

DRAFT - Missoula City Council Administration and Finance Committee Minutes

December 15, 2021

9:00 AM

ZOOM Webinar

Members present: Stacie Anderson, John P. Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones (chair), Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West

Members absent: Mirtha Becerra, Heather Harp, Jesse Ramos

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 Minutes from 12/8/2021 Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment called for and there was none.

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Appointment to the Library Board

Mayor Engen presented the appointment for Ms. Mecklenberg-Jackson to the Library Board.

Julie Merritt - I would be happy to make the motion.

Sandra Vasecka joined the meeting.

Public comment called for and there was none.

Onto consent agenda.

Moved by: Julie Merritt

Confirm the Mayor's appointment of Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson to the Library Board as a Regular Member to fill a vacated term beginning immediately and expiring on June 30, 2024.

AYES: (8): Stacie Anderson, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (4): Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, and Jesse Ramos

Vote results: Approved (8 to 0)

3.2 Referral - Missoula Redevelopment Agency Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Amendments

Jil Dunn from MRA offered the presentation regarding the budget amendments. These are the annual budget amendments. MRA is having their audit, which is independent from the City's. We are recognizing final revenues. Jil explained the MRA process involving the budget and the audit. She shared her screen with current information. Please see attached information for further details.

Bryan von Lossberg - Happy to make the recommended motion. I wanted to take the opportunity to emphasize the public improvements from the AC hotel and to thank Jil for all of her help on the budget/bookkeeping work she has done and her hard work in showing complete transparency and clarity in this information.

Public comment called for and there was none.

Onto consent agenda.

Moved by: Bryan von Lossberg

Set a public hearing for January 24, 2022 to consider approving a resolution amending the annual appropriations for the City of Missoula, Montana as set forth in the fiscal year 2021 budget that amends the total Missoula Redevelopment Agency (MRA) budget including increasing revenues by \$2,103,763 and increasing expenditures by \$2,183,338 in order to recognize appropriate revenue based on final valuations and mill levies, anticipated grants and bond proceeds, and administrative and project related revenue and expenditures during the fiscal year and incorporate on-going construction projects and bond issues with related debt service that were carried forward from fiscal year 2020.

AYES: (8): Stacie Anderson, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (4): Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, and Jesse Ramos

Vote results: Approved (8 to 0)

3.3 Referral - Resolution for final FY 2021 budget amendments. This resolution amends the fiscal year 2021 budget to recognize revenues, and appropriate expenditures and budget transfers not identified in the original budget.

Leigh Griffing presented the information. She shared the information on her screen and discussed the details. Please refer to the attachments for further details. This is a way of 'truing' up our accounting for the audit. It is not new information or requesting funds for items not discussed previously. All of this information has already come before Council.

John Contos arrived at the meeting

Public comment was called for and there was none.

Bryan von Lossberg - Thanks to Leigh, also, for all of her hard work.

Onto the consent agenda.

Moved by: Bryan von Lossberg

Set a public hearing for Jan 24, 2022, for a resolution amending the annual appropriations for the City of Missoula, Montana as set forth in the fiscal year 2021 budget and capital improvement program.

AYES: (9): Stacie Anderson, John Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (3): Mirtha Becerra, Heather Harp, and Jesse Ramos

Vote results: Approved (9 to 0)

3.4 Amendments to City Council rules

Marty Rehbein presented this information. City Council rules have not been amended in any substantive way since 2012. We did make a slight amendment during the pandemic to switch meetings from 7:00 to 6:00. This sets the framework for how the Council conducts its business. Marty shared her screen with the information regarding the changes being considered. These are just considerations/discussions at this point, with hope to be finalized when the new Council is in place in January. Please refer to the attachments for further details.

Bryan von Lossberg - Regarding illness. In the past, if you were sick, you had a choice to either be there in person and potentially infect everyone, or you didn't have that opportunity. This is really, I think, an improvement. We have learned from the pandemic that we want to be as thoughtful as possible to think of others. I think this strikes a good balance.

Gwen Jones - I would like to add that this is why it took us so long to get through the rules. I think we did the best with the rules as we can at this time with the information we have at this point.

Marty Rehbein - In regard to what Bryan mentioned, it also applies well to those who are dealing with health issues. We have had Council members dealing with things like cancer and after a chemo treatment, it is much better for them to be able to log in remotely, if dealing with such illness.

Sandra Vasecka - Regarding public comment, I have concerns over how we are doing it. The public gets frustrated that they ask questions and do not get them answered at that time.

Gwen Jones - I understand your concerns.

Julie Merritt - We actually follow that procedure because it follows Montana's rules. When items are not on the agenda, we can't answer those questions, as they have not been publicly noticed. This is in compliance with state law. For items on the agenda, we do ask staff to get the information to address the question.

Jordan Hess - We have rules to set sideboards. I think we have some discretion to handle that.

Sandra Vasecka - This really helps clarify things and I have less concerns now. Thank you.

Marty discussed certain tools Council members can use to help get public questions answered during the process.

Discussion was had regarding Ex Parte Communications (#3) regarding land use decisions. This is not looking for amendments, it is getting the information out there for review and the new council will be voting on specifics.

Discussion was had on Decorum at Meetings (#4).

Discussion was had on the Consent Agenda (#13).

Marty continued discussion on the suggested rules.

Gwen Jones - In January, we will pick up the issue regarding the committee workloads and how those can be rebalanced to more evenly spread the work around.

Bryan von Lossberg - Thanks to Marty for all her work on this. We are blessed with her expertise and history and experience and Jordan and Gwen. Without these key players we wouldn't even be to this point. Relative to decorum, I feel it should be that anyone attending should feel comfortable to get up and give public comment. Thanks!

There is no public comment and this will be brought back up in January.

Approve the changes to City Council rules with an effective date 30 days after adoption

4. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:42.