

Journal of Proceedings
Missoula City Council Meeting
August 23, 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, Heidi West

Members Absent: John P. Contos, Bryan von Lossberg

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 23, 2021

Parks and Conservation Committee, August 25, 9:00 - 10:10 a.m.

Administration and Finance Committee, August 25, 10:25 - 10:50 a.m.

Public Works Committee, August 25, 11:35 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.

Public Safety and Health Committee, August 25, 12:35 - 1:20 p.m.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor John Engen This is your opportunity to comment on items not elsewhere on the agenda this evening and if you raise your hand in the attendees, I will call on you for general public comment asking you to keep your remarks to around 3 minutes. And Mr. Hunt.

Mr. Hunt Thank you very much Mr. Mayor. I just want to briefly comment on the matter of great public interest concerning the young man who died from a gunshot wound following police chase and of course there was a small protest demonstration downtown. I couldn't make that, but I was very confused and concerned by the contradictory comments I heard coming from your honor and from other sources regarding this. It, it was stated that the, the dash cam and body cam videos could not be shown even to the family. The justification for this was that "wide dissemination" of the videos could taint the memories of witnesses. You know these family members aren't witnesses Mr. Mayor. They are bereaved family members of someone who died, and this is a matter of great public interest. Showing

the family members, the dash cam videos of the events that culminated in the death of their son is hardly wide dissemination of the video. It's simply showing it to them, showing them something more than a still photograph. It was also then stated that the investigation should, didn't want to, you know, influence the investigation which I understand which is underway by the Department of Justice, Department of Criminal Investigation but if that's true then why is the city continuously and repeatedly leaking information that they have come to the conclusion that is pretty obvious that this young man took his own life. This is this is called manipulating public opinion, preforming public opinion. It's the same kind of ways the government's manufacturer consent. Either nothing should be said about it or there should be something consistent said about it. Not, not leaking information that there's a conclusion that it was suicide but refusing to release any other information on the grounds that releasing information would taint the public's opinion. The public's opinion is attempted to be tainted right now by the intentional leaking of information while at the same time not even letting the family itself view that information. This is engendering right or wrongly, I'm not I'm not saying there's something nefarious going on, but the problem is this is engendering great disrespect and suspicion of the city government, the city Police Department, and the mayor's office. We don't need that; we need just the opposite. Thank you very much.

Mayor John Engen Thank you Mr. Hunt. I will note that nothing has been leaked. We had an agreement from the Department of Criminal Investigation to share the video that they created in an effort to help provide some clarity to the community with regard to the young man's cause of death and we are simply repeating what they have offered us. So, we're also with the Department of Criminal Investigations permission providing all video for viewing to the family. So just a couple of clarifications there. Seeing no additional hands up for public comment, we will move on folks to our consent agenda.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor John Engen Items here were approved unanimously in Council Committees and to save a little time on Monday evenings by considering these items all at once. Ms. Rehbein will read the list of consent agenda items aloud so folks can, so folks can consider what we're voting and comment as necessary. I'm sorry I just got a note from the police chief that we have not yet received from permission from DCI to release the video to the family, but we're working on that. So, with that, Ms. Rehbein, the consent agenda.

AYES: (10): Alderperson Anderson, Alderperson Becerra, Alderperson Harp, Alderperson Hess, Alderperson Jones, Alderperson Merritt, Alderperson Ramos, Alderperson Sherrill, Alderperson Vasecka, and Alderperson West

ABSENT: (2): Alderperson Contos, and Alderperson von Lossberg

Vote result: Approved (10 to 0)

Mayor John Engen Thank you Ms. Rehbein. Questions or comments from Council Members? Mr. Ramos.

Alderperson Ramos Thank you Mr. Mayor. Can you please divide the question so we can vote on 5.1 separately due to \$5,000.00 going to Perkins Coie for the arbitration matter of the, the legal bills for the Mount Water?

Mayor John Engen Yes sir, we can do that. And Ms. Merritt.

Alderperson Merritt Marty, I apologize for not contacting you before the meeting about this, but I will be abstaining from voting on item 5.5. Thanks.

Mayor John Engen Thank you and anyone in the audience could comment on any consent agenda items? Seeing none, we will have a role called vote on item 5.1.

5.1 Accounts Payable (claims) for checks dated August 24, 2021

Approve accounts payable in the amount of \$826,783.17 for checks dated August 24, 2021.

AYES: (8): Alderperson Anderson, Alderperson Becerra, Alderperson Harp, Alderperson Hess, Alderperson Jones, Alderperson Merritt, Alderperson Sherrill, and Alderperson West

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

ABSENT: (2): Alderperson Contos, and Alderperson von Lossberg

Vote result: Approved (8 to 2)

5.2 National Institute of Health Grant Administration Agreements Referral – Year 3

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the following grant administration agreements with Truitt Consulting, SciDESIGNS, and the University of Montana for the National Institutes of Health grant-funded project called The Link: A Collective-Impact, Place-Based Approach to Inspiring Montana's Next Generation Healthcare Work Force.

Vote result: Approved

5.3 Accela Automation Software Maintenance Agreement

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a three-year Software Maintenance Renewal Agreement with Accela in the amounts of \$100,421.21 for FY22, \$103,433.84 for fiscal year 23, and \$106,536.86 for fiscal year 2024.

Vote result: Approved

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

Approve a resolution of intent to sell one surplus 2002 Pierce Saber Type I fire engine to the Stevensville Rural Fire District for \$42,000.

Vote result: Approved

5.5 Heron's Landing Subdivision, Phase W1 Final Plat Approval

Approve the Heron's Landing Subdivision, Phase W1 Final Plat.

AYES: (9): Alderperson Anderson, Alderperson Becerra, Alderperson Harp, Alderperson Hess, Alderperson Jones, Alderperson Ramos, Alderperson Sherrill, Alderperson Vasecka, and Alderperson West

ABSTAIN: (1): Alderperson Merritt

ABSENT: (2): Alderperson Contos, and Alderperson von Lossberg

Vote result: Approved (9 to 0)

5.6 Referral and Staff Report: England Boulevard Annexation

Adopt a resolution of intention to annex and incorporate within the boundaries of the City of Missoula, two (2) parcels of land as shown on Exhibit A and adjacent England Boulevard right-of-way, located in the S ½ of Section 7, Township 13 North, Range 19 West, and zone the property B2-2 Community Business upon annexation, based on the findings of fact in the staff report, subject to the recommended condition of approval and set the public hearing for September 13, 2021, and refer this item to the Land Use & Planning Committee on September 15, 2021.

Vote result: Approved

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Rehbein a roll call on the balance of the consent agenda. Thank you Ms. Rehbein, 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 have one special presentation in the form of a proclamation ladies and gentlemen.

7.1 Proclamation - International Overdose Awareness Day

WHEREAS, the City of Missoula does affirm and acknowledge the harm and hardship caused by drug overdose; and WHEREAS, we recognize the purpose of the International Overdose Awareness Day is remembering loved ones lost to overdose and ending the stigma of drug related deaths; and WHEREAS, we resolve to play our part in reducing the total overdose in our community, which claimed the lives of more than 1,437 Montana residents between the years 2007 and 2018, with countless more affected forever; and WHEREAS, we ask the Missoula community to join us in recognizing International Overdose Awareness Day, as we have seen a sharp increase in overdoses in our country over the last year; and WHEREAS, we affirm that the people affected by overdose, are our sons and daughters, our mothers and fathers, our brothers and sisters, our neighbors and deserving of our love compassion and support. Now, therefore, I, John Engen, Mayor of the City of Missoula in the State of Montana hereby recognize the 31st day of August 2021 as International Overdose Awareness Day.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor John Engen Continuing on with our agenda, we will move to the public hearing portion of this evening's proceedings. 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 the single issue this evening, the council and I will invite comment. We typically have been holding these public hearings open for a week during COVID and in this case, we will do that as well. Our lone public hearing this evening is on the Street Lighting Improvement District Assessments for fiscal year 2022. And Ms. Rehbein has our staff report.

