traditionally kept mum on, on what we know and, and leave it to DCI to do their work. Today, thanks to some collaboration with DCI, the Chief Investigator in this case issued a public statement that we published along with some commentary from Chief White. In an effort to at least, at least provide some clarity, certainly to the family and, and to the broader community. The, we, again the investigation is not complete but based on preliminary evidence, the Department of Criminal Investigation was able to announce today that they believe Mr. Galbreath took his own life with a weapon in his car. A single round fired by our officer, after having heard a gunshot from Mr. Galbreath's car, has been recovered. It did not touch Mr. Galbreath and was lodged in his vehicle. A round, that we believe was fired at our officer, did not touch our officer. That round has not been recovered but all evidence points to the fact and that's, that's video evidence, as well as, as reports from folks on the scene, all evidence points to suicide. That is, that is tragic and ironic on a night when we're reading a proclamation about suicide prevention. Chief White, this morning, contacted Brendon's family in Browning to convey this information before it was made public. Again, the investigation continues but, but the Chief and I believe that it was important that we get the message out, that it does not appear in any way that, that while our officer did fire a round that that that round had any contact with Brendon. It is tragic by any measure, but we hope this provides the families some clarity, the community some clarity, and again DCI will be continuing its investigation. We'll release a report that we believe will, will confirm, in in some detail, the events that transpired that morning. And, and we will, we will move on from there, but in the meantime what, what began as a fairly routine traffic stop, ended in tragedy. The, the, the officer involved didn't, did not fire a fatal shot. I wanted you all to know that. I wanted the community to know that, as we move forward. That

doesn't mean that we're, we're not going to continue to review our policies and procedures but, but we believe that this was this was a relatively standard stop that ended tragically. So, neither the Chief, nor I are in a position to say more about it at this point but, but as soon as that report is back from the DCI, we will certainly share that with the public and all of the, all of the evidence will be a matter of public record at that point and, and folks can scrutinize that on their own, if they decide to.

#### **11. GENERAL COMMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL**

Mayor John Engen With that, we'll begin general comments from Council members, with Ms. West.

Aldersperson West That's a heavy conversation to follow. I just wanted to congratulate everyone at the County for pulling off an absolutely, absolutely amazing fair week and look forward to the fair next year.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Jones.

Aldersperson Jones I just wanted to express my condolences to Brendon Galbreath's family. Everything I've read about him, it sounds like he was a very bright star, such a promising young man. So, my heart is going out to you and it's just such a tragedy. I am so sorry for your loss.

Mayor John Engen Mr. von Lossberg.

Aldersperson von Lossberg Thanks. I also wanted to express my condolences to the family, so I second Gwen's comments. Thanks.

Mayor John Engen Ms. Sherrill.

Aldersperson Sherrill Yeah thanks. That's a, that's a heavy thing to make any comment after, but there, there is another comment I want to make. As part of the health board, we are meeting this Thursday, but I do want to just give another plea that it is, it's time to start normalizing wearing masks again when we are indoors and cannot keep distance. Our case numbers are up significantly, our hospitalizations are up significantly. It's a great time to go get vaccinated if you are not vaccinated because almost all of the hospitalizations nationwide are those that are unvaccinated. We do have a population of kids that are unable to be vaccinated, as well as those that are immune compromised. So, I, I believe that even though this is getting long, and it is wearing on and I am fully vaccinated, I'm very tired of wearing a mask. It's time for us to all do the right thing again and the time is now. So, I'm asking people to start wearing masks when they cannot distance and again plea for people that are, have not been vaccinated yet to go do it.

Mayor John Engen Ms. Vasecka.

