

Missoula City Council Public Works Committee Minutes

January 19, 2022, 9:00 am
ZOOM Webinar

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

Members absent: Jordan Hess, Heidi West

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

1.2.1 PW Committee Minutes from January 12, 2022

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 A Resolution to order right-of-way improvements Eaton St. Ph I S. 7th St W to S. 13th St W

Mark Todorovich Construction Projects Coordinator presenting,

This resolution is to order right-of-way improvements on Eaton Street and is part of the City of Missoula Special Improvement Assessment Program. The Special Improvement Assessment Program is an adjacent property owner-base assessment program. The assessments are established based on State statute and City Municipal Code and Resolution. Eaton Street is a collector street and a high priority for sidewalks. It is a transit route with designated stops, significantly increasing traffic. This street also connects to Franklin School and Franklin Park. This project will involve curb and gutter, bulb-outs, ADA ramps, and stormwater infrastructure. The street will be reconstructed, and trees will be planted in boulevard areas. The City tries to add boulevard sidewalks when they can, but utilities constrict some areas of this project. The funding will come from Special Improvement Assessments and Road District Funding. The City has mailed out letters to adjacent property owners. The out-of-pocket cost for a single-family home ranges from \$3,500 to \$9,000 and can be spread over 8, 12, or 20 years with interest associated.

Mr. Contos was wondering if the City received any response from the letters. Mr. Todorovich said the City received one phone call, and they were in favor of the project. Ms. Jordan asked why the sidewalk was only on one side. Monte Sipe Construction Projects Manager explained that they would have had to build a bridge over the irrigation ditch on one side, so they will use the existing bridge.

Mr. Carlino wondered if bike lanes would also be added. Mr. Sipe explained the street is not quite wide enough. The City is working on making Schilling Street a greenway and encouraging bikes to use that route.

Ms. Becerra added this is much-needed infrastructure for this neighborhood. She believes the City does what it can to reduce costs and allow residents to pay over the years. However, the City needs to make sure they provide for the common dominator, the pedestrian.

Ms. Jones explained that installing sidewalks around the City does benefit everyone. She encourages people to look up the Sidewalk Master Plan. She also added that the homeowners paid for the entire amount of sidewalk costs ten years ago.

Ms. Vasecka added that she is happy the sidewalk program has progressed, and homeowners are not responsible for as much as they used to be. However, she is uncomfortable putting this high cost onto the homeowners. She understands the need for sidewalks in the area but doesn't feel the homeowners should have such a significant financial responsibility.

Moved by: Gwen Jones

Adopt the resolution to order right-of-way improvements Project 20-063: Eaton St. Ph. I - S. 7th St W. to S. 13th St. W.

AYES: (7): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, and Jennifer Savage

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

ABSENT: (3): