

**Journal of Proceedings**  
**Missoula City Council Meeting**

**January 3, 2022, 6:00 pm**

**ZOOM Webinar**

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

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**

**2.1 Minutes from the December 13, 2021, Meeting**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**3. SCHEDULE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Committee of the Whole, January 5, 9:00 - 9:50 a.m.

Administration and Finance Committee, January 5, 10:05 - 11:20 a.m.

Land Use and Planning Committee, January 5, 11:35 - 11:50 a.m.

Public Safety and Health Committee, January 5, 12:20 - 12:40 p.m.

Public Works Committee, January 5, 12:55 - 1:15 p.m.

Parks and Conservation Committee, January 5, 1:30 - 2:15 p.m.

Mayor John Engen Thank you Ms. Rehbein. Are there any changes to the committee schedule this evening? All right, seeing none, we will move on to the general public comment portion of our agenda.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor John Engen This is your opportunity to comment on items not elsewhere on the agenda. Those items should pertain to municipal business and things over which the Missoula City Council and the City of Missoula have some control or influence. I'd like to ask you to keep your remarks to 3 minutes or fewer and I have Mr. Badenoch.

Geoff Badenoch How's that?

Mayor John Engen We got you Geoff, thank you.

Geoff Badenoch Okay. Let me begin by first congratulating each of you who recently won elections to your offices. Likewise, I want to recognize your opponents who stepped up and did the work to run against you. Even though they didn't win, their willingness to offer themselves as candidates makes our democracy stronger and legitimizes your victories. We are all here tonight because of two things the voters did in the past. First, in the early 1970s, the people of Montana voted to elect and convene a Constitutional convention to study and draft a new Constitution for our state. Among those delegates to the convention were some very notable Missoulians including a future mayor, John Toole, Daphne Bugbee, Bob Campbell, George Helicker, Katie Payne, Mae Nan Ellingson, Jim Garlington, and Lucile Speer. Montana stands among the dozens or so states who drafted a new Constitution, a Constitution for their people in the last half century something that was as inspirational as it was audacious. The voters of Montana approved their work, and the Montana Constitution was adopted in 1972. Second, the people that people's new Constitution was a provision that said that every 10 years the voting citizens of each Montana county and incorporated city and town are to be asked if they want to review their form of local government. Subsequent to the adoption of the Constitution, the Montana legislature enacted the necessary legislation to fulfill the Constitution's requirement. This process of local government review resulted in the Missoula City Charter that was adopted by the voters in the 1990s and under which you were all elected and performed your government duties. The process of taking up with local government review question in the City of Missoula begins two years from now in 2024 when the City Council of Missoula must, by law, adopt a resolution pertaining to an election wherein the citizen voters of Missoula will be asked if they will want to review their form of government. Why am I here talking about something that is two years over the horizon? I'm here because I want this question to be one the people of Missoula can consider mindfully. The Mayor and half of this Council will be in office when this issue surfaces. The other half will have run for re-election or retired and been replaced by new people who have just been elected. In the municipal election of 2023, I believe this question of local government reviews one candidates for seats on the City Council should be asked their position on. I personally do not have an agenda regarding local government view itself, review itself. Let me repeat that, I personally do not have an agenda regarding local government review itself. Having worked in local government in a variety of roles for over 25 years, I have an appreciation for how government works, and the good will and effort elected, and appointed officials make. At this point, I don't care about the outcome of the election the voters will use to determine

whether to review or not. What I do care about is that we as a community mindfully take up with the question and the implication it contains. I'm old enough to know now that two years are going to fly by pretty fast and I can't think of a worse situation surrounding this issue than voters not forming an opinion for themselves that is informed and considered. The Constitution and the Montana State Statutes are pretty clear that your role as the city government in this process is fairly limited, mostly to assuring that the elections take place and if the citizen voters choose to have a review of city government, you must provide the means so that that study commission can undertake its work. Elected officials are prohibited from participating in the local government review process if it goes ahead anyway. Over the next two years my plan is to speak on this issue with our fellow citizens through a variety of means and help them better understand the background and reasons for this rare provision in our Constitution. To many, it will seem boring and inconsequential at first, but it will be my aim to show them it is not. I believe we can have this discussion among citizens, be fruitful and beneficial because that is what our greatest political traditions and values call us to do. Outside the requirements, the Constitution and Montana State Statutes place on you, what can you do? Learn with the rest of us, of course, and join the conversation when you are ready, and it seems timely. Don't pretend this isn't coming because it is. We will all feel better about the outcome of the election in 2024 if we are confident that voters are informed and engaged when they mark their ballots. Thank you for your time and your attention and thank you for your service I look forward to appearing before you to talk more about this issue in the future.

