

**Journal Of Proceedings**  
**Missoula City Council Meeting**  
**October 18, 2021, 6:00 pm**  
**ZOOM Webinar**

**Members Present:** Stacie Anderson, John P. Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Jesse Ramos, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West

**Members Absent:** Mirtha Becerra

**Administration Present:** Jim Nugent, City Attorney, Marty Rehbein

**Administration Absent:** Mayor John Engen

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

The virtual meeting of the Missoula City Council was called to order by Acting Mayor Bryan von Lossberg 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 October 18, 2021

Public Safety and Health Committee, October 20, 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Administration and Finance Committee, October 20, 10:45 - 11:45 a.m.

Public Works Committee, October 20, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

President von Lossberg Thank you very much Ms. Rehbein. Our next item on the agenda is public comment on non-agenda items.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

President von Lossberg This is an opportunity to provide public comment and if you could limit it to 3 minutes ideally on any items that are not otherwise scheduled on our agenda this evening. So, if you're in attendance and would like to provide public comment go ahead and raise your hand, and I can take that. Not seeing any raised hands in the public, we will move on to our consent agenda.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

President von Lossberg Items on the consent agenda were approved in City Council committees and are placed on the consent agenda to save time at Council meetings like this evening by voting

on them as a package city clerk will read the list aloud so citizens watching on MCAT will know what is on the consent agenda and we'll invite community comment on these items before we vote. All yours, Ms. Rehbein.

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

ABSENT: (1): Alderperson Becerra

**Vote result: Approved (11 to 0)**

#### **5.1 Accounts Payable (claims) for checks dated October 12, 2021**

Ratify accounts payable in the amount of \$834,978.96 for checks dated October 12, 2021.

**Vote result: Approved**

#### **5.2 Accounts Payable (claims) for checks dated October 19, 2021**

Approve accounts payable in the amount of \$984,008.07 for checks dated October 19, 2021.

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

NAYS: (3): Alderperson Contos, Alderperson Ramos, and Alderperson Vasecka

ABSENT: (1): Alderperson Becerra

**Vote result: Approved (8 to 3)**

#### **5.3 Community Based Organization Contracts FY22**

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with the following community based organizations for FY22: Missoula Economic Partnership (\$100,000.00), Arts Missoula (\$202,350.00), International Choral Festival (\$12,000.00), Missoula Aging Services (\$287,735.00), Partnership Health Center (\$35,000.00)

**Vote result: Approved**

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

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign two contracts for climate action work in fiscal year 2022 with Climate Smart Missoula in the amount of \$35,000.00 and with Home ReSource in the amount of \$35,000.00.

**Vote result: Approved**

### **5.5 Resolution for Radio and Communications Equipment Leasing Agreement**

Adopt a resolution determining the need for the acquisition of public safety radio equipment in order to enter into a lease purchase financing agreement with Motorola for the financing of public safety radio equipment.

**Vote result: Approved**

### **5.6 Annexation of Linda Vista 11th Supplement, Linda Vista 18th Supplement, and Tract 3A of Certificate Of Survey No. 6798**

Adopt a resolution of intention to annex and incorporate within the boundaries of the City of Missoula Lots 2 through 8 in the Linda Vista 11th Supplement and a portion of Joy Drive adjacent, Lots 1 through 41, Common Area 1 and 2, and portions of Max Drive, Maggie Mae Drive, and Guinevere Drive in the Linda Vista 18th Supplement and a portion of Miller Creek Road, and Tract 3A of Certificate of Survey No. 6798 and a portion of Jim Loop Drive within the tract, all shown on Exhibits A and B and located in Section 13, Township 12 North, Range 20 West, and zone the property PUD Miller Creek View Addition, subject to conditions of annexation, based on the findings of fact in the staff report, set the public hearing for October 25, 2021, and refer this item to the Land Use & Planning Committee on October 27, 2021.

**Vote result: Approved**

President von Lossberg Thank you Ms. Rehbein. Mr. Ramos.

Alderperson Ramos Thank you Mr. Acting Mayor. Can we please divide the question and vote on 5.2 separately due to Mountain Water legal bills?

President von Lossberg Absolutely, we will do 5.2 separately. Is there any public comment on the consent agenda? Not seeing any, any Council, additional Council questions or comments? Okay seeing none, let's have a roll call vote whichever is easier for you Ms. Rehbein. We could do all items except 5.2 or the inverse.

Marty Rehbein Yes, yes, let's do all items except for 5.2 and just noting for the record that Ms. Anderson and Ms. West have joined us since we did the roll call.

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

## **7. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

President von Lossberg We have one item under special presentations. It is a proclamation for Crime Victim Advocates and Social workers Appreciation Day and it's an honor to read this. This is a proclamation of both Missoula City and County, Montana.