8.1 Street Lighting Improvement District Assessments for fiscal year 2022

The City Council will hold this public hearing open until it is taken up for final consideration on August 30, 2021.

Marty Rehbein I do. Marty Rehbein, I'm your Legislative Services Director and City Clerk and every year, I bring to City Council for your consideration, assessments for street lighting. The City has street lighting districts that are located throughout the city and every year we levy assessments to pay the electric bills

associated with keeping the lights on. The City's road district, number one, does pay for 10% of the costs of street lighting because it's acknowledgment of the general benefit of lighting overall to the City and property owners are assessed the remaining 90%. The City does charge an administrative fee to cover the staff time, to bill, and process payments, and this year, we do anticipate a 1.5% increase in street lighting district rates from NorthWestern Energy. Folks may have noticed that NorthWestern has been installing led lights around the city and we also realized some savings. So, this year's assessment is exactly the same as last year. It will be \$368,471.00. And I'm here to answer questions, if there are any. Mayor John Engen Thank you Ms. Rehbein. Any questions from Council Members this evening? Seeing none and anyone in the audience care to comment? And see none there.....Oh, I'm sorry, we have Miss Anderson.

Alderperson Anderson So Sorry. Thanks Mr. Mayor. Apologies, I was having some audio troubles earlier. Ms. Rehbein, if the, as NorthWestern Energy continues to install LED lights throughout the district and citywide, and those savings incur, how would that be actualized by the members of the district? This year, its assessment is the same, but if there were substantial savings throughout the term, over the next year, how would that be? How would they...?

Marty Rehbein Well, the resolution levying the series assessments does direct the Finance Office and the Public Works Department to do an analysis of the savings that we're realizing as a result of the LED installation and looking at where there may be gaps. The Public Works Department did a, did a brief analysis of the coverage of our lighting districts and found that from house to house and block to block, the coverage is not consistent. And so, they want to do an analysis of if any of the savings can further the installation of fixtures, as well as just light LED bulbs. And the Finance Office is being directed to take a look at any of the cash balance savings and which districts those might be distributed to, to also further the same goal. Ultimately reduced energy rates can provide more services and/or reduce the amount of the assessments. And so, we're looking for staff to present that analysis early next year prior to doing assessments for fiscal year 23.

Alderperson Anderson Wonderful, thanks so much. I appreciate all the information.

Mayor John Engen And with that, this public hearing will remain open until August 30, 2021.

9. FINAL CONSIDERATION

Mayor John Engen We will move on to items for final consideration. These items have had a public hearing and council will be taking final action this evening based on motions made and deliberations and any additional comment from the folks we serve. Ms. Griffing, do you have an update? Our single item

for consideration is the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget and all that goes with that. And Ms. Griffing, I believe, has some updates for us and for the public, as we proceed.

Leigh Griffing I do and a short presentation. I am Leigh Griffing, the Finance Director for the City and final consideration on the FY22 budget is what City Council is doing this evening. I wanted to just do a little brief run through of what we've been doing so far. On July 7, 2021, the Mayor presented the FY22 Executive Budget to Council. This included the baseline changes, two department budgets, new requests, and the Community Investment Program. And we received quite a few presentations from departments. Subsequently, a few updates have happened to the Mayor's Executive Budget. This includes \$15,700.00 for an environmental health specialist, the addition of a transportation planner, and \$840,00.00 of Park District fund balance. So, this is fund balance cash on hand that they have for specific priorities that are outlined in a Parks and Rec Committee presentation. Also approving future park district bonding totaling 2.3 million dollars and this would be bonding that would cover between 20 and 30 years, for Caras Park improvements at \$700,000.00, improvements to our aquatic's facilities of \$375,000.00, the Bonner Park, Band Shell court and other improvements of \$105,000.00 and tennis course replacements for 1.3 million dollars. These documents have all been updated on our website, if folks want to go there. I do want to let folks know if City Council makes some amendments or adjustments this evening, we will do our best to get the rest of these documents updated over the next couple of days. Another item that is part of the Mayor's Executive Budget is the City Budget all funds I just want to draw folks' attention here and I'm not putting all of this in here because it's about 4 or 5 pages. This lists every single fund that the city is required to budget for. Our projected beginning balances for July 1, 2021, we won't actually know those numbers until we complete our audit later this fall, estimated revenues be they taxes assessments or non-tax sources, transfers in transfers out, budgeted expenditures. We do have some committed expenditure savings that we work with departments in the general fund to acquire, and then at the bottom there will be our total appropriations for the year.

Mayor John Engen Ms. Griffing, we're not seeing your screen if you're intending us to.

Leigh Griffing Oh no, I'm so sorry for that. Quick run through again and yeah apologies for.....

Mayor John Engen Thank you.

Leigh Griffing For not having that up there....So, here's my presentation. We will also post this to the website. These were the baseline changes, new requests, and Community Investment Program, snippets to let folks know what was included in that Executive Budget. A list of those updates that have happened subsequently. I wanted to draw folks' attention to the budget documents that are posted on

our website, if you navigate to the FY22 preliminary budget, these have been updated through this afternoon. So, the updates for the mayor's approved budget are in here as well. I wanted to draw folks' attention to the overview of budgeted resources. This is just a snippet and this ties into the appropriations resolution that City Council passes tonight, which brings me to the resolutions that we're asking City Council to pass tonight for budget approval. Our appropriations resolution is our big budget resolution. This fixes the annual appropriations and capital improvement, or Community Investment Program for the City as set forth in the FY22 budget. This also includes work plans and budgets for the Tourism Business Improvement District, the Business Improvement District, the Park District, and Road District Number 1; they're both Number 1. We also have fee increase resolutions; we have three of these. We are increasing each of these sections of fees by 3% just to sort of keep up with some inflationary increases, business licensing, fire inspection and police, and special event fees, and wastewater industrial interceptor variance permit. We also have resolutions for some tax levies and assessments. Tonight, we have resolutions for general special taxes, for municipal administrative purposes; these are setting those tax levies. We also want to levy taxes on each parcel within the downtown business improvement district to the tune of just under \$386,000.00, as well as assessments on hotels located in the tourism business improvement district and those are at \$2.00/per occupied room, per night. Now next week, our City Clerk will be bringing to us the assessments for the road and park districts, those need to happen one week apart. And that concludes my presentation, sorry for not getting it up there first.

Alderpersion Merritt Mayor, you're muted.

Mayor John Engen I am sorry. Thank you Ms. Griffing. And my apologies for that, and at this point Ms. Jones would you like to make a motion or two.

Alderpersion Jones I will, I will. I've got a list of motions to read. I'll just make my way through them and then some more information after that. I would like to make the recommended motion that we resolution of the Missoula City Council increasing fees by 3% for business licensing services performed by Community Planning, Development and Innovation as shown in Exhibit A effective January 1, 2022. I would like to make the motion that we, the recommended motion for to, that we adopt a resolution of the Missoula City Council increasing fire inspection, plan checking, pyrotechnic display and police and special event fees increasing fees by 3% effective January 1, 2022 as shown in Exhibit B & C. I move that we adopt a resolution of the Missoula City Council increasing the wastewater industrial interceptor variance permit fee set forth in 13.07.410 Missoula Municipal Code (MMC) and the waste hauler permit fee set forth in 13.17.210 MMC by 3% beginning on January 1, 2022. I move that we adopt a resolution