Mayor John Engen Thank you Mr. Badenoch. And Mr. Larson.

Matt Larson Hi, Matt Larson, Ward 3. Nice to see all of y'all. Happy New Year. I'm wondering what's going on with the, the City and its plans to either appeal the arbitration matter with the bad faith claim and the water company. Wondering what's going on with that and when we'll have an update on that? And also, yeah wondering yeah if we're not where the monies are coming from and if that's just going to equate to more rates or just more, more tax hike for the people? Also, just wondering if the City has any results from its study on Airbnb's in the City. I know the County is also doing a study. Quite honestly, I think it's a little bit ridiculous to do a study on a thing that's been proven time and time again to raise the rental market price, 70% of Airbnb rentals now are over 30 days. So, quite literally that could be, equate to over almost 3,000 units in the County. If, if the City wanted to team together with the County and actually do a significant thing, which is highly, it's highly able to do, I think that would be a good goal to set for this year considering we're in the midst of a crisis in the housing and rental market, but yeah

those are the two things I just wanted to comment on and I'll comment on the claims later regarding body armor and all types of stuff.

Mayor John Engen Thank you Mr. Larson. Seeing no additional general comment this evening, we'll move on to our consent agenda.

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor John Engen Items there were approved unanimously mostly in Council committees, and we save a little time by considering all of these items at once on Monday evenings. Ms. Rehbein will read the list of consent agenda items aloud so those watching or participating in the webinar will know what we're considering, and we'll take comment before we vote. Ms. Rehbein.

**AYES:** (12): Alderperson Anderson, Alderperson Becerra, Alderperson Carlino, Alderperson Contos, Alderperson Hess, Alderperson Jones, Alderperson Jordan, Alderperson Nugent, Alderperson Savage, Alderperson Sherrill, Alderperson Vasecka, and Alderperson West

**Vote result: Approved (12 to 0)**

### **5.1 Accounts Payable (claims) for checks dated January 4, 2022**

Approve accounts payable in the amount of \$1,005,833.29 for checks dated January 4, 2022.

**Vote result: Approved**

### **5.2 Accounts Payable (claims) for checks dated December 28, 2021**

Ratify accounts payable in the amount of \$2,522,204.66 for checks dated December 28, 2021.

**Vote result: Approved**

### **5.3 Accounts Payable (claims) for checks dated December 21, 2022**

Ratify accounts payable in the amount of \$2,596,161.10 for checks dated December 21, 2021.

**Vote result: Approved**

### **5.4 Westside Park Phase II Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) Contract**

Award and authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with Jackson Contractor Group Inc for Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for Implementation of Westside Park Phase II for a

preconstruction fee not to exceed \$6,000.00, and a construction fee of 5.5% on all direct and indirect costs for contracts managed by the CMAR.

**Vote result: Approved**

#### **5.5 Appointment to the Library Board**

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.

**Vote result: Approved**

#### **5.6 Referral - Missoula Redevelopment Agency Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Amendments**

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 \$2,103,763.00 and increasing expenditures by \$2,183,338.00 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.

**Vote result: Approved**

Mayor John Engen I will note for the records Mr. Rehbein that you misspoke, and the expenditures would be \$2,183,338.00.

Marty Rehbein I'm sorry for whatever I said.

Mayor John Engen It's quite all right; it would happen to me every time.

#### **5.7 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.**

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.

**Vote result: Approved**

Mayor John Engen Thank you Ms. Rehbein. Questions or comments from Council members this evening? All right, seeing none, anyone in the audience care to comment? Mr. Larson.