### **7.1 Proclamation - Crime Victim Advocates and Social Workers Appreciation Day**

WHEREAS, the effects of abuse and violent crimes such as domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking across all social and economic lines and affect people of all ages and genders and erode the fabric of our community; and WHEREAS, dedicated victim advocates at the Missoula City County Community Justice Department, the Missoula YWCA, the University of Montana's Student Advocacy Resource Center, St. Patrick's Hospital's First Step Resource Center, and victim witness coordinators at the Missoula County and City Attorney's offices provide support, information, and a continuum of care for victims of crime and their families and WHEREAS, in the past year, the YWCA Pathways Program provided services to more than 1,300 survivors of interpersonal violence, the Crime Victim Advocate Program served 1,750 survivors, the Student Advocacy Resource Center provided services to 228 survivors, and First Step served over 400 clients; and, WHEREAS, Missoula community members can get involved by recognizing and supporting the people and programs that provide safety, healing, and help for survivors of relationship violence, listening, speaking up, and expecting respect, and challenging those who joke about, insult, or try to dehumanize others, and supporting legislation and pledging never to commit, condone or, remain silent about relationship violence. Now, therefore, Mayor, John Engen, the City of Missoula, and the Missoula Board of County Commissioners, do hereby jointly proclaim October 21, 2021 as Crime Victim Advocates and Social workers Appreciation Day.

President von Lossberg I see a couple hands in the audience, among my colleagues, and Mr. Ramos.

Alderperson Ramos Thank you Mr. President. Yeah just wanted to speak to this. This is probably one of the most important things that, that I've been able to do on Council along with a lot of my fellow Council members is to get some recognition for these gals in the form of a proclamation. Unfortunately, the, the pandemic has made it so that we couldn't have our annual Crime Victim Advocate Appreciation Night, but I'm hoping that before too long, we're able to start that back up again. I'll be off Council, but I know there's some folks that will certainly pick that up and just

wanted to speak to the importance of it. As I've told folks before, I grew up with it with a single mom who's a crime victim advocate and I saw her really put large, large pieces of herself into these different victims that she helped and she had to retire a little bit earlier than most just because she said that that throughout her years, she just gave so much to these different women and she told me that time and time again, she would give a small piece of herself until there was really no more to give. So, so the amount of stress and sacrifice these women do for these victims is, is just absolutely incredible. I, I posted something on my mom's wall on Facebook not too long ago. She's been retired for six years, wishing her happy birthday, and just the outpouring of support that she got from victims that were able to to escape that domestic violence and escape that that that life that they were in because of her. Not, not all did unfortunately and those were always the most heartbreaking when when these women pour their life and and and soul into trying to help these gals and then unfortunately the perpetrator is able to, I think, scam these these women back into their lives. It's very heartbreaking. So, I think that people don't really realize that when they think of crime victim advocate how much the job entails and how much these these women give to the victims and and how hard it is on them and how thankless the job really is. So, I just want to thank all the women in in the field right now and, and encourage the survivors, and people that are in a domestic situation to reach out to these gals because you'll get nothing but the best from them and and I can't thank them enough from the bottom of my heart for the work that they do.

President von Lossberg Ms. Merritt.

Alderpersion Merritt Thank you. I want to thank Jesse for shining a bright light on the appreciation of the folks who do this work, day in day out. It is probably very often a thankless job but a very very important one. I, I wanted to just speak briefly because there has been some, there were there was a bill in our last legislature, and there's been some conversation around the topic of folks who suffer from sexual harassment not being believed and language used that if, if an allegation is not proved true then the woman must be lying, and she must have made a false accusation, or the person made a false accusation. And I just want to underscore, since we're on the topic, how harmful that type of language is. The incidence of false reporting, especially of rape and sexual harassment is very low. Reporting of, of rape is very low to begin with and then to, on top of that, to face the potential accusation that that you lied is, is just tremendously damaging to people who would bring these types of situations to light. So, I just wanted to take this

opportunity to highlight that as well and again thank all the folks who work in this field and thank Jesse for consistently bringing this to the forefront of people's minds. Thanks.

President von Lossberg Thanks Ms. Merritt and thank you Mr. Ramos, as well. I'd add my thanks. I have always appreciated speaking with your mom at those events, not able to do it, as you said this year, but have enjoyed that in the past and add my appreciation to the work that she did and to all of the folks who work in this field. It is incredibly important work. So, thank you. And normally when we're in person there's sometimes folks from these organizations. I'm not sure if there is anyone in the attendees who's associated in some fashion with the proclamation. I'm happy to take any public comment if you wanted to raise your hand. I'm not seeing that, but thank you again.