fixing the annual appropriations for the City of Missoula as set forth in the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget and Community Improvement Plan including: • The Tourism Business Improvement District work plan and budget for Fiscal Year 2022 • The Business Improvement District work plan and budget for Fiscal Year 2022. • The Park District Number 1 work plan and budget for Fiscal Year 2022. • The Road District Number 1 work plan and budget for Fiscal Year 2022. I move that we adopt a resolution levying taxes for municipal and administrative purposes for the Fiscal Year 2022. I move that we adopt a resolution levying taxes on the lots, pieces and parcels of land located in the Downtown Business Improvement District of the City of Missoula for fiscal year 2022 in accordance with 7-12-1132 MCA. I move that we adopt a resolution levying annual assessments on the hotels located in the Tourism Business Improvement District of the City of Missoula for fiscal year 2022 in the amount of \$2 per occupied room night in accordance with 7-12-1132 MCA. And I'm thinking that probably needs to be for fiscal year 2022 not 2021. If that is a typo there, I will note that. And then just to be comprehensive I move that we adopt the Mayor's Executive Budget, as proposed and I have some changes to incorporate that I will add to my motion. Number 1 in the Community Planning and Development Department that we add \$5,000.00 to the Climate Smart annual grant, to bring the annual contribution from the city to Climate Smart up to \$35,000.00, which then equals a city contribution to home resource. This is an ongoing, ongoing line item from the general fund. Number 2 in the City Council budget to add \$5,000.00 to fund Commissioner Strohmaier's, County Commissioner Strohmaier's request for contribution to the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority for a socioeconomic study. This is a one-time line item from ARPA funds. Number 3, in the Fire Department and Police Departments, to amend the budget for each of these departments to add \$20,000.00 to each for partial supplement of baseline requests. This is an ongoing line item, to be pulled from the general fund. Number 4, in the Community Planning and Development Department, we, to fund a request for \$23,000.00 for tourist home research data gathering and policy review. This is a one-time contribution to be funded either under ARPA or pulled from the fund balance, to be determined in that priority sequencing though. Number 5, in the Community Planning and Development Department to add \$100,000.00 of capacity to the energy conservation and climate action section to go towards executing policy initiatives. This is a one-time line item to be pulled from the fund balance. And finally, the last item is number 6, regarding the communications \$100,000.00 which is in the budget in the mayor's department, to modify the purpose, to not do a survey, but instead to do a comprehensive strategic communications plan for the city that encompasses all three branches of government and after the initial planning process takes place in the next few months, to then use the great majority of it, the remainder of the \$100,000.00, to go towards execution of the Master Plan for

communications, for the remainder of the fiscal year. This is a one-time item to be pulled from the fund balance. And I do want to speak to these, but I'm assuming that you want to take public comment first. S tell me when I may.

9.1 Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

Moved by: Alderperson Jones

Adopt a resolution of the Missoula City Council increasing fees by 3% for business licensing services performed by Community Planning, Development and Innovation as shown in Exhibit A effective January 1, 2022.

AYES: (8): Alderperson Anderson, Alderperson Becerra, Alderperson Harp, Alderperson Hess, Alderperson Jones, Alderperson Merritt, Alderperson Sherrill, and Alderperson West

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

ABSENT: (2): Alderperson Contos, and Alderperson von Lossberg

Vote result: Approved (8 to 2)

Moved by: Alderperson Jones

Adopt a resolution of the Missoula City Council increasing fire inspection, plan checking, pyrotechnic display and police and special event fees increasing fees by 3% effective January 1, 2022 as shown in Exhibit B & C.

AYES: (8): Alderperson Anderson, Alderperson Becerra, Alderperson Harp, Alderperson Hess, Alderperson Jones, Alderperson Merritt, Alderperson Sherrill, and Alderperson West

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

ABSENT: (2): Alderperson Contos, and Alderperson von Lossberg

Vote result: Approved (8 to 2)

Moved by: Alderperson Jones

Adopt a resolution of the Missoula City Council increasing the wastewater industrial interceptor variance permit fee set forth in 13.07.410 Missoula Municipal Code (MMC) and the waste hauler permit fee set forth in 13.17.210 MMC by 3% beginning on January 1, 2022.

AYES: (8): Alderperson Anderson, Alderperson Becerra, Alderperson Harp, Alderperson Hess, Alderperson Jones, Alderperson Merritt, Alderperson Sherrill, and Alderperson West

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

ABSENT: (2): Alderperson Contos, and Alderperson von Lossberg

Vote result: Approved (8 to 2)

Moved by: Alderperson Jones

Adopt a resolution fixing the annual appropriations for the City of Missoula as set forth in the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget and Community Improvement Plan including: • The Tourism Business Improvement District work plan and budget for Fiscal Year 2022 • The Business Improvement District work plan and budget for Fiscal Year 2022. • The Park District Number 1 work plan and budget for Fiscal Year 2022. • The Road District Number 1 work plan and budget for Fiscal Year 2022 (the Mayor's proposed executive budget as presented).

1. Community Planning and Development Department - Add \$5,000 to Climate Smart annual grant to bring the City contribution to Climate Smart equal to the City contribution to Home Resource. Ongoing, General Fund.
2. City Council Budget - Add \$5,000 to fund Commissioner Strohmaier's request for contribution to Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority for socioeconomic study. One time, ARPA.
3. Fire Department and Police Department: Amend budget for each of these departments to add \$20,000 to each, for partial supplement of baseline requests. Ongoing, General Fund.
4. Community Planning and Development Department - fund request for \$23,000 for Tourist Home research, data gathering and policy review. One time, ARPA, or Fund Balance.
5. Community, Planning and Development Department - add \$100,000 to capacity of Energy Conservation and Climate Action section, for executing policy initiatives. One time, Fund Balance.
6. Regarding Communications keep \$100,000 in budget in Mayor's Department, but modify purpose, to not do survey, but instead to do a comprehensive strategic communications plan for the city that encompasses all three branches of government, and after the planning process use the remainder of the appropriation to go to execution of the master plan for remainder of fiscal year. One time, Fund Balance.

AYES: (8): Alderperson Anderson, Alderperson Becerra, Alderperson Harp, Alderperson Hess, Alderperson Jones, Alderperson Merritt, Alderperson Sherrill, and Alderperson West

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

ABSENT: (2): Alderperson Contos, and Alderperson von Lossberg

Vote result: Approved (8 to 2)

Moved by: Alderperson Jones

Adopt a resolution levying taxes for municipal and administrative purposes for the Fiscal Year 2022.

AYES: (8): Alderperson Anderson, Alderperson Becerra, Alderperson Harp, Alderperson Hess, Alderperson Jones, Alderperson Merritt, Alderperson Sherrill, and Alderperson West

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

ABSENT: (2): Alderperson Contos, and Alderperson von Lossberg

Vote result: Approved (8 to 2)

Moved by: Alderperson Jones

Adopt a resolution levying taxes on the lots, pieces and parcels of land located in the Downtown Business Improvement District of the City of Missoula for fiscal year 2022 in accordance with 7-12-1132 MCA.

AYES: (8): Alderperson Anderson, Alderperson Becerra, Alderperson Harp, Alderperson Hess, Alderperson Jones, Alderperson Merritt, Alderperson Sherrill, and Alderperson West

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

ABSENT: (2): Alderperson Contos, and Alderperson von Lossberg

Vote result: Approved (8 to 2)

Moved by: Alderperson Jones

Adopt a resolution levying annual assessments on the hotels located in the Tourism Business Improvement District of the City of Missoula for fiscal year 2022 in the amount of \$2 per occupied room night in accordance with 7-12-1132 MCA.

AYES: (8): Alderperson Anderson, Alderperson Becerra, Alderperson Harp, Alderperson Hess, Alderperson Jones, Alderperson Merritt, Alderperson Sherrill, and Alderperson West

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

ABSENT: (2): Alderperson Contos, and Alderperson von Lossberg

Vote result: Approved (8 to 2)

Mayor John Engen Thank you Ms. Jones. Those motions are all in order and our public hearing remains open, if anyone would care to comment on any of the parts and pieces of the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget. This is your opportunity to do so. Again, inviting any public comment on the budget this evening and seeing none, we will have council deliberations. Ms. Jones.