Matt Larson Matt Larson, Ward 3. Hi, thank you for allowing me to speak again. I'd like to draw awareness to a few of the claim's issues or claims items on the agenda. One being the \$100,000.00 SWAT armor purchase. I think this totally exemplifies the type of purchase that could be being made or not be made in in order to complete all of our officers through the CIT or mental health training. Currently, there's only 49 I think out of 119 that are certified for the number one call that MPD gets, which is welfare check. It goes welfare check, theft/shoplifting, and I forget the third but it's, it's, it's critical. So, it's, it's, it's more along the lines of giving our police the, the funding that they need and the training that they need and not necessarily just buying them the, the guns. The other thing is the audit. There's an \$80,000.00 audit for fiscal year 2021. I, I, I'm, I'm interested if we do that every year or what was special about that? If anything. There's also 250 plus thousand dollars being attributed to multi-department servers and I; I'd wonder what those are? There's, there's a few other things.... hold on just one moment.... there's yeah the government lease leasing and finance contract payments, multi-department payments....What, what's that? That's \$200,000.00; it's \$192,000.00. Just wondering about those items. Thank you.

Mayor John Engen Seeing no additional comment, I can respond to a couple of those questions. First, for all Council members and particularly new Council members and folks joining us in the audience this evening, what Council will be approving this evening as a function of claims are all items that were approved during the course of our budget process, giving departments authority to make those purchases. The, pardon me, the expenditures in PD for that equipment, which is replacement equipment for aged and now, now out of service equipment was budgeted and subject to public hearing and Council debate. Our CIT program, we are the, the expenditures there aren't mutually exclusive and as part of our ongoing training budget, our intention is to have all of our officers trained in crisis intervention and as a function of our new schedule, we are able to do that much more quickly than we ever were before and that is a priority of both me and the Chief of Police to get that done. The mass lease program is a method we use to, to ensure that we are not having spikes in cash flow, as we collect revenues over the course of the year so various departments participate in what we call the mass release program. Those are payments that are made to a financing company which allows us to purchase equipment and then pay for it over time, rather than doing one-off purchases. These are, these are generally short-term, relatively short-term expenses for capital, and they make, they make

budgeting and cash handling much more effective for the City of Missoula. There was a third one in there that I don't recall but somebody else may and may wish to comment. Any comments, further comments, or questions from Council members on the consent agenda? All right, seeing none, we will have a role called vote.

Marty Rehbein Mayor Engen, I think the question was about the annual audit.

Mayor John Engen Oh yes, the annual audit. We hire a third, thank you Ms. Rehbein. We hire a, we hire an independent third-party auditor to create an audited review of our financial condition. That report is published on our website, completed annually, and we contract for that every year.

Marty Rehbein Most communities in Montana have an annual audit. It's part of being a local government, auditing a local government is part of our business.

Mayor John Engen Thank you and the consent agenda is approved. And some of you have voted for the first time as members of the Missoula City Council. And I recall when I did that, dinosaurs roamed the earth, but it was quite a feeling.

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

**7. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None.**

**8. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None.**

**9. FINAL CONSIDERATION - None.**

**10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

Mayor John Engen We'll move on to communications from the Mayor. Mr. Larson had previously, and I had intended to report out to you. The City of Missoula did indeed not prevail in our arbitration hearing over the question as to whether Carlyle Infrastructure Partners engaged in bad faith, in our attempt to purchase the water system. That's an 84-page decision. It is preliminary and the arbitration panel has discretion with regard to attorney's fees. We are told that the panel will not have any sense of decision until sometime in the summer of 2022, but in the meantime, at everyone's earliest collective convenience, I will work with your Council President to refer a report to committee from our attorneys, our legal team, to discuss the arbitration, the outcome, and answer any questions that you or the public may have as a function of that decision. So, that is coming up and likely will happen within the next couple of months. I also wanted to just quickly, once again, welcome new Council members and welcome all of you who are returning. I am grateful, as I suggested earlier, during your oaths of office that, that we are in the business of doing, doing public good as much as we can and as often as we can

and as reliable as we as reliably as we can. And the fact that you are here, it is testament to your commitment to that and I look forward to working with all of you as we move forward through 2022. You are at a bit of a disadvantage. This, this ZOOM environment is challenging. It is practical and, and for the time being effective but far from ideal and I think we all recognize that, and I look forward to a time when you all can be in a room together and learn a little bit more about one another and develop your relationships so that you're sharing ideas a little more freely and outside of the confines of little boxes that appear on a screen before you. So, we're looking forward to getting back in person, provided it's safe and that is the that's the paramount issue today. We've developed some metrics working with the health department as well as Missoula County that helped give us a go/no go with regard to getting together in person but we have in addition to our strong desire to get back together, public health to consider and over the course the last two years we've learned that there is tremendous unpredictability associated with this virus and the pandemic, but we will cross our fingers and, and be in a position when opportunity arises to, to start those hybrid meetings. And with that, we'll move on to general comments from Council members.