**8. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None.**

**9. FINAL CONSIDERATION - None.**

**10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

President von Lossberg As I said at the beginning of the meeting, I just wanted to behalf of myself, and I'm sure many, many others throughout the community, offer my condolences to the Mayor on the passing of his mother. And with that, we'll go to Council comments, and bear with me while I remember how to work my computer.

**11. GENERAL COMMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL**

President von Lossberg We will start with Mr. Ramos.

Aldersperson Ramos You're keeping me on my toes tonight. I'm usually dead last. I just want to join you in offering my condolences to the Mayor on the passing of his mother. I know how much she meant to him and how hard he worked these, these past few months if not past few years to be a caregiver for her and how much that takes out of a person. So, I just wanted to pass those condolences along to Mayor Engen.

President von Lossberg Mr. Contos.

Aldersperson Contos Yeah, basically the same. It's very impressive that an older man like that would take his mom in, in the situation she was in, and give the care that he did for her. That's pretty impressive and says a lot about him.

President von Lossberg Thank you. Ms. Vasecka.

Aldersperson Vasecka Thanks. I just want to echo what my colleagues have said. I can't, can't even imagine what the Mayor is going through right now. Losing your mother would be like losing a

part of your soul. So, my deepest condolences go out to his family, him, and all of them all their loved ones. On a different note, at the last meeting it was right before antelope rifle season, and I mentioned to everyone to be safe out there. And since then, I noticed some unsafe firearm safety practices that was really concerning to me, especially from seasoned hunters. So, this weekend is the opening of general season. So, I want to remind everyone to always know your target and beyond. Be aware of other people if they're shooting next to you and, and hikers out there wear orange if you're going deep into hunting ground. So, just remember your, your hunter safety classes. Thank you.

President von Lossberg Thanks. Ms. Anderson.

Alderson Anderson Thank you so much. Obviously, I want to add my condolences to the Mayor and his family. And yes it was quite a feat and I think a lot of us saw firsthand the emotional toll it took on him, for her caring, for him in the latter part, as she was dying and he said, that while she took such good care of him when he was born and raised, that it was the least he could do, and I do think that that does say a lot about him, and it obviously says a lot about her. What a truly amazing woman she was. So, yes definitely pass on my condolences. I also would like to you know. Unfortunately, there are still folks in our community who are not taking the precautions they need to stop the spread of COVID, and our hospitals continue to be at max capacity. I saw a news report that St. Pete's in Helena is literally full. Folks this is you know this is a real thing and I don't know what more it's going to take for you all to decide to you know get vaccinated, continue to socially distance, wear a mask it's a simple piece of cloth but it's the least you can do. There are those in our community who have gotten all the vaccinations, taken all the precautions, and still find themselves because of immunodeficiencies and whatnot, not fully vaccinated and have the antibodies and and they are just literally trying to every day that they go out into public dodge the bullet and knowing that if they were to catch COVID, it would very likely be a death sentence. And one of those people is my mother and I don't know what I would do without her either. So, please just just do the bare simple things for the common humanity, for the common good, so that we can get through this and that people who are immunocompromised for a variety of reasons can spend the holidays with their loved ones. Thanks.

President von Lossberg Ms. Sherril.

Alderson Sherrill I would like to offer my condolences to the Mayor as well. And I think just, as I think about the fact that he got COVID taking care of his mother when she had COVID, and they got

through that together. And you know it has been it's been a long road for him, and I know that while he's really happy, he's been able to be there for her, the end has been really hard. So that's all I have to say.

President von Lossberg Ms. Merritt.

Alderson Merritt Thank you. I also would like to offer the Mayor my condolences. And I would like to change the subject. Since things are happening again with our high school students, the Missoula speech and debate teams will be hosting the West Regional Tournament on November 11 and 12, 2012. And in order to host a tournament, it requires a lot of volunteer time from people who are willing to judge the speech and debate events. And so, we're asking the community if you have a few hours to donate to a good cause, please go to the MCPS Sentinel High School webpage and search for speech and debate and there is a judge signup form there. If you would be willing to spend a little bit of your time judging for these students. They get so much out of speech and debate and I for one am very glad that I have the opportunity to give back to this program.

Thanks.

President von Lossberg Thank you. Ms. Jones.

Alderson Jones I'll pass, thank you.

President von Lossberg Thanks. Mr. Hess.

Alderson Hess Thanks, I'll pass.

President von Lossberg Ms. Harp.

Alderson Harp Thanks Bryan. Can everybody hear me?

President von Lossberg Yeah.

Alderson Harp Okay, just want to make sure. So, next week, Tuesday, October 26, 2021, I invite all of you and all who might be listening to a town hall that Habitat for Humanity is going to be hosting, to really kind of talk about what we are doing as a community partner to address housing. And it's going to be held jointly as a hybrid both at the public library starting at six o'clock, as well as on, via ZOOM. And you can find that ZOOM link at our Facebook page. Just a way to really kind of help connect some of the dots that we are working with our other non-profit partners, as well as private partners to address the needs of our community and to also hear from folks about what they would like to see. I would also like to chime in on my, on the condolences, if you will, to the Mayor. Having lost my mother 6 years ago, it, there's never seems to be a day that I, I for I seem to....sorry.....Sometimes just losing a parent just has a lot of impact in a person and little smiles and



little things that happen remind us of the wonderfulness of the people in our lives. And I just want to let him know, he'll never forget her because you can never forget your mama. Thanks everyone.  
President von Lossberg Thanks. Ms. West.

Aldersperson West So, I recently read somewhere that we lose 90 minutes of daylight in the month of October, which seems like a lot, but I just want to remind everyone to be careful in the mornings when it's dark and there are kids waiting for buses, especially our middle schoolers go to school incredibly early and it's going to be dark soon when they are waiting for the, their ride. So, just be a vigilant in the mornings when you're commuting to work.

President von Lossberg Thank you. I don't believe I missed anyone.

## **12. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

President von Lossberg Items listed under committee reports were not approved unanimously in City Council committees. The chairperson of the standing Council committee will make a motion and we will invite community comment on each item. We have one item., I believe, under administration and finance and if I could ask for a motion Ms. Jones.

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

#### **12.1.1 Minutes from the October 6, 2021 Meeting**

#### **12.1.2 Minutes from the October 13, 2021 Meeting**

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

#### **Moved by: Aldersperson Jones**

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with The Poverello Center for the provision of Emergency Winter Shelter services for 2021/2022 funded by the City of Missoula in an amount not to exceed \$311,000.00.

AYES: (8) Aldersperson Anderson, Aldersperson Harp, Aldersperson Hess, Aldersperson Jones, Aldersperson Merritt, Aldersperson Sherrill, Aldersperson von Lossberg, and Aldersperson West

NAYS: (3): Aldersperson Contos, Aldersperson Ramos, and Aldersperson Vasecka

ABSENT: (1): Aldersperson Becerra

**Vote result: Approved (8 to 3)**

Aldersperson Jones Thank you, I'd be happy to make a motion. I move that we approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with The Poverello Center for the provision of Emergency Winter Shelter services for 2021/2022 funded by the City of Missoula in an amount not to exceed

\$311,000.00. And I'm not sure the sequencing here; I would like to speak to it, but I don't know if you want to take public comment first.

President von Lossberg Yeah let me, let me go ahead and do that Gwen and let me ask first if Ms. Armstrong or anyone from the Poverello, if there's any new staff update that ought to be considered? I just want to provide that opportunity Emily.

Emily Armstrong Thanks Bryan. I don't have any specific updates myself. I do think Jesse and Jill are on the call, I'm not 100% sure, but I'll let them chime in if they have anything they want to add.

President von Lossberg I do see Jill, anyone? And Jesse any update from the Poverello?

Jill Bonny Nope, just that we're working hard to hire individuals but that's our biggest struggle right now. We're just, we're nervous that we won't have enough people to open on November 1, 2021, but we're moving forward and just continuing to try to get people hired. Yeah, just the same struggles everybody is having in town right now.

President von Lossberg Yep, understood. Thank you. Let me go ahead and take public comment before we have Council deliberations and a vote. Is there any public comment on the motion? If so, please feel free to raise your hand and happy to recognize, you and provide that opportunity. Just pausing for a moment here.....Not seeing anyone want to avail themselves of that opportunity. Let's go ahead and have deliberation, and back to you Ms. Jones.

Aldersperson Jones Thank you. I'll just speak briefly to this. We discussed it extensively in the administration and finance committee but in a nutshell, our community, and our city, our, our local government and our City Council for years have worked very hard to provide, to the extent that we can, shelter in the wintertime so that people do not die. So, that is exactly what we're doing here. With the pandemic, we are in a new situation. The, the entire scenario has changed. A year and a half ago when the pandemic started, the Poverello was informed that under the CDC guidance recommendations, they could only house people at about 50% of their capacity. So, we started making plans to how to address housing additional people since the Poverello would only be at 50% capacity. Combined with the fact that we've had huge economic fallout from the pandemic and people who are barely making it, frankly, don't make it financially when we have something like the pandemic impact us, and also our housing costs in Missoula have exponentially gone up. So, all of these factors come together to create more people who need to be housed and we have less capacity. So, as a result we've got numerous items in place, not only the Poverello, but the authorized camping site, which is underway through administrative channels. The temporary

shelter which is on county land and then we've got this emergency winter shelter at Johnson Street shelter, which was it held in the same place last year. So, I am happy to bring this through my committee, happy to vote on it. This is what we as a community do, sorry my husband's printer is going off now. This is what we as a committee, community do to take care of people who need some help, they need shelter in the wintertime. So, if there's any questions, we do have people here to answer it, but in a nutshell that's what we're doing and just to echo what Jill and Jesse were commenting on, is the fact that it's really hard hiring people right now. So, to put the shout out, they're interviewing people, they are trying to staff up, they're offering competitive wages, and we need to get this these rosters filled. So, that we can have this up and running towards the end of October, early November. Thanks, and I'm very much in favor of it. I hope everyone votes yes tonight.