Aldersperson Vasecka Thanks. I wanted to follow up with what Gwen said, my, my condolences absolutely go out to the family, and everyone involved in that tragedy. I also wanted to thank all of my colleagues here. We may not always agree, but I really do appreciate our thoughtful and enlightening

discussions that we have and especially Ms. Harp. I, I really appreciate, appreciate you and everything that you said as well. To Jason M., I, I don't think he's on anymore but if you're listening, I will check that book out. I quickly googled it, so I'm going to see if it's available at a local bookstore before I have to order it online. I have a 4-month- old, so I don't get much reading done these days, but I. I will definitely try to get to that. And then I also wanted to thank everyone that's involved with fighting the fires. The smoke has been horrible, and I know that what you guys do is just tremendous work and so I just wanted to say, say thank you for, for keeping us safe.

Mayor John Engen Mr. Hess.

Aldersperson Hess Thanks Mayor, I'll pass tonight.

Mayor John Engen Ms. Becerra.

Aldersperson Becerra Thank you. I too want to express my deepest condolences to the family. And my hope is that with the work, envision, and the resolution that we just passed, that access to suicide prevention is something that's readily available to anyone who needs it. I also want to thank Donna, Ashley, and Jamar for all of your work, attention to detail, and also attention to the facts and researching and including all that information in the resolution. Thank you.

Mayor John Engen Ms. Anderson.

Aldersperson Anderson Thank you Mr. Mayor. I will echo the condolences given by my fellow Council members and, and thank those who voted for the budget last year that funded the, our mobile crisis unit. Hopefully in situations there will be an opportunity for a mental health person to come and intervene before it gets to the loss of life. So, thank you for that, thanks for voting for that, and funding for that, and again my condolences to the family and everyone involved.

Mayor John Engen Mr. Ramos.

Aldersperson Ramos Thank you Mr. Mayor. I just wanted to express my condolences to Brendon's family as well. That is incredibly tragic and they're in my thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Harp.

Aldersperson Harp Heidi, I want to thank you for your words of courage tonight. I mean experiences of, of poverty is never an easy thing to ever, ever disclose or reveal and I think the vast majority of Missoulians, and American's suffer from that. And thank you for stating so eloquently what JEDI is all about. I want to thank all my other colleagues for your comments tonight. As Sandy said, we learn so much from listening to one another and that's how we get closer and closer to this world that we are really trying to get to. And we will disagree all the time but thankfully, we do it with, with respect and dignity for one another. That's what we want to make sure that everybody has a chance at. Finally, to

Brendon's family, I, my heart is with you. I, I can only imagine walking in your shoes and I will do my very best for this the next number of weeks thinking about you and trying to walk in your shoes. Good night everyone.

Mayor John Engen Thank you all.

**12. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None.**

**12.1 Administration and Finance committee (AF) report**

**12.1.1 August 11, 2021, Administration and Finance Report**

**12.2 Budget Committee of the Whole (BCOW) committee report**

**12.2.1 August 11, 2021, Budget Committee of the Whole Report**

**12.3 Committee of the Whole (COW) committee report**

**12.4 Land Use and Planning (LUP) committee report**

**12.5 Parks and Conservation (PC) committee report**

**12.5.1 August 11, 2021, Parks and Conservation report**

**12.6 Public Safety and Health (PSH) committee report**

**12.7 Public Works (PW) committee report**

**13. NEW BUSINESS - None.**

**14. ITEMS TO BE REFERRED - None.**

**14.1 Administration and Finance committee referrals**

**14.1.1 National Institute of Health Grant Administration Agreements Referral – Year  
3**

**14.1.2 Accela Automation Software Maintenance Agreement**

**14.2 Budget Committee of the Whole referrals**

**14.3 Committee of the Whole referrals**

**14.4 Land Use and Planning committee referrals**

**14.5 Parks and Conservation committee referrals**

**14.6 Public Safety and Health committee referrals**

**14.6.1 Quarterly report from representatives of the Missoula County Community  
Justice Department**

**14.6.2 Resolution of Intent to Sell Certain Surplus Property to the Stevensville Rural  
Fire District**

**14.7 Public Works committee referrals**

**15. MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - None.**

**15.1 Administratively approved agreement report**

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor John Engen As always, I thank you for your service and we will be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Martha L. Rehbein, CMC, City Clerk

John Engen, Mayor