#### **11. GENERAL COMMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL**

Mayor John Engen And I'm going in order of the faces on my screen, as usual and Mr. Contos you are first up.

Aldersperson Contos Thank you Mr. Mayor. First of all, I'd like to just welcome all the new people Mike, Dan, Kristen, and Jennifer. I hope that's your name because that's what's on the screen and congratulations for your win and looking forward to getting to know you guys a little bit better. And by the way all of you guys look great in these little boxes.

Mayor John Engen And Mr. Nugent and to avoid any confusion, Mike Nugent.

Aldersperson Nugent Thank you Mr. Mayor. I don't, I don't have any general comment except to say happy to be here and I'm looking forward to learning as we go on, on how this works and working to make City Council more accessible to the citizens.

Mayor John Engen Ms. Becerra.

Aldersperson Becerra Thank you Mayor. First of all, Happy New Year to everyone, wishing you all a very healthy and a year full of hope and accomplishments. Welcome to all the new members. Yeah that's all I got for tonight, thanks.

Mayor John Engen Ms. Jones.



Aldersperson Jones Thank you. I also wanted to welcome the new electeds and I wanted to note for the public, they may not realize it, but campaigning and running for office is, is a huge endeavor. It takes a huge amount of energy, tons of work, and then once they get through the election, your four new electeds on City Council have spent hours and hours and hours ever since the election training and doing onboarding and getting a foundation of knowledge so that they can hit the ground running. So, I just want to acknowledge all of the hard work that goes into this before you even sit at your first meeting and cast your first vote. So, welcome to all the new electeds and Happy New Year everyone.

Mayor John Engen Mr. Carlino.

Aldersperson Carlino Yeah, I'm just, welcome to all of the other new City Council members and I'm just happy to be here. I'm, I'm the youngest Missoula City Councilor in history and I think that just should be a testament to the urgent, urgent boldness I put into policy proposals with campaigning. I think our community is really asking us to, to be bold and take big steps this these next few years to address our housing crisis and work on you know keeping Missoula's natural environment beautiful and, and, and equitable and all the issues that we all know are facing our communities. So, I just wanted to emphasize the importance that we move fast on these issues and I'm really happy to get to work with everybody here to make it all happen. So, thanks for having me.

Mayor John Engen Ms. West.

Aldersperson West Ivory is sitting here watching the meeting with me and she wanted to know how old you are Daniel, but other than that just I'm so excited to see everybody again and the kids grudgingly went back to school today. So, yeah looking forward to getting to know all of our new Council members.

Mayor John Engen For the record, I think Mr. Carlino is 42. Mr. Carlino you may correct me now.

Aldersperson Carlino I am 24 years old now.

Mayor John Engen I was close...

Aldersperson Carlino Almost 42.....backwards.

Mayor John Engen Ms. Savage.

Aldersperson Savage Thank you Mayor. Yeah happy New Year to everyone. I'm excited to be here, excited to learn don't really have any other public comment than that but, but yeah just glad to see everyone.

Mayor John Engen Ms. Sherrill.

Aldersperson Sherrill Thanks and I will echo all of all of those comments, congratulations and welcome. I've met with most of you, I think I've met with all of you now. I'm really looking forward to continue

working with all of my other colleagues and I will tell you it has been a long almost two full years that I've been on Council and then on ZOOM. So, I will really look forward to all of us being back in person at some point whenever that point is appropriate. So, Happy New Year's everyone and welcome.

Mayor John Engen Ms. Jordan.

Aldersperson Jordan Thank you Mr. Mayor. I am really grateful to the constituents for putting their faith in me and voting for me to represent them in Ward 6 and I am really excited to work with Sandra on issues that affect Ward 6. I think that we're gonna make a pretty great team and I'm excited to get some work done. I'm also really excited to just be on Council. It's something that I wanted to do for a long time, and I look forward to getting to know everyone really well and working really well with folks. So, thank you very much for putting your faith in me constituents. I appreciate it.

Mayor John Engen Mr. Hess.