President von Lossberg Thanks Ms. Jones. Ms. Vasecka.

Aldersperson Vasecka Thank you. Like Ms. Jones said, we did speak about this extensively during committee, I believe that was on October 6, 2021. So, it was a couple of weeks ago, and like I said that week I do, do think it's unfortunate that the actions of the few did ruin it for, for the many. And like I said that weekend but unfortunately they did. I have to respect my constituents' complaints on this one and the neighbors of the, of that center who had to deal with property crimes, sanitary issues, blatant drug use. So, unfortunately I am going to vote no tonight. If this does pass, I hope that the private security will make it better this year for the residents and the neighbors of that neighborhood. And with that being said, I was hoping that folks at the Poverello Center can, can speak tonight on where to, where folks can guide their concerns or their questions or, or anything else that they might have any thoughts about regarding the shelter. Thanks.

President von Lossberg So, I'll come back to Poverello's staff. I want to not sort of throw off the order with deliberations, but I'll make sure to come back to Poverello staff after deliberations. Ms. Merritt.

Aldersperson Merritt Thank you. I have thought long and hard about what I wanted to say here, and I I guess I feel like it still is is never enough. So, I wanted to say that, so the argument is that we don't want the emergency winter shelter because people associated, associated with it break the law, causing problems for some of the other community members. Well, if we apply that logic to other publicly funded infrastructure, we could look at our streets and roads. Well numerous people break the law every day on our roads. While sometimes those are just minor infractions

that don't really hurt anyone, every day we have accidents that cause injury and death. Yet we continue to build and maintain roads because we as a society have deemed that they're necessary. We do continually make efforts to learn when we have a dangerous intersection or something of that nature. We, we do we take steps to mitigate the, the risks and the problems so that we can make our streets and roads safer and, and prevent injuries and damage, but it's never going to be perfect and we're still going to have roads and streets. And I find this to be very similar to the situation with the emergency winter shelter. In, in the case of the shelter, it is also absolutely necessary. Without the shelter, we know that people will die from exposure being outside in the Montana winter. It happens every year in our community, and it gives me a pit in my stomach to say that, but I know that it does. So, it is absolutely necessary, and we are taking steps to learn from how things operated last year to try and make the situation better for both the people at the shelter and, and the neighbors in the vicinity and it's not going to be perfect, and yet we still have to do it to save people's lives. I also want to speak to the common refrain that has been, that I've heard a lot lately and that is referring to houseless people in our community as transients because I think that people like to use that label because it seems to make it okay to ignore those people's needs, because they're not from here. And I think that, that is just someone using a label to justify their own desire to turn a blind eye to people's suffering. I and I, I guess I want to sum this up by saying that being poor is not a moral failing. Any one of us could be in that situation in a heartbeat, and that's the reason why I want to live in a community where we take care of each other, and so I will be fully in support of this motion.

President von Lossberg Thank you Ms. Merritt. Ms. West.

Alderson West So I actually have a question, and I was wondering if there's a plan B in case there aren't enough people that are applying for these jobs? I have to admit with our last year know our first cold snap, this year that was definitely something I was thinking about just because it obviously requires a lot of people to run this. And what happens if we don't find those people?

President von Lossberg We'll go back to questions for a moment here. Jill do you want to address that?

Jill Bonny Yeah I, I have my fingers crossed that that we don't need a plan B. I think that we've talked about only being open at night for a short period of time if we needed to. I know that's not perfect either and when we did that last year, in April, at the end of the year that caused more issues in the neighborhood because people were outside of the building during the day, but it

would at least give us somewhere for people to come in at night. So that is an option but I'm just hoping you know we don't get there. I'm hoping we can open on November 1, 2021, but I'm just like, this is you know where we're at. And I did see a couple people out at the table on boarding today and so I'm hoping that just continues. So yeah, tell, tell everyone you know. It's really, really mean hard but meaningful work.

Emily Armstrong I was just gonna say also add that we are working really closely with jill and her team and trying to get other incentives for folks who decide to apply and take positions at the emergency winter shelter with bonuses, and end of season bonuses, as well. And are looking at the potential as another you know alternative if, if it really comes to it, of delaying and opening, but like Jill is saying, we're working. Her and her team are working really hard and we're all trying to figure out ways to support them and make sure that we can stick to our November 1st date. So, yeah doing everything we can.

