

## **DRAFT - Missoula City Council Administration and Finance Committee Minutes**

**October 6, 2021**

**9:00 AM**

**ZOOM Webinar**

**Members present:** Stacie Anderson, John P. Contos, Heather Harp, Gwen Jones (chair), Julie Merritt, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West

**Members absent:** Mirtha Becerra, Jordan Hess, Jesse Ramos, Amber Sherrill

### **1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

#### **1.1 Roll Call**

#### **1.2 Approval of the Minutes**

##### **1.2.1 Minutes from the 9/29/2021 Meeting**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public Comment was called for and there was none.

### **3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 Referral – Contract Approval for Emergency Winter Shelter**

Emily Armstrong and Jesse Jaeger and Jill Bonny from the Poverello Center offered a presentation regarding the Emergency Winter Shelter. Please see attached presentation for more details.

Gwen Jones - A privacy fence has gone up around the property, in addition to a security plan being put in place.

Julie Merritt - Made the motion. Thanks to all for their hard work. This has been an ongoing effort for quite some time. This is a difficult situation, but it saves lives and we need to protect these people in our community.

John Contos - How did the neighborhood respond? How were they contacted and did they have any concerns?

Emily Armstrong - We have reached out in quite a few ways; a mailer was sent out with contact information for them to reach to, organizing stakeholder meetings to make sure we have direct communication with and we will be hosting an open house on October 28th.

John Contos - What were the main concerns?

Jesse Jaeger - I have been in many of those meetings. In general, they were supportive and appreciated the changes we are making with security, etc. We live in a very

generous community who want to support their vulnerable neighbors. We try to very honest with everyone regarding our proactive measures and societal issues we all face.

Takami Clark - We called and emailed people. Many people did not want to meet. They knew how it went last year and know where to reach out, should problems arise. We are still waiting on responses from some. Security is one of the main concerns so with hiring security, that will be helpful.

Sandra Vasecka - Will security be 24/7?

Emily Armstrong - This is still in discussions.

Sandra Vasecka - There was drugs, needles in MRL Park, defecating in yards; there are now other options with the TOS and Meadowlark. I cannot support this motion.

Bryan von Lossberg - The Human Resource Council is contributing?

Emily Armstrong - Yes, \$205,000.

Julie Merritt - I also received concerns of the same nature. I connected those people with the Quality of Life officer and the Pov and they were reached out to immediately. With our efforts for security, etc., there will still be some problems. We still need a place for people and this is the best place that has been identified. The TOS is full and the Meadowlark is also full and we still have families living in their cars. So, in my opinion, not having this open is not an option.

Stacie - I want to echo Ms. Merritt's comments. I know this is not ideal, but we need to be thinking of creative solutions. When the Bellagio and Trinity complex opens, these are coming on line. We wish we could have these all open immediately, but they are coming as quickly as they can. In the meantime, we need to keep people safe. Hopefully some of the measures being put in place will address some of the concerns people have.

Public comment was called for.

Bob Campbell offered public comment. I appreciate the question from Mr. Contos. With all due respect to Ms. Vasecka, he addressed this to Pov staff. But I was disappointed they never did really answer the question themselves. With the security being put in place, there is not going to be a lot of details about this. How much authority will the security have? I don't think we have received good answers to any of these questions.

Bryan von Lossberg - I think it is worth remembering that the emergency winter shelter has been a process over many years now. Everyone pitched in prior to having this. The point is to keep people alive. It is important to me that we strive to improve every year. Every year there have been problems and I have spent so much time, pretty much the entirety of my time on Council, answering emails, walking neighborhoods. It is a difficult problem and a few people can put a negative light on an effort demanded by our sense of human decency and keeping people safe. I am appreciative that people have tried to lean in on this and make each year better and being honest about the situation, good and bad, but we have tried to make change every year and we have. It comes down to a contrast in values. I will be supporting and appreciate the work on this.

Gwen Jones - I agree. These are hard, heavy lifts. This is a hard project. It is hard on the community, the people who need the help, the people who run the center. I feel

Missoula does a good job in addressing it the best we can. I feel if we don't have this, we will have people staying in encampments and that is a more difficult situation. The Pov had to cut capacity in half due to Covid and CDC guidelines. There is clearly a need to fill that void. Meadowlark and the TOS are full. I know this is hard on the neighborhood and that is why we are taking the precautions we can for the neighborhood.

Vote was taken.

This will be put onto Committee Reports

**Moved by:** Julie Merritt

To authorize the Mayor to sign and execute an agreement with The Poverello Center for the provision of Emergency Winter Shelter services funded by the City of Missoula.

AYES: (6): Stacie Anderson, Heather Harp, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

NAYS: (2): John Contos, and Sandra Vasecka

ABSENT: (4): Mirtha Becerra, Jordan Hess, Jesse Ramos, and Amber Sherrill

**Vote results: Approved (6 to 2)**

### **3.2 Community Based Organization Contracts FY22**

Kirsten Hands presented. These contracts are provided for annually in the budget process. This is to formalize the contracts .

Bryan von Lossberg - I am happy to make the motion.

Stacie Anderson - Could you provide just a bit of info about each contract?

Kirsten - The attachments go into more specific detail. Kirsten gave a brief summary of each item.

Public comment was called for. There was none.

Onto consent agenda.

**Moved by:** Bryan von Lossberg

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with the following community based organizations for FY22: Missoula Economic Partnership (\$100,000), Arts Missoula (\$202,350), International Choral Festival (\$12,000), Missoula Aging Services (\$287,735), Partnership Health Center (\$35,000)

AYES: (8): Stacie Anderson, John Contos, Heather Harp, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (4): Mirtha Becerra, Jordan Hess, Jesse Ramos, and Amber Sherrill

**Vote results: Approved (8 to 0)**

### **3.3 Community Benefit Organization Contract Approval – Climate Smart Missoula and Home ReSource**

Leigh Ratterman presented the information. This is an add-on to the information Kirsten presented. Katie Deuel with Home ReSource and Amy Cilimburg with Climate Smart offered information about the plans for this year. The City is working toward zero waste by 2050 with several interim goals. Zero waste is a very important way to create sustainability in our community. It supports our community and increases local business and services, reduces our carbon footprint and saves our natural resources. It is a very important way to achieve many of the City's larger goals. Zero waste is tangible and doable. We know what we need to do and how we need to do it. It does involve some investment in the community, coming from government, public and private community members. We do a significant education program and the City monies also help with infrastructure.

Bryan von Lossberg - I am happy to put the motion on the floor. These are really smart investments and partnerships on the part of the City. They have track records of success and are connected across the state and country. We get more done when we partner with organizations like these. Frankly, I wish we could contribute more to it.

Julie Merritt - I wanted to say thanks to Katie and Amy for being here. I agree with Bryan.

Stacie Anderson - I want to echo these sentiments. For the small investment we are making into these organizations, the leverage we are getting is incredibly significant.

Public comment was called for and there was none.

Gwen Jones - Thank you for all your work and the thoughtful comments. I would love it if we could make a larger investment, but we do what we can with the resources we have.

Onto consent agenda.

**Moved by:** Bryan von Lossberg

approve a contract with Climate Smart Missoula for Climate Action work in FY 2022 in the amount of \$35,000. I move that the City Council approve a contract with Home ReSource for Climate Action work in FY 2022 in the amount of \$35,000.

AYES: (8): Stacie Anderson, John Contos, Heather Harp, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (4): Mirtha Becerra, Jordan Hess, Jesse Ramos, and Amber Sherrill

**Vote results: Approved (8 to 0)**

## **4. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.