Alderperson Jones Thank you. I just wanted to take a few minutes to comment. First of all, I appreciated the entire budget presentations this summer and the incredible thought and deliberation that goes into creating our budget which takes a lot of time and there's a lot of moving pieces but specifically regarding these changes that I've tacked on at the end. I wanted to just give some explanation regarding them. The \$5,000.00 for Climate Smart, when this was initiated in the last few years it was supposed to be \$35,000.00 each to Climate Smart and to Home Resource, and there was an error. So, it's been \$30,000.00 instead of \$35,000.00, so that's basically some housekeeping to bring that up to par. Commissioner Strohmaier's request for the contribution of the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority for a socioeconomic study. The reason why Council is interested in doing this is that under the ARPA, ARPA documentation that has come out, there is great potential now for passenger rail in Montana and by taking this kind of action, it can better our chance of possibly getting passenger rails. So based on that, we are requesting that. The Fire Department and Police Department, we're working hard to not raise mills this year. Accordingly, we wanted to supplement their baseline budget, which was a request, but we were unable to do the entire amount, but we felt that adding \$20,000.00 to each would help and was helpful for their budgets. So that is a small contribution but still keeps mill levies flat. The \$23,000.00 for tourist home research data gathering and policy review is one time. There is a lot of discussion these days about affordable housing in Missoula and I think that tourist homes frankly are a small piece of the pie that has created the affordable housing issues that we face but it is it is a piece of the pie and by gathering the data, we will have a much better sense of to what degree it is a component and what recommendations there will be that we can take to better the situation. So, it's really, let's get the information in to see if we should do something and what we should do, and it's frankly a lot more complicated than that but in a nutshell that's what we're doing. Adding some money to increase the capacity of energy conservation and climate action. We have great plans in place, frankly we need to execute on them more and you know we just spent a summer inhaling smoke, so it's clearly an issue. I think we always want to do more but when we are able to put money towards that and increase the capacity, that's a good thing to do, so that's the rationale there. And then finally, communications, we're not changing that budget amount, but we are just changing the, the implementation of it to a degree. Council just wanted to move it along; we've talked about

communications for years now and we need more communications. There's a lot of good things the city is doing, and it needs to be communicated better and I think the more we communicate, the more we get constructive feedback in, and it's a much better process all around. So, this is taking a step down that path, and we just wanted to just clarify that we really wanted to go forward with this. Instead of doing a survey, we can just start going forward and doing some more execution on an action plan. So I'm happy to answer any questions regarding these items and do not want to eclipse all of the good stuff going on in the main budget and the Mayor can always speak to that too, but lots of good things, as we are trying to address this pandemic that's going on in our world, keep everything balanced, and I appreciate all the work that's gone into that in terms of health department and all of our first responders, and all of that it, takes a huge amount of work. So that's what I got to say, there you go.

Mayor John Engen Thank you Ms. Jones. Further discussion? Ms. West.

Alderperson West I'm a little nervous that my hand's the only hand up right now. There's Heather, all right perfect. I just wanted to say that I support all of the additions that Gwen just mentioned, especially those around climate. I think that we have a lot of great resolutions in place and a lot of good intent, and I think it's really important that we figure out how to turn those into policy. I think there's no better time than now because you know, we're always playing catch up on climate. I also just briefly wanted to mention the Tourist Home Study. I think it's a vital piece in understanding our housing situation. I do think it also calls into question a bigger philosophy on city government and whether or not we are going to proactively police city ordinances. We typically now only act on a complaint based, based system. Whether that's, you know, people parking their campers in the public right right-of-way or vacation homes, and I think there is a shift potentially here on how we enforce our ordinances, that we should be aware of, but data is super important in making that decision on whether or not that is, if it's the right time to make this shift. So, and lastly, I just briefly wanted to mention one item that isn't currently funded but we've heard a lot of public comment on. That being the position of the director for the public art committee. I think that they're, that this is something, having been the person I guess the Council rep to the art committee, I do think that this is something that's needed in the near future. I think, at the moment, maybe there are too many interpretations of what that means, and we need to narrow down what exactly the role of that individual would be and hopefully this inspire committee just went through a strategic planning process that can be formalized and maybe we can revisit this in the near future. So, I think that's, that's where I'll leave it. I think this is a pretty exciting budget with a lot of one-time opportunities that we probably aren't going to see, see again. So, thanks.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Harp. Ms. Harp, you're muted. Ms. Harp, you're muted.

Alderson Harp Thanks. Looking at my notes from our budget meetings. Gwen I, I was struggling to find in my notes, the policy initiatives for CPDI's Department on energy and climate. Can you elaborate a little bit more, because either my memory has forgotten it entirely or I just can't find it? For \$100,000.00

Alderson Jones Right. So that was not initiated by that department; that is a Council initiated request.

Alderson Harp So can you elaborate a little bit more on that since it wasn't part of any of the presentations?

Alderson Jones Sure. So, we've got some great policies in place with our energy climate and conservation plans but there is a need for extra capacity to execute on them. I would love to be hiring an FTE or 2 FTE's but the budget, as we all know, is a delicate process and trying to keep mill levies flat and not increase it too much, instead there was a lot of discussion to instead do a one-time funded, monies that can go towards execution on different initiatives based on staff recommendations. So, I think this is something that staff in CPDI and Leigh Ratterman and Montana James, they'll discuss how best to put this to use to get some more initiatives going forward more quickly because clearly climate change is not going to wait for us. So that's, that's the impetus.

Alderson Harp Okay, thank you. And I think maybe if you could also elaborate upon the, your 6th item for the strategic communications plan.

Alderson Jones Sure. So, if you look in the budget proposal, there was already in the Mayor's department, \$100,000.00 for a line item, for communications and it was divided up and that \$50,000.00 was to go to a survey, to survey the community to see how they would like to be communicated with and the \$50,000.00 was to go towards special engagement projects. And some discussion amongst some Councilors that frankly, we don't really need the survey, we need to start doing more communication. So, this was to push that down the road a little bit quicker and if you talk to communications people in the field, they say yeah you don't really need the survey as much. There's a lot of, what you need is to have a strategic approach and then execute it. And my understanding is last year, the county did a very similar survey on communications, so we can take that information incorporate it into whoever does the comprehensive plan, and use that information. So that was the rationale.

Alderson Harp Okay, thank you, appreciate it.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Sherrill.

Alderson Sherrill Thanks. I am going to be supporting the budget, as well as Ms. Jones' amendments. I think that we started with a really strong budget that supported all the initiatives that we talked about throughout the year. So, I'm happy about that. I'm happy about the changes, as we've evolved and done all of these different presentations with the different departments. I'm really happy with some of the changes that the Mayor has, has made. I'm also really happy about the ARPA funds that we have because we are going to get a lot of really good work done, that is, that's going to be a bit of a lifesaver and sending us, kind of catapulting us forward in the right direction. So, I agree with the things my fellow Councilors have said. I think that this is a strong budget. I think that it does all the things that we say we're going to do and I'm happy to support it.

Mayor John Engen And Mr. Ramos.

Alderson Ramos Thank you Mr. Mayor. I just wanted to gauge the Council interest on an amendment, and then I have some comments so. I wanted to gauge the interest actually on adding a second full-time employee at the Police Department in the corporal position. I know that that the, the PD was very, I don't know, I guess I would say passionate about adding that and wanted to gauge your interest for doing so. And if so, I, I do have some funding recommendations but wanted to gauge that first.

Mayor John Engen Mr. Ramos, I'll, I'll just suggest that because this budget allows for us to hire reserve, reserve officers to service as bailiffs in the court. The Police Department will, in effect, have 1 FTE returned from that service, out of the court and back into general circulation. So, I proposed funding, 1 corporal position and then the Chief can use that additional body that he hasn't had because it's been devoted to the courts for another promotion.

Alderson Ramos Okay. Well, I guess we can kind of play it by ear too and see how that works but just hearing some feedback from different officers that, that might not be the case, but I guess we can always give it next year.

Mayor John Engen Okay. Anything else, Mr. Ramos?