Jill Bonny And I just appreciate your support, and the support from all of you through this. It's, you know, a great partnership.

President von Lossberg And, and Jill while we've paused on this, on deliberations, Ms. Vasecka had a question about, I believe it was, folks in the community and, and where to direct concerns. Sandra, am I getting that correct?

Alderperson Vasecka Yeah, just any concerns or questions.

Jill Bonny Yeah, I'll let Jesse answer that.

Jesse Jaeger Yeah thanks Sandra for the opportunity to share that. So, we're, there's going to be an open house at the Pov, at Johnson Street, on October 28, 2021, Thursday evening and I believe that starts at 4:30 p.m., and people are welcome to come by, see the facility, ask questions, engage in conversation with us. We will also be holding monthly neighborhood meet, neighborhood meetings. They'll be on the first Thursday of each month. People can sign up for those meetings, on our website, if they just go to our main website, look at the events tab and there's an easy link there to sign up for those. If people have concerns that they would like to share as well, feel free to call my number. That number is 406-532-6686 and I can point them in the right direction in terms of resources or intake of feedback and things like that. Does that answer your question Sandra? Thanks.

Emily Armstrong I'll offer my information here as well, for just questions about the emergency winter shelter project as a whole. Folks are welcome to reach out to me at the City, which is 406-552-6393, and the open house on the 28th is from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

President von Lossberg And Emily, I believe, we have a site emergency winter shelter is on one of the engaged Missoula sites as well, and I believe you're listed, and your number is there also, correct?

Emily Armstrong That's, correct. Yes, it's the shelter Engage Page safe shelter and my email and my phone number I think are both there.

President von Lossberg Great, thank you.

Emily Armstrong Thanks Bryan.

President von Lossberg Let me run down my colleagues here. Ms. Anderson, question, or deliberation?

Alderson Anderson Yes, I have a comment. If that's OK?

President von Lossberg Hang on, I want to get questions out of the way and then we'll go back to deliberation. Ms. Sherrill, question, or deliberation?

Alderson Sherrill Mine is just a comment as well.

President von Lossberg And Mr. Ramos.

Alderson Ramos Thank you Mr. von Lossberg. I just wanted to ask, and I apologize if you addressed this already, my computer's weird, but so have you guys given any thought I mean what Ms. Merritt said is, is very true that a lot of these folks are just like us and they've fallen on hard times and, and there's a hard time kind of getting different employees to fill these spots. Have you guys given any thought to maybe recruiting within some of the folks staying at the shelter and maybe looking to seeing if, if they would have any interest in working with you guys or, or operating the shelter? I think that'd be a pretty cool way that we could help these folks get up on their feet. I understand some of them have, have mental illness and some other things that would inhibit that, but have you guys given any thoughts to maybe talking to some of the folks that have fallen on hard times and seen if they want to apply for some of these jobs or is that completely unfeasible?

President von Lossberg Jill.

Jill Bonny Yeah, um, you know we get into a weird power dynamic with people that are staying here and also working here, and so we don't offer positions with people who are currently staying

here, but we do routinely hire people who have experienced homelessness in the past, have accessed our services in the past, and yeah have had really good luck with that and, and have a great connection with our clients.

Alderson Ramos And quick followup.

President von Lossberg Go ahead.

Alderson Ramos So, what I mean just I guess idealistically wouldn't, wouldn't you guys offering them a job maybe allow them to, to not stay at the at the shelter anymore and allow them to to maybe really connect with these different residents on certain levels having experienced what they've experienced and maybe if they got a job they, they could move. I mean, I understand rent is ridiculous right now in this town but, potentially they might be able to to find a place to live and then that I think that'd be a great success to your guys' story.

Jill Bonny Yeah, it's just tough. You know our, our staff members have confidential information about the clients who stay with us. It just isn't appropriate to have people who are staying in the shelter also working in the shelter.

Emily Armstrong And realistically, the timeline isn't that quick for you know someone who gets a job and then gets into housing and stabilizes. It takes quite a long time, so they'd probably be working for a while before they could find housing and kind of not need to stay at the shelter anymore.

Jill Bonny And we really do have a lot of people who stay with us who are working. I think that's one thing that people don't realize is that a lot of the people staying with us are working and they do get up every morning or, or go to work every evening, and are just don't have enough or making enough to be able to rent in Missoula.

Alderson Ramos Well that's great information. Thank you.

Jill Bonny Yea, thank you.

President von Lossberg Ms. Vasecka, question or a comment.

Alderson Vasecka Just a quick question while we're talking about information on this. Last year, with donations, you said that toilet paper is very much needed, and I was wondering on what, what else that the public can do to help?