Aldersperson Hess Thanks Mayor. I, it has become apparent that I am going to absolutely vote or speak when Kristen Jordan is supposed to vote or speak because I've almost done it twice already, but I'm delighted to serve this to, to be serving with all of the newly elected members. It was really great to get to know all of you throughout the campaign season and throughout the onboarding process and I look forward to getting to know you better and in this capacity. This is where the, the real work happens and it's, it's really rewarding, interesting, and challenging work and I'm, I'm really I'm looking forward to, to getting to know you all. So welcome.

Mayor John Engen Ms. Vasecka.

Aldersperson Vasecka Thanks. I also wanted to congratulate everyone on their win. I'm really looking forward to seeing what this new Council can do. I met with Kristen and Daniel already and I think that I have high hopes. I think that we're going to get along great, and I can't wait to meet up with Mike and Jennifer, and see what we can do for these next two years on Council, for me at least. I also wanted to congratulate United Way of Missoula in their partnership with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. They gave out almost, almost a thousand books for Christmas in December and I'm really proud of that. I don't know if you guys are familiar with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, but it's a really cool program that I would recommend anyone with children, birth to age five. You get a free book mailed to you depending on availability in the county, mailed to you once every few months that are age appropriate and it's been really fun seeing, seeing what you get because you know you read the same books over and over so it's nice to have a little change. So, welcome everyone I hope you had a wonderful New Year and yeah congratulations.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Anderson.

Aldersperson Anderson Thanks so much Mr. Mayor and yes, echo so many of the comments made by my fellow Council members. Welcome to the new folks and look forward to serving with all of you as well and thank you to the voters of Ward 5 for again entrusting your faith in me for a second term. I know it, it was a quick and yet long four years and it's a little, it's nice to be in a position to kind of feel like I sort of know what's going on. And I have so many of the people who were on Council with me Ms. Jones, Ms. West, Ms. Becerra, and others who were so helpful to me when I first got started and I hope to be that resource to the new folks because we are all in this together. I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. And despite the fact that I yelled Jumanji at the top of my lungs at midnight, we are still in this pandemic. So, I tried my hardest to wake up on a new day, but I want to continue everybody, encourage everyone to continue to wear masks and do what they need to keep everyone in our community safe. The sooner we all do that, the sooner we can get back to person and meeting in person and, and gathering with our friends and family and doing the things that we so much love to do here in Missoula, but I will say that I do think my breakroom is better stocked here in this my remote location than the one at Council chambers but again look forward to serving my another term on Council and I'm just really excited for this opportunity and consider myself incredibly blessed. So, thank you so much.

Mayor John Engen Thank you all.

## **12. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

#### **12.1.1 Minutes from the December 15, 2021 Meeting**

### **12.2 Committee of the Whole (COW) committee report**

#### **12.2.1 Minutes from the December 15, 2021 Meeting**

### **12.3 Land Use and Planning (LUP) committee report**

#### **12.3.1 Minutes from the December 15, 2021 Meeting**

### **12.4 Parks and Conservation (PC) committee report**

#### **12.4.1 Minutes from the December 15, 2021 Meeting**

### **12.5 Public Safety and Health (PSH) committee report**

#### **12.5.1 Minutes from the December 15, 2021 Meeting**

### **12.6 Public Works (PW) committee report**

### 13. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor John Engen Our next agenda item is new business. And for our new Council members, occasionally we will have an item that that has some urgency attached to it, that has not gone through the committee referral process or been vetted by committee, and they are fairly unusual, but we have a number this evening, in no small part because you all are just back at work, and you have some business to take care of. Those are the, those are the three items at the end of this agenda. Our first however is a request that comes from me and that's the confirmation of my appointment of Gordy Hughes as the City of Missoula's Fire Chief. Mr. Hughes, pardon me, currently serves as Assistant Chief, has, has grown up, as it were, in the fire service and in particular in the Missoula fire service. Gordy brings operational know-how, enthusiasm for the work, capacity to lead change, and I believe will serve this community as Chief as well as he has as a firefighter and in all of his various capacities moving up the ranks. Gordy's particular bailiwick was in the in the Fire Marshal's office. He can quote chapter and verse on code and if you ever want to have that conversation, you are welcome to it. I have and I've had enough, but I can always count on Gordy for that and for a lot of it, pardon me, a lot of other things and as we move into the future and the fire service evolves to meet more community need, I think we are, we are lucky to have someone with Gordy's talent and experience and commitment moving us forward. And so, I would like to entertain a motion, Ms. Anderson, to that effect.

Alderson Anderson Thank you Mr. Mayor and I, it's my honor to make the motion to appoint Gordy Hughes as Missoula's next Fire Chief.