Alderson Ramos Yea, just some general.....Yes, thank you Mr. Mayor, just some general comments about the budget. First I wanted to touch on the, the special districts. I and this is my last year on Council, so I might as well go out with a bang once again by explaining what districts are and why I believe and there was a healthy debate at the State Legislature about these very districts this last session but to me these districts are simply a way of us avoiding the, avoiding the caps up by the State Legislature. These districts were created in 2010, first levied in 2011. The park district was first levied at \$200,000.00 and the road district was first levied at \$300,000.00. These districts were created by

sending mailers, postcards, whatever you want to call them to every property owner in the city and if enough of those property owners did not respond saying that they did not want the district created, it was created automatically. This was not a ballot initiative of any sort. And today the, the road district again, 10 years ago first levied at \$300,000.00, that was now levied today, what we're proposing is 5.7 million dollars, over a 2,000% increase, average over 80% [er year. The park district was first levied at \$200,000.00, today we're levying at 3.3 million dollars. Again, representing an increase of over 70%, over 2,000% over those 10 years. And to me, there's nothing special about these districts and again, this is something that the Legislature debated heavily, and I assume they're going to be debating again but it's every single taxable property in the cities including these districts. So, what exactly makes them special? And again, I, I think that the State Legislature, maybe not this last session, they didn't have the initiative but if we don't kind of fix ourselves and police ourselves, the Legislature is going to fix this problem for us. And I'm not going to be on Council for that, but just like the gas tax and some other things I, I have a feeling that if we don't start to moderate ourselves with this, there's going to be some moderation put in place for us. I mean we look we saw Senator Hertz's bill, which set the cap at half the rate of inflation which would be a big hit to what we've been doing currently with this. So just want to touch base of course on those special districts, wanted to touch base on the fees increases, and the permitting increases again. The corporations do not pay any taxes; the only people that pay taxes and this includes developers are either the customers pay it with higher prices, or the employees pay it with lower wages. Now I know my, my friends on the other side of the aisle acknowledged this when President Trump put some tariffs on China, and they said ultimately those corporations would not pay those taxes, it would be the consumer that paid those taxes. I agree, I agree with that 100% but I don't understand why domestically, both at the local and federal level, level we're okay with raising the corporate income tax, talking about these different permits, which are paid by corporations, and these different fees for different businesses in the city when ultimately we know it's just a sneaky way to tax the individual, but in any case I, I digress. So, in my opinion, this budget, once again, prioritizes government and the bureaucracy of government over the people that we represent. I know I have some philosophical differences with my fellow colleagues and you Mr. Mayor on this but, but that is what I feel and that's something I've been very consistent about during my tenure on Council. One of my colleagues made the comment that seemed to imply that if we don't vote for the budget, that we don't support anything in the budget, in particular the mobile crisis response unit. That couldn't be any further from the truth. Just because I don't support some of the poison pills that I believe are poison pills within this bill, doesn't mean I don't support different aspects of the budget. In fact, I think this

budget does a lot of good and I've been vocal about that during my time on Council, but I think this, this sentiment by one of my colleagues really speaks that I think the problem with politics. I mean this is a bipartisan issue. Believe me, in 2019, the Senate and Congress enacted a COVID relief bill that was 5,000 pages long and they only had a few hours to read it. I know AOC agreed with me on this and many people agreed, 5,000 pages long, unbelievable. One of my favorite books actually is Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand, and that is a very, very long book, great book, but very long; it's about 1,200 pages. So, the COVID relief bill, that was voted on, without people reading it, goes to this mindset, if you don't vote for something, you don't support anything that's in it. It was five times longer than Ayn Rand's, Atlas Shrugged, and I think that this, this piece of legislation really speaks that on a micro level. It's not 5,000 pages long; it's hundreds of pages long and I would bet that a vast majority of my colleagues and citizens actually have not read this in its entirety. And again, this went along the budget process of only reviewing in our public meetings the increases in the budget not the, the whole budget in its entirety and past and present expenditures by those departments as long as they were approved in years past or decades past. As far as property taxes goes, to allege that taxes are not being raised, it's just not true and I understand that even last year, the county was straight up about it and they said that they actually were raising taxes, just not the mills levy. They were levying more dollars out of those mills, and they were very, very straightforward to that effect. So just to again reiterate because I'm not sure if anybody will do this once I'm gone, the way property taxes are valued is there's the market value that's set by the Department of Revenue. That market value for residential properties is multiplied by 1.39%, giving you your taxable value. You divide that number by a thousand and that's the value of a mill and that mill is then multiplied by the value of that mill is multiplied by how many mills the city is levying and I get that we have a formula to try and make the, the special districts more equal to the mills. I think that is an imperfect formula, but I think it's good enough. In any event, if the value of the market goes up by 12%, as the average rate of our mill went up this year, which increased 12% then those formulas correlate, that variable correlates directly in that formula meaning your tax bill at the end of the year, if we don't lower mills levied down to the level that they were equivalent at before, then we're in effect raising taxes by 12%. And again, the county has been straightforward about this, and I hope that we can be a little bit more straightforward. I get that there's expenses and various other things that happen but at the end of the day we have new development which is supposed to supplement that and then in turn fund various improvements that have to be made in a direct correlation with the inflationary costs of having a city that continually progresses and gets bigger and bigger and bigger. Market values will adjust for some of that but not to this extent. So, to blame the DOR is just not true because at the end

of the day, we control the amount of currency that we are charging for people to live here. So, the value of dollar goes up, we can essentially lower our mills levied, our cost to live in this city, equivalent. Let me see here and so obviously there's many things in this budget that I continue not to support. Things that I think actually do more harm than good for the people we represent. I don't think it prioritizes infrastructure, police, fire, and various basic needs. Some things that I've always talked about, and I don't need to hammer them out again today. So, with all due respect, I will not be supporting this budget because I believe it does raise taxes, in effect, and all the various other points that I have made. I think just speak to my general dislike of the budget and something I'm not gonna change the minds of folks for by going on and on again like I've done in years past. So, with all due respect, I will not be supporting and thank you for the time Mr. Mayor.

Mayor John Engen Thank you Mr. Ramos. Ms. West.

Alderson West So I don't know if this is the appropriate time, but I was wondering, for those that were tracking budget discussions during committees. I think last week there was a lot of discussion around the urban forest and I was hoping, I just want to make sure that people know we haven't forgotten the urban forest between last week and today and I was hoping that maybe someone could speak to what requests are being funded and how, I guess how we're reaching those goals that we discussed last week. Gwen, I'm not sure who best to field that question.

Alderson Jones I, I can. If I may? I can answer one main component that Donna Gaukler, Head of Parks, asked for in terms of urban forest capacity, was a grapple truck, which helps take down trees and plant trees and creates much better efficiency. Which the more we can work on that, the more we can get closer to basically breaking even, in terms of replacing all trees, planting new trees to replace all trees taken out. And that's, that's our goal, where we want to be. So, the grapple truck, a new grapple truck would be quite expensive but for half the price, a grapple boom can be purchased and affixed to an existing truck that we already have and that is in the recommended budget.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. West, Ms. Gaukler, is here if you need additional detail?

Alderson West It was mostly for the benefit of the public and I think my understanding, that most of this would be coming from park district fund balance, which I guess you know highlights the importance of having districts, as a resource for our community.

Mayor John Engen Thank you. Mr. Hess.

Alderson Hess Thanks May. The special district conversation is, is smoke and mirrors, in my in my mind. And it is a diversion from the complete budget picture. Setting the increase in taxes at half the rate of inflation is designed to strangle local government out of existence, full stop. It is designed to