Jesse Jaeger Jill would you like for me to answer that question? Yeah, OK. I'm usually that stuff person. Yes, toilet paper is like giving us money. We go through so much toilet paper that it's yeah so lots of toilet paper. Anyways other things that we could really use right now, particularly

to get winter shelter up and going, are blankets and bedding. That is frequently we, we are hard on bedding at the Poverello Center. So, people are clearing out closets and have old blankets or things like that, we'd absolutely take those right now. So, toiletries, so toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, soap, those types of things are also things that we go through a lot and can use help for. And then you know people are still outside a fair amount, so hand warmers, gloves, hats, coats are also things that we can use right now, as well. So, if people have questions about the needs that they want. We have a page that's linked to our front page, that's kind of our current need that we keep updated. The URL is the [poverellocenter.org/current need](https://poverellocenter.org/current-need), and that always has the, the needs that we have right on top of it. So, yes Sandra, thank you very much for that question.

President von Lossberg Heather do you have a question or comment? Okay, go ahead question.

Alderson Harp Yep, just a real quick one. I just wanted to make sure I had all these numbers right Emily. So, the total grant that is being applied for between the City, County, etc., is \$616,000.00, do I have that right?

Emily Armstrong That is correct, that's the total budget.

Alderson Harp Okay and this is planning for roughly 150 people each and every night?

Emily Armstrong The capacity is up to 150 people every night. We likely won't serve 150 every night, but we have the capacity to if the need is there.

Alderson Harp Okay, I appreciate that clarification. Thank you.

Emily Armstrong Yeah, thanks for asking.

President von Lossberg Thank you. Let me go back. Ms. Anderson, you had your hand up. Did you have a comment to provide before I get back in the queue?

Alderson Anderson Yes thank you so much for the opportunity and I really appreciate the comments from Ms. Merritt and Ms. Jones. Highlight the, A, the need for this and I think that we see it every day, that there are members of our community who are unhoused and it just seems like a very unfortunate set of circumstances that have all sort of coalesced at the same time, with the pandemic, with skyrocketing rental rates, how you know yes some places are starting to increase their salaries, but historically salaries have not kept up, wages have not kept up with the cost of living. And we have done quite a bit and we're really excited for the new housing, affordable housing projects to come online but unfortunately building takes time and none of those are open right now. So, I know that we talked a little bit about this in committee and I've heard quite a bit about it recently from community members. This doesn't seem like a permanent



solution, having people sleep in tents or having people sleep in shelters and I want to highlight that this is a stop-gap measure. You know, we need to get through COVID. We need to figure out more long-term affordable housing solutions and we have some of those coming online and, and hopefully the Poverello Center will get to the point where it can be back at full census or capacity and but this is a need, as a need right now and I like miss Merritt want to live and I'm proud to live in a community that supports putting a warm roof over our fellow Missoulian's heads. And when you know weather in Montana is unpredictable and it's been a fairly lovely fall so far, but we all know that that can change pretty dramatically and I'm just very much in support of this project and and want to really make I realize, and I want to say that I realized that this is not a long-term solution and it's not that we haven't figured that out. We are trying to get a bridge to get us through to the other side of some of the things that have kind of come together all at the same time and really really want to appreciate and lift up what Jill said from the Poverello Center about the fact that I think that there is a lot of misconceptions about who it is that are the unhoused in our community, and that you know they didn't get bust here from someplace like on skid row. The majority of people who are unhoused and that were being accessing services through the Poverello Center, the Johnson Street, and the temporary outdoor shelter they have connections here. They're from here, they have family here. You know a good percentage of them are working or currently looking for jobs and so I think that we need to do a better job in our community of educating ourselves on who it is who are the unhoused, who are accessing these services because Ms. Merritt is right. They are just like the rest of us and for a very different set of circumstances, you know it could be any one of us who are needing a little bit of help this winter and I am happy to support that work that everyone is doing.

President von Lossberg Thanks for your patience, Ms. Sherrill.

Alderperson Sherrill Yeah thanks, and I appreciate all the comments that have happened so far. And also, I would say that even though it has been a lovely fall, there have been some very cold nights already. So, I hope that the Poverello is successful in having its staff for November 1, 2021. I'm going to apologize, my daughter's walking in from volleyball, so it's going to get a little loud, but honestly this is a really simple vote for me. It's the humane thing to do. It's the right thing to do. We have a responsive proven partner in our community with the Poverello Center and I just, I really just want to express my thanks to the Poverello Center for the work that they do and the pre-planning that they do and I am for all the reasons that my fellow, some of my fellow councilors

have expressed, I am more than happy to support this and wish you the best of luck in getting it staffed because that's going to be really important.

President von Lossberg Thank you. And Ms. Harp.