Mayor John Engen Thank you. That motion is in order. Is there discussion on the motion? And I'm not seeing any hands raised and I just need to make sure that, that's not my machine doing that. Okay. Ms. Anderson go ahead.

Alderson Anderson Oh yes, okay. Well thanks so much, I guess I should have said can I speak to the motion, but just want to thank Jeff Brandt, our outgoing Fire Chief, for all of his years of service. I hope everyone had the opportunity to read the press release that Jennie put out, that laid out mister or Chief Brandt's, you know, extraordinary service and we are so incredibly lucky that he was called to the fire service and served us here in Missoula and we are also incredibly lucky that Mr. Hughes, now Chief Hughes will continue to serve in his footsteps. And we are all in very good hands and I've got to know them both during my time as public safety and health chair and they are, the Missoula Fire Department has nothing, but a can do attitude. They have stepped up in ways that none of us could have imagined, especially during this pandemic and always do so with you know a service in their heart and community

at the top of their mind and we are incredibly lucky that our first responders have chosen Missoula to be the home and where they live and serve every single day. So, I'm very happy to be supporting this nomination.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Jones on the motion.

Alderson Jones Thanks. I just wanted to briefly comment that I'm very much in support of this. Over the years, as the fire department and the fire personnel have come in to present to Council and to talk to us about their program and ways to make it better, they, they really have created a culture of being proactive, of being supportive, and really what's doing, doing what's best for the community. So, and I think they, they do a great job of leadership, leadership succession and training for those leadership qualities. So, I just want to say I'm very much in support of this. We've had Gordy Hughes before us, before presenting. I think he's going to be just great as Fire Chief. So, I'm happy to support it.

Mayor John Engen Thank you Ms. Jones. Any additional comment from Council members? Seeing none, anyone in the audience care to comment on the confirmation of soon-to-be Chief Hughes? Seeing none there, Ms. Rehbein will have a roll call vote.

Mayor John Engen It is 12 ayes, which is unanimous by my math. Congratulations Chief Hughes and thank you all for that vote of confidence in, in Gordy. I look forward to working with him, as I'm sure he does with you.

### **13.1 Confirm Gordy Hughes as Fire Chief**

AYES: (12): Alderson Anderson, Alderson Becerra, Alderson Carlino, Alderson Contos, Alderson Hess, Alderson Jones, Alderson Jordan, Alderson Nugent, Alderson Savage, Alderson Sherrill, Alderson Vasecka, and Alderson West

**Vote result: Approved (12 to 0)**

Mayor John Engen The next item of new business is the election of a City Council President. And at this point, I would entertain nominations from the floor. And Mr. Hess.

Alderson Hess Thanks Mayor. I'd like to nominate Gwen Jones to serve as Council President and at the appropriate time I'd be glad to speak to the nomination.

Mayor John Engen You may do that right now Mr. Hess.

Alderson Hess Thanks. You know I, Gwen has served with distinction as our Vice President through a really challenging time, through the pandemic, though, through just all the unrest and, and challenges associated with that, and I have always found Gwen to be deliberative. She is thorough. She is smart.

She is and most importantly, she is incredibly dedicated to her work. She puts so much into, into City Council and she rounds all that out by being kind and intelligent and, and compassionate and really thoughtful. And those are qualities that that make a good City Council member and they are qualities that make a good leader. And I think that Gwen will lead us well if, if she's given the opportunity and, and so I hope you'll join me in supporting her.

Mayor John Engen Further, further comments in support of Ms. Jones' nomination. Ms. Sherrill.

Aldersperson Sherrill Yeah, thanks. I just wanted to support that nomination. Gwen has been a proven leader on Council. She is one of the most detailed people I've ever met in my life. So, thorough doesn't completely say it all. She, she's balanced. She is she's very thoughtful. She is willing to spend the time that it takes to research issues and I, I could not be more happy to support her and leading Council.

Mayor John Engen Further comments in support? Ms. Anderson.

Aldersperson Anderson Thank you so much. I am honored to support this nomination of Ms. Jones as Council President. She's one of the first people I got to know when I got elected four years ago and that was because she took the time to sit and educate me, and was patient and knowledgeable, and was always willing to kind of go above and beyond to make sure that the folks who had newly gotten elected knew what was going on, knew who to ask questions, knew policy procedure, and she has continued to do that throughout her, throughout the time that we've been on Council and then has really stepped up into this leadership role in, in a time which none of us could have imagined. And she does that all with grace and humility and kindness and incredible hard work, one of the hardest working members on Council bar none, hands down, and has been doing so much of this work and we are lucky that she is still willing to lead us forward as the future is still yet unpredictable. So happy to support.