reduce the size of government and it is, it should be exposed for what it is. Reducing the, the increase in this in government expenditures to half the rate of inflation means that you do less over time because you can afford to do less over time and that's what it is designed to do and when Mr. Ramos talks about special districts, he, he glosses over that point. This is a local government that should not be strangled out of existence. This is a local government that provides medical aid and fire protection through the Fire Department. This is a local government that sends a police officer to your door or a mobile support team member to your door when you're having the worst day of your life. This is a local government that maintains our streets and roads. It's a local government that plows snow and patches potholes and provides safe and efficient transportation features for kids, for grandparents, for everyone in our community. This is a local government that preserves open space, that provides parkland and playgrounds, that provides kids camps. This is a local government that makes sure that we have clean water when we turn on the tap and that we have clean rivers despite the fact that we're all flushing our toilets. And this is a local government that composts our waste and plants trees. This is a local government that provides tremendous value and to say that it is reasonable to restrict the growth of local government to half the rate of inflation when, when election after election, our residents show up and say that they value the services that we provide and that they want more services is, is frankly irresponsible. So, I appreciate the philosophical difference here, but I have to point out that this is, this is a local government that provides value and this body, the City Council, is elected to be stewards of public funds and stewards we are. And this is a good budget that is, that is a transformative budget. I want to zoom out for a moment. This is my 8th budget as a Council member, and this will be the most impactful, transformative budget that I will have the pleasure of voting for. This budget will make an impact in our community. It will do the work that matters. It will make a difference and it will be transformative. This budget supports our first responders through investments in in radio communications to the tune of several million dollars. It makes investments to our mobile support team, which has, which had incredible public support through last year's budget cycle and has, has been on the ground doing good work for, for almost a year now. This budget makes real substantive investments in the creation of affordable housing through a 2.7 million dollar infusion into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. We, by ordinance, have to put \$100,000.00 in. We're putting 27 times that much in, to fund our Affordable Housing Trust Fund. This budget enables the city to take on a comprehensive rewrite of our zoning code and our regulatory framework; it's a big deal. It's going to modernize our zoning code and support the orderly predictable development of our growing community. It will streamline some of the regulations which will, which will save costs while develop

for, for people that are developing housing and simultaneously, it will improve public development processes and maintain our high standards of quality. It'll build infrastructure that serves our community by supporting the deployment of the, of the Mullan Area BUILD Grant and it'll support vulnerable members of our community through important investments in homelessness initiatives. It takes, this is, this is a budget that I couldn't be more proud to support, and I think that this budget demonstrates what, what incredible value our residents get for their, for their tax dollar. One thing that I'll agree with on this budget is that it with, with Mr. Ramos perhaps, is that this this budget exposes some real, some real problems or it continues to expose some real problems in the incredibly limited, uncreative framework that our State Legislature has given us for funding local government. We are in a state where we have less and less and less industrial and commercial property tax revenues and that's not a result of declining industry, that's a result of our Legislature reducing taxes on businesses that, that have shifted the tax burden to residential uses. So residential taxes are going up while commercial and industrial taxes are going down and that is translated to local property tax bills. And our Legislature has remained uncreative, and they have, they have failed to address what is becoming a burgeoning property tax crisis, you know, in our state. So meanwhile municipalities have important work to do, and this budget does important work. And I hope that this budget is a, a further impetus for residents to contact their State Legislators and ask them for meaningful reform to, to property taxes, to ask them for meaningful reform to how cities and counties are able to, to get the work that they need to do done. And I guess we'll continue to have that conversation, as the next Legislative session nears but, but what we're adopting tonight is impactful. It is transformative, it is a good budget, and I am proud to support it.

Mayor John Engen Thank you Mr. Hess. Ms. Becerra.

Aldersperson Becerra I should know by now not to go after my wardmate, Mr. Hess, because he couldn't have said it better. I just want to point out that I believe one of the most important jobs that we have as City Councilors is, is to ensure that our budget reflects the values of our community and I feel strongly that this budget is a good reflection of the values that we hear constantly from our community.

Ensuring that the funding is equitably distributed throughout departments so that they can touch on all the different aspects of our community and the needs that we see day to day. So, I am fully supportive of this budget. I also want to point out that, while we saw some incredible need and some, some really good arguments for funding, some other requests that my hope is that with, with the ARPA funding that we are receiving now, we're able to, in the future, fund those other requests. I think we're making great

progress that our community gets the services that it needs, and it deserves. And so, I am fully supportive of this budget thank you.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Anderson.

Alderson Anderson Thank you Mr. Mayor and like Ms. Becerra, I have, time and time again, learned my lessons and not go after Mr. Hess. So, I would love to be able to just say, can you repeat all that please Jordan? But I, I won't. I just thank you for highlighting that and really kind of bringing us back out to the larger vision that what this budget funds and is about people and it is about trying to establish you know, on Council, we are constantly trying to thread the needle between you know being good stewards of the taxpayers' dollars, as well as providing basic services. And that has, you know evolved over time as more pressure has been put on us at the municipal level as they continue to make cuts to various services at the state level and you know that's one of the impetuses for us to start the mobile support unit and we are making a significant increase into that this year because it has been so successful and it has been supported by the community and it is making a direct difference in people's lives. So, this budget is about people. I also think that this budget is sort of an example of taking lemons and turning them into lemonade. None of us could have foreseen the pandemic and the impact it would have in our community and thankfully through President Biden and the senators and house members in D.C. who voted for ARPA funding, we have the opportunity to do some really impactful one-time projects that is really taking the lemons that the pandemic has given us and is making lemonades. We're giving one, we are working with the Poverello Center, using county and city ARPA to put 3.5 million dollars in to establish veteran supportive housing. That is a direct impact on people in our community, the people who have served us so proudly and did serve you know us looking out for them. We are taking \$72,000.00 of ARPA funding and putting it to support access for summer and after school programs. That has a direct impact in people in our community and families in our community in a time when childcare is hard to find and very expensive. This is a way in which we have been able to be creative with the funding we have to really directly impact and support the people who call Missoula home. You know there is numerous examples of that like Mr. Hess said, we are making a one-time 2.7 million dollar investment in the, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, that will give us the flexibility to directly impact affordability in this community. One of the number one concerns that people say when they talk about what our challenges are here in Missoula is the affordability of living here and having something like an Affordable Housing Trust Fund and having dollars in there is a direct impact and investment in people in our community. We're also investing in the people who serve our community. We are streamlining and adding capacity to climate action team and that department because all of us

first-hand real day-to-day have seen the impacts of climate change in our community, very you know me and my skis were very sad that we had a very you know drought winter, but it's not just so much about me personally the impacts of that climate change and that drought led to a summer where we had smoke starting on the 4th of July. The entire, practically summer season, when all of us love to get outside, I had to weigh whether or not going outside was worth the impact to me and breathing in all of those smoke particles. So, we're making investments and that invests in people in our community. We're investing in the people who serve our community by adding additional dollars to the Police and Fire Department. Those folks have been out day-to-day, front line, in our community. They don't get to ZOOM in from, for their jobs. They are out there at facing you know what may come and they do it proudly and we are continuing to invest in them. The city is growing, the demands on their services are increasing, and so this, I thank everyone for supporting the additional increase in the baseline in both the Fire Department and the Police Department. So, I really think that despite what my colleagues say that this budget really is a reflection of investment in people in our community and I think I, I have spent a lot of time over my four years on Council talking about property taxes and the components that go into it and really a basic lack of understanding. Because yes, Mr. Ramos is right, the Department of Revenue sets the taxable rate, not the market rate. So, for my house, that's about a \$200,000.00 difference between what my marketable rate is and what my taxable rate is. What I could sell my house for today is very different than what my taxable value is. So, all of those things that we've been highlighting and all the things that Mr. Hess so eloquently said that we are investing in, and that the city provides is provided to me and my portion of my share of that is \$1,500.00. That is what my taxable, if you look at my property taxes, what I pay to the city general fund. So, I get all of that and the privilege of living here in Missoula and knowing that I'm investing in this community. I'm investing in the people who are my fellow citizens and for what I think is you know money well spent. So, and this budget is doing all that and a whole lot more that we didn't get highlighted to today and we're not raising mills. And there are four main components of what goes into property taxes. There's what the Department of Revenue says is your house is you know taxable value and then there's three separate jurisdictions that vote independently to decide what property, what their mill rate is. So, I think that to imply that property taxes is the sole component of what is making Missoula not affordable and that we are the sole responsible is incredibly misleading to the public. And I just want to take this opportunity to kind of in what little ways I can clarify that. And thank you so much to all of my other fellow Council Members and to all of the department for all the work that you come, and you do for our city and for our community

and especially hats off to Leigh and Dale for for shepherding us through this budget process and presenting us with the information that we need to make really informed decisions. So, thanks so much.

Mayor John Engen Ms. Harp.