Aldersperson Harp Thank you. I've been thinking about this for quite a while and I really appreciate the wide range of thought that has been presented both in committee, tonight, and obviously in the emails that we have been getting for the last couple of years on the very topic of homelessness, and it is a very complicated topic. It's mired with difficulties and the and at the end of the day, caring for people is a very inexpensive endeavor. When I think about what young parents face today in terms of childcare. They're shelling out roughly \$1,000.00 a month so that they can go to work. When my parents end up in a nursing home, it's gonna cost \$7,500.00 a month, and that's the whole spectrum from birth to the late years. And in the in between, we have folks who fall on hard times and having had family members who have fallen on hard times and have been homeless, all I can hope is that there are other communities like ours that is as kind and generous and thoughtful to work with the imperfections that we have to deal with. Emily, I appreciate you giving us the numbers on this particular project of \$616,000.00, that works out to roughly \$4,000.00 a person each and every year, which is expensive, but it pales compared to those other costs that I mentioned earlier. And you know I think about what we could do differently. How do we not become an Austin, Texas or Seattle, Washington? Thank goodness, we're miles away from that but if we don't start taking other steps in addition to warming shelters like this, our problems are going to get far far greater. And I know we have some really, really thoughtful smart people that are working across sectors on this very issue and I can't wait to see what we keep coming up with. So, my colleagues I know this is, this is something that none of us ever want to have to reckon with, but I admire the courage from all of you to take stands as you do to stand up for people who do not have a voice. I will be supporting this motion tonight.

President von Lossberg Thank you. Ms. West, did I cut you off, unfortunately when we went to the question? Did you have anything else Heidi?

Aldersperson West No except for, I guess thank you. I'm in support of this.

President von Lossberg Is there anybody else, any other Council deliberation on this? I will quickly add, I've worked on this issue for years on Council, less so this last year as part of transition considerations. I want to just underscore what my colleague Ms. Merritt mentioned. You know, I, and that is the, the really hard work that's gone into trying to improve on the situation from the

year before, each year. You know, I can recall not that long ago when we were okay with the Pov, sort of alone, and we had a situation, particularly bad weather and other considerations and we in a stopgap effort utilized the Transit Center. It was amazing to see folks across the community pitch in and lend a hand to making the best of what was a very challenging situation with that, that infrastructure but you know folks from Mountain Line, to City staff, to citizen volunteers bringing food, etc., etc. Thereafter, you know, we moved to some work with the Salvation Army in their facility and I believe a couple years there and, and then the situation you know last year and this year. And every time that we've done that, and Ms. Merritt under mentioned this and I just want to underscore it. There's always been a good faith effort to understand what worked well, what did not work well, and to try and improve upon that situation. And you know as I said in committee, I had countless, I've had countless very difficult conversations with constituents in Ward 1 and in that sort of Ward 1/Ward 2 area, over those years. There are real effects to doing this, no one is denying that. To not offer though this this service, the shelter, it's, it's unquestionable it leads to people dying. They die in the streets, and we lose some folks every year despite our efforts in this regard. So, I will be supporting this. With that, we have had a motion, we've had an opportunity for public comment, we've had Council deliberation and we will have a roll call vote.

President von Lossberg Thanks and that passes.

- 12.2 Committee of the Whole (COW) committee report**
- 12.3 Land Use and Planning (LUP) committee report**
- 12.4 Parks and Conservation (PC) committee report**
- 12.5 Public Safety and Health (PSH) committee report**
- 12.6 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 Application of TDS Metrocom LLC for a Cable Franchise**
    - 14.1.2 Security Contract for Poverello Center Shelter and Surrounding Neighborhood**
    - 14.1.3 Security Contract Amendment for Shelter Sites**
  - 14.2 Committee of the Whole referrals**
  - 14.3 Land Use and Planning committee referrals**

**14.4 Parks and Conservation committee referrals**

**14.5 Public Safety and Health committee referrals**

**14.5.1 Referral-Purchase Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for the Missoula Fire Department**

**14.5.2 Referral-Purchase Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment Turnouts for the Missoula Fire Department**

**14.5.3 Referral-Memorandum of Understanding with International Association of Firefighters Local 271 for Emergency Medical Services Certification Pay**

**14.6 Public Works committee referrals**

**14.6.1 Appointment to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board**

**14.6.2 Purchase of Four (4) 1 Ton Pickup Trucks for Missoula Water**

**14.6.3 Purchase of Two (2) Electric Parking Enforcement Scooters**

**14.6.4 Professional Services Agreement with WGM Group Inc. for Water Rights Consulting Services**

**14.6.5 Purchase of One (1) Small Pickup Truck for Parks Conservation Lands Management program**

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

**15.1 Administratively approved agreement report**

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

President von Lossberg As always, thank you very much for your attendance and your service, and we will be adjourned. Thank you

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Martha L. Rehbein, CMC**  
**Legislative Service Director/City Clerk**

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**Bryan von Lossberg**  
**President/Acting Mayor**