Mayor John Engen Further comments in support? Ms. Becerra.

Aldersperson Becerra Thank you. I will just add to what has been said about Gwen because she's heavily dedicated. She's kind, smart, very proactive and I think she instills an environment of collaboration....in all, I think essential in a position to lead this Council. So, I am happy to support the nomination.

Mayor John Engen Seeing no additional comments in support, are there additional nominations for Council President this evening? Seeing none, Ms. Jones' nomination as Council President is on the floor for your consideration. We'll have a roll call vote.

Aldersperson Jones I think you need to perhaps, point of order Mr. Mayor, need to call for public comment....

Mayor John Engen This is inside baseball?

Aldersperson Jones Oh, alrighty then.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Jones is the new President of the Missoula City Council. Congratulations, you all made a fine choice. I don't get the vote but if I did I would have voted for her too. Ms. Jones, just a quick note. I am taking a Pilates class that starts at six o'clock on Monday evenings for the next six months. So maybe we can talk about that later at your convenience. None of that is true; I will be here.

### **13.2 Election of City Council President**

#### **I nominate Gwen Jones as City Council President**

AYES: (12): Aldersperson Anderson, Aldersperson Becerra, Aldersperson Carlino, Aldersperson Contos, Aldersperson Hess, Aldersperson Jones, Aldersperson Jordan, Aldersperson Nugent, Aldersperson Savage, Aldersperson Sherrill, Aldersperson Vasecka, and Aldersperson West

**Vote result: Approved (12 to 0)**

Mayor John Engen Next ladies and gentlemen is the election of the City Council Vice President, and I would accept nominations from the floor this evening. And Ms. Vasecka.

Aldersperson Vasecka Thanks. I would like to nominate Jordan Hess for Vice President, and may I speak to that?

Mayor John Engen You may.

Aldersperson Vasecka Thanks. Seeing Jordan chair Land Use and Planning Committee, that is a difficult committee to chair, and he does it so fantastically. He knows all, all of the answers and if he doesn't he was happy to research them. Everything that Jordan said about Gwen, I could also say about you Jordan. I think that you'll be a great, great leader. I think that you will you and Gwen will make a good team for leadership for us.

Mayor John Engen Mr. Hess's nomination is in order. Comments in support of that nomination? Ms. Anderson.

Aldersperson Anderson Thanks so much. I am in support of the nomination of Mr. Hess as Council Vice President. Jordan is kind, patient, and deliberate, and I try to avoid speaking after him whenever humanly possible because he is so incredibly thoughtful. He chooses his words carefully and deliberately and they always have impact and whenever Jordan speaks, I always try to listen extra carefully, but that same sort of deliberateness and carefulness is how he approaches all of his work on Council. And he, as Ms. Vasecka said in her nomination, that he is the chair of the Land Use and

Planning Committee and that is about three committees in one and he and that's one of the issues that we have a lot of feelings about on with the folks who up here and he handles that with grace and, and deference and, and we couldn't ask for a better person in this position and we are lucky that he has continued to answer the call to public service and join us here on the City Council for another term. And I thank the voters of Ward 2 for continuing to see what a gem of a human he is and how lucky we are that he has decided to continue to serve with us in this capacity.

Mayor John Engen And further comment in support? Ms. Sherrill.

Aldersperson Sherrill Yeah thanks. I, I think Sandy said it best and is right that what he said about Gwen we could all just say about him. His ability to articulate and explain complex issues, as well as his position on those issues is, is ceaselessly impressive. You know, he has great leadership skills and he again, I would say, as I said about Gwen, he's able to, to balance the different positions on an issue and is very thoughtful about, about how he votes every single time. So, I'm happy to support Jordan.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Becerra.

Aldersperson Becerra Not much to add that already hasn't been said, but I will add that Jordan is very thoughtful, not just as a Council member, but he's one of the most thoughtful human beings. He's dedicated, kind, very knowledgeable about many issues related to City Council work. He is just [inaudible], so just for that, he gets my vote, but I also think that both Gwen and Jordan will make a fantastic duo to lead City Council.