Alderperson Harp Thank you. I've been thinking about this for, for a bit and like a number of my colleagues, we've been studying taxation in the state of Montana and really nothing has really changed much since our constitution enacted what it did in 1972. The fact that we are purposefully limited to half of inflation is just a conundrum to me. I don't know what business, or non-profit or educational institution would be able to survive if they could only inflate their costs or their expenses, if you will, by half of the inflation. I know, in my work life, if construction materials go up 600% and I can only raise the cost of the houses I sell by 300%, I lose out and that is just not a way you run a business. It certainly should not be a way that you run a local government. I'm reminded by an expression a former boss of mine told me when I was a financial planner, auth matters in the absence of value and I can tell you having done this now four times, our department heads and our executive understand what value is. Now sometimes that value may not, may fall on us when we may not need those particular services, but the odds are, whether we are young, middle-aged, or old or bringing up someone else that we're going to need the services that our local government provides. And I think that was really highlighted well in our local government citizens academy where we really get to hear those folks sing their swan song and talk about what their department does and I won't re-articulate what Jordan all said, but to at the end of the day these are all public servants trying to do the very best for all of us in this community that we all love and I'm in full support of this budget.

Mayor John Engen Mr. Ramos.

Alderperson Ramos Thanks Mayor, I just wanted to clarify a couple of things. First and foremost, I just wanted to say that I believe it or not will miss these, these budget meetings, and these Council meetings because I do have a lot of respect for my colleagues, even though I don't agree with them on everything. I, I know from the bottom of my heart they're trying to do the best thing that they can for for their citizens and I, I hope that they feel the same way about me because that's all I'm trying to do as well. I agree that that all the things that that Mr. Hess talked about are very important from, from infrastructure to public safety, but one thing that I did want to bring up is, is that there's different ways to go about these funding and I don't think that anybody in the State Legislature is advocating for less infrastructure, less public safety. I think their advertising, advocating for a little bit more transparency around how these funds are raised and various other types of, I think disagreements generally. I think Mr. Hess is right about the size of government, that that there are certain things that the local

government believes are left to the private sector certain things that the folks believe are left to the public sector, but that doesn't mean that they don't agree that all those things should be done. I think that there's a big philosophical debate about taxation, which I'm happy to have that discussion with my colleagues, at any time, and the coercive nature of it. I wanted to address Ms. Anderson's point that I understand that what she's saying. The market value is different than what the market value is under the DOR's appraised value but at the end of the day, it is referred to as the market value that the DOR sets and then the taxable value is derived from the equation of taking the market value from the DOR appraisal multiplying that by whatever multiplicative factor, it is different between business and, and local government or business and residential and then that gives you the taxable value. So, what the appraisal sets, the DOR is actually referred to as the market value, even though again I understand what you're saying that you could sell your home for more than what the DOR appraises it as but the taxable value is completely separate, but I think I just wanted to, to kind of wrap up my, my general comments about this budget that again I come from the philosophy that we can't tax ourselves into prosperity. I mean I know that we're talked, we talk about all these different limits that are set by various entities on our taxing but, but I just wanted to ask my colleagues, I mean what is enough? I mean how much money would it take to achieve everything that we want to achieve and at that point would we not want to raise taxes anymore? Would we continue to need more revenue to fund more things? I just don't want us to create these, these insolvable problems trying to achieve a utopia, a utopia that will never really exist. I mean we could have a sales tax. We could have a city income tax. We could have all these different taxes and we could be like California and, and each and every year those different places I talk about how they need more and more and more and more and more. Meanwhile their citizens are struggling. They're hurting. They're continuing to struggle and their lives are not actually improving in those different districts. So, I just ask people to take a retrospective look and say what is enough? Well, if we could raise taxes as much as we wanted to, how much would that be? If we could have income tax in the city, would we do that? If we could have a sales tax in the in the city, would we do that? And what would we do for that and at what point would it be enough? Is there ever any enough and can we always make everybody happy? I don't think that we can, but I think that we can get out of the way and allow these different people to make their own decisions and different non-profits and other groups to come in and fill the gaps that are otherwise left in the in the void of not taxing people to the point that we are today. So, I just wanted to add those clarifications and again I will miss my time on Council, and this is certainly a bittersweet moment for me, is the last budget as a Council member but

thank you all for your time. I just wanted to clarify a few things. Thank you Mr. Mayor for allowing me additional time.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Anderson.

Aldersperson Anderson Thanks Mr. Mayor. I do think the one thing that Mr. Ramos and I do agree on is the need to diversify our income stream in the city but how we go about doing that I think is where we would differ. So I just quickly would be remiss without and thank you for the extra time pointing out the how pleased I am about what we're doing around the parks, in the park special district and how this is an opportunity to once again, I feel like this budget theme is lemons and lemonade to take some of the fund balance as Donna Gaukler, who is the head of parks and recreation pointed out last week that we have, have a bit of money sitting in that parks fund because of a variety of things and not being able to fill various positions. And so, we're taking that opportunity to utilize those for some really big structural impacts. And I feel like my entire time I have been on Council; I have been advocating for the redo of the Maryland Park Sports Courts. Maryland Park is the biggest park in Ward 5; it gets tons of use from not only people who live here in this part of town but from many others and this budget, through the opportunity to do a little bit of spending down in the parks fund, does allow for some opportunities to fix some of those infrastructure pieces that are really important to our community. And I think that we have all highlighted, at various points, over the last year and a half about the need for open space and parks and how that has just been a lifeline for so many members of our community during the pandemic to get out and be able to see friends in a safe way. Maryland Park, almost every day I drive by it, and it has some birthday party or some sort of family gathering, and people are being able to do that safely and still have that human contact. So really excited about that opportunity and I think that that once again, we're just, we are trying to balance the need of fiscal responsibility, which I think we are achieving with, you know, the growing demands in our community. So, I wanted to point that out and thank folks for supporting that.

Mayor John Engen Ms. Jones.

Aldersperson Jones There we go, thanks. I am just briefly wanted to again say thanks for a great budget Mr. Mayor. And I was very focused on amendments. So, I'm glad that people spoke to all of the broad sweeping strokes that are in there with the great stuff that is being done since we have this silver lining and a pandemic to have this money coming in that can truly move the needle in certain areas. I too hope we get tax reform at some point from a thoughtful Legislature because frankly, they have set up an unsustainable system for us which I never quite get what the long run goal is when it's an unsustainable trajectory, but that's exactly what the Legislature is doing and it's as if I just, I just never can wrap my

mind around it because I think we need our local services. It is a huge impact on our quality of life. So, I've talked about it for years that we need thoughtful tax reform, and we have a lot of needs in this community. Life never gets simpler; it gets more complicated. So that's where local government can pick up the slack in terms of quality of life and I hope we start taking some dollars out of tourist pockets at some point because guess what there's a lot of them there and we're missing out on all of that. But to our local legislators, you always know where to find me and I've given you plenty of opinions on this. And Mr. Mayor, I just wanted to say that I believe that Leigh Griffing has to, prior to any vote on this budget, I think she wanted to repost the amendments, something along that line. So just wanted to put that out there. Thank you.

Mayor John Engen And seeing none....Ms. Merritt.

Alderperson Merritt Thank you. All of my colleagues have highlighted the great things that are in this budget, and I am well in support of it. One of the things that has jumped out at me, over the years, as we've gone through this budget process is the, the amazing expertise that we have in the heads of our departments and the staff members who come and present information to us and the work that they do with the money that we budget to their departments. We've, you know, looked at things like the, the streets division where I think they ring, you know, \$3.00 out of every dollar, we give them sometimes because they make everything they, they take every bit of it and make it work. I feel like they are always under resourced and some of these areas where, where our citizens and our residents want us and have expressed openly that they want us to do more, not less. They want us to do more and that's what the, the great people on our staff have done and I, I you know one of the things I have appreciated about serving on City Council is the, those great folks that that the Mayor has brought to the heads of those departments. So, Mayor thank you for your hard work and finding those great people that do good work for us. There are many highlights in this budget that that others have spoken to that I think really do speak to the values that are important to this community, and I'm very happy to support that. We, we need housing across the spectrum and the, the changes to our housing code is going to help, hopefully the some of the costs associated with the middle, the missing middle that we need to build and the investment in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund is going to help with housing at the lower end. The safety of our community through the, the very large increase to the mobile support team's budget is huge and all of the effort that the Fire Department has put in, in making that happen I appreciate that and I'm I probably I'm leaving a lot of folks out that I would like to thank for the hard work that they do with. It's, it's our city staff and on the important thing about that as well is that we need to pay those people well and that's an important aspect. We, our city staff do good work for us, and they deserve a

wage that allows them to live in this community. So, I think that this budget accomplishes those things. It provides some emphasis on climate change that is very important that we act on that. So, I'm in support. I want to thank everyone for all the hard work and Gwen, Stacie, Bryan, Jordan, and Amber, I'm sure, who have worked hard to make those last-minute budget amendments and I support every one of them. Thank you.

