

DRAFT - Missoula City Council Administration and Finance Committee Minutes

January 5, 2022

10:05 AM

ZOOM Webinar

Members present: Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, John P. Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones (chair), Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Heidi West, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Daniel Carlino, Kristen Jordan

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 Minutes from the 12/15/2021 Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

No public in attendance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Brownfields Assessment Professional Services Agreement

John Adams discussed information regarding the Brownfields Assessment Grants and the needs for a contractor to be available to help with the procurement process as these projects arise.

Amber Sherrill - Besides the Federal Building asbestos project, do you see any other projects on the horizon? I am happy to make the recommended motion.

John - We do not have a list ready. I am sure we will have some needs at White Pine with the contaminated soil. That is the thing I see most immediately. I think MRL triangle is another possibility.

Daniel Carlino - How does the scoring process work, ie: how WGM was selected?

John - We are always looking for grants available. We have funding available right now. He briefly discussed the scoring process.

Heidi West - If we exhaust our funding, there are other pathways that open up for funding.

No public is in attendance for comment.

Moved by: Amber Sherrill

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Professional Services Agreement, not to exceed \$400,000 over four years, with WGM Group, Inc. to provide Phase I

Environmental Site Assessments, Phase II Environmental Site Assessments, site cleanup planning, and other services related to environmental assessment.

Mirtha Becerra and Kristen Jordan were absent for this portion of the meeting.

AYES: (11): Alderperson Anderson, Alderperson Carlino, Alderperson Contos, Alderperson Hess, Alderperson Jones, Alderperson Nugent, Alderperson Savage, Alderperson Sherrill, Alderperson Vasecka, and Alderperson West

ABSENT (2): Alderperson Jordan, Alderperson Becerra

Vote result: Approved (10 to 0)

3.2 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.

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Heidi West - This is for discussion. If there are amendments that are requested, please send those to Gwen, Jordan, Marty and myself.

Jordan Hess - We have rules for the times when things "go off the rails." We wanted to bring the rules to both the old and the new council to get input from both.

Gwen Jones - We had a robust discussion in December. A recap of that and the rules/adjustments was discussed and Mirtha Becerra and Kristen Jordan arrived at the meeting.

No public attended this meeting.

This will be kept open while in the process of being discussed.

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

4. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:21