Mayor John Engen And Ms. Jones to oppose the nomination.

Aldersperson Jones That's right.... no just joking. I, I also want to speak in support of Jordan Hess for Vice President. He has been an incredibly hard worker on Council the entire time I've served on Council with him. He's intelligent, he's incredibly diplomatic, and thoughtful, and brings that to all of his interactions on Council. And I think, I think we have a big focus on creating a good collaborative culture on Council that will accommodate in thoughtful ways all sorts of different opinions to have thoughtful conversations to work through it because you're never going to have 12 people agree on everything that's for sure, but how we go, how we work through different issues and gather in good ideas and modify things accordingly, I think is, is the focus of how to have a good functioning Council and I think Jordan truly, truly contributes in that type of dynamic, which is invaluable in this era. So, I'm very happy to support Jordan Hess for Vice President.

Mayor John Engen Further comments in support? Seeing none, any further nominations from the floor for Council Vice President? Seeing none, we'll have a roll call vote.



Mayor John Engen And we have a new Council Vice President. Congratulations Mr. Hess. I just received a text from Ms. Jones that she'll be joining me for those Pilates classes. So, we'll have that conversation as well. I would, I would echo everything I heard from Council members with regard to Mr. Hess's nomination, as well as Ms. Jones. Remarkably talented servant leaders and I look forward to working with them to make Missoula a better place for everyone. Thank you for your commitment and thanks for supporting those remarkably skilled individuals.

### **13.3 Election of City Council Vice President**

**I nominate Jordan Hess as City Council Vice-President.**

AYES: (12): Alderperson Anderson, Alderperson Becerra, Alderperson Carlino, Alderperson Contos, Alderperson Hess, Alderperson Jones, Alderperson Jordan, Alderperson Nugent, Alderperson Savage, Alderperson Sherrill, Alderperson Vasecka, and Alderperson West

**Vote result: Approved (12 to 0)**

Mayor John Engen Our last item of new business falls to your Council President, Ms. Jones.

Alderperson Jones Thank you. Regarding our City Council committees, I'm happy to announce that all City Councilors will be appointed to all committees, that's the information I could gather in over the last few days. If there are any changes that need to be made, rest assured we can make those at the next City Council meeting but frankly it's traditionally and historically worked that most, if not all, City Councilors sit on all committees and that seems to work best. So, I will make that motion that all be appointed to all committees.

Mayor John Engen Ms. Jones's motion is in order. Is there discussion on the motion? Seeing none, we'll have a roll call vote on that one.

Marty Rehbein Mayor Engen, usually we don't vote. It's just the Council President that makes the appointment. So, it's typed up as a motion on the agenda, but I think it's her saying it just makes it so.

Mayor John Engen I had those inclinations as well Ms. Rehbein, but you know.....

Marty Rehbein I kind of figured....

Mayor John Engen I don't like to buck the system, great. Ms. Jones, by virtue of your edict, all Council members are now on all committees until such times you remove them, for whatever reason. That's it for new business this evening.

**13.4 Appointments to City Council Committees**

Council President Jones appointed all Council members to all committees

**14. ITEMS TO BE REFERRED - None.**

**14.1 Administration and Finance committee referrals**

**14.1.1 Brownfields Assessment Professional Services Agreement**

**14.2 Committee of the Whole referrals**

**14.2.1 Election of City Council Committee chairs**

**14.2.2 Council Appointments to Local Emergency Planning Committee, Community Forum, City County Health Board , Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee and Missoula Civic Television Advisory Committee**

**14.3 Land Use and Planning committee referrals**

**14.3.1 Appointment to the Missoula Consolidated Planning Board**

**14.4 Parks and Conservation committee referrals**

**14.5 Public Safety and Health committee referrals**

**14.5.1 Referral-Confirmation of Police Officers**

**14.5.2 Referral-Purchase 1 Type 3 Engine and 1 Staff Vehicle in the amount of \$400,000.00 and \$40,000.00 respectively**

**14.6 Public Works committee referrals**

**14.6.1 Referral – Professional Service Agreement with Herrera Environmental Consultants for Levee re-certification support**

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

**15.1 Administratively approved agreement report**

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor John Engen As always, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your service. You got one under your belt friends. We will be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

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Martha L. Rehbein, CMC  
Legislative Services Director/City Clerk

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John Engen, Mayor