Mayor John Engen Thank you Ms. Merritt and thank all of you. Seeing no further discussion, Ms. Griffing, would you like to give us a grand total based on amendments this evening?

Leigh Griffing Certainly. So, we have updated the resolutions and the appropriations are now estimated at \$244,014,020.00.

Mayor John Engen And thank you Ms. Griffing. And with that, we have motions on the floor. We've had a public hearing and a robust discussion, and we will have votes on the motions before the body.

Marty Rehbein Okay, just to clarify. This is on all of the motions before the body?

Mayor John Engen Yes.

Marty Rehbein Thank you.

Mayor John Engen And with that, we have a municipal budget for Fiscal Year 22. Thank you all very much and thanks again to Leight and Dale, and all of our staff. As some of my Council colleagues pointed out this evening, we have a great team here at the City of Missoula and we're lucky to have these public servants at our disposal to do the great work that is expected from our residents and the work that they deserve.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR - None.

11. GENERAL COMMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL

Mayor John Engen We'll move on to general comments from Council Members beginning with Ms. Merritt.

Aldersperson Merritt So it's always the bingo of who gets to go first. I just want to remind folks that Missoula County Public Schools is starting in session next week. So, watch out for kids at bus stops and good luck to everyone in this coming school year. I am grateful to Superintendent Watson for his, for the decision and the Superintendent Watson and the school board for their decision to mandate masks in Missoula County Public Schools for the first 6 weeks of the schoolyear. That is a step that is important for the protection of our students and staff at the school. So, I'm grateful that they took that step thanks.

Mayor John Engen And Mr. Ramos.

Aldersperson Ramos I will pass, and I thank you Mr. Mayo.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Jones.

Aldersperson Jones Thanks. I will just say briefly that I know several people right now who were vaccinated and have still contracted COVID. So, the Delta variant is highly transmissible; our hospitals are full. So please stay socially distant and it was great not wearing a mask for a few months, but I've had to pull out all of my masks and we're back at it and putting on a mask every time I go indoors someplace. So, everybody please be careful out there and we're, we're back in the tunnel so let's, let's ride it out. The sooner we do, the sooner we'll be out. Thanks.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Sherril.

Aldersperson Sherrill Thanks. I want to repeat something that Gwen just said. Our hospitals are full, that affects everyone. If you have a heart attack, you know if you're in a car accident, we really, I say this every week and I think I'm going to keep saying it. Please go out and get vaccinated. There are a number of people in our community that are not able to be vaccinated, kids so specifically. So, I just asked that that you get vaccinated, and I appreciate the Mayor's comments last week on urging people to do so.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Harp.

Aldersperson Harp I would like to just mention that this Friday and Saturday is our Roots Festival, our big festival that's been going on for probably 15 years now. A great opportunity to be outside, enjoy one another, and hopefully stay socially distanced from one another but actually enjoy some music and this cooler weather that we all I think appreciate. Thanks.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. West.

Aldersperson West So I just want to let everybody know that the Housing Trust Fund is having an innovation round of funding. I think this is super exciting. We passed the Affordable Housing Trust Fund just over a year ago and it's first round of you know trial funding is happening now; it opened today. There is going to be a workshop for folks who are interested in participating on Wednesday from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. It's a ZOOM meeting so hopefully anyone who wants to participate, can participate. If you have any questions about it, reach out to our wonderful Housing Trust Fund Administrator, Emily Harris-Shears. She would be able to answer any of your questions and direct you where to go. So, I hope that this is a success and is just a, you know a fraction of what we will realize with this tool at our disposal. So, show up.

Mayor John Engen Ms. Anderson.

Aldersperson Anderson Thank you so much Mr. Mayor. I just want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all employees of the City of Missoula, budgeting season really gets us it gives us a chance to see

and highlight all the great work that you do and it really takes every single one of you from department heads to clerical staff and every point in between to really make our community how special it is and I consider it a true honor to live here and to serve this community and it definitely takes every single one of you to help make that work. So, a sincere thank you. I see several members in the attendance tonight who are city staff and just want to take this opportunity to say thank you. I also want to thank the general community for uptick in mask wearing. I have definitely seen an increase, as I have been out, of people wearing masks and just want to say thank you for that, for protecting your community members, for protecting my family. There are members of my family who can't get vaccinated; my dear sweet mother is immunocompromised. So, thank you for stepping up and doing your part and wearing a mask. I'm also seeing a lot more color and deviation in those. So, it's you know think of it as a fun accessory and something that's doing is protecting people you don't know but who are dearly loved. And to Gwen's point about the Delta variant, I do don't want her comments to discourage anyone from getting vaccinated. Yes there are breakthrough cases happening but the, you know, the data is supporting that those people are not getting nearly as sick and that's really what it's all about. As Amber has said, and we have been alerted, our hospitals are filled and that is so scary because we all know that life happens and people you know have medical emergencies and, and we need to have space for them. And so please if you are hesitant the FDA today fully authorized the Pfizer vaccine, so it is no longer in emergency status. It has fully been authorized, just like the flu vaccine, the chickenpox vaccine, the measles mumps rubella vaccine. So please if you are hesitant take this as a sign that it is it is safe to go forward and get that vaccine and do so to protect yourself, keep yourself out of the hospital, and because you know there are people who need that care and need those beds and we all are in this together. So, thank you so much to the Missoula community for doing the right thing.

Mayor John Engen And Mr. Hess.

Aldersperson Hess Thanks Mayor. I'd like to thank Leigh Griffing and Dale Bickell for pulling together this budget. It's a heavy lift every year and this year with all of the ARPA funds and other sources, it is a heavier lift. So, thanks to both of them and to up thanks to all the department heads and staff that that pulled budget proposals together.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Vasecka.

Aldersperson Vasecka I'll pass tonight, thank you.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Becerra.

Aldersperson Becerra Thank you. I too want to thank Leigh and Dale for all of your work, guiding us through the budget process. I also want to thank everyone who works for the City. Every year, we get

presentations from all departments, and I'm always so impressed with the amount of work and the quality of the work that this City provides all its citizens. So, a big thank you.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None.

12.1 Administration and Finance committee (AF) report

12.1.1 August 18, 2021 Administration and Finance Meeting Minutes

12.2 Budget Committee of the Whole (BCOW) committee report

12.2.1 August 18, 2021 Budget Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

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

12.6 Public Safety and Health (PSH) committee report

12.6.1 August 18, 2021 Public Safety and Health Meeting Minutes

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 Hazardous Vegetation Assessments for fiscal year 2022

14.1.2 Sidewalk/Snow removal assessments for fiscal year 2022

14.1.3 Resolution to authorize lease and approval of lease contract with Learning With Meaning

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

14.5.1 Informational Item: Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report

14.6 Public Safety and Health committee referrals

14.6.1 Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG 2021) Memorandum Of Understanding

14.6.2 Health Department Update on prevention of underage cannabis use

14.7 Public Works committee referrals

14.7.1 Professional Services Amendment No. 2 with Morrison-Maierle for the Grant Creek Lift Station

14.7.2 Noise Ordinance Variance for night work on Mount Ave.

14.7.3 Bid Award with Prospect Construction, Inc. for Caras Park

15. MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

15.1 Administratively approved agreement report - None.

16. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Martha L. Rehbein, CMC, City Clerk

John Engen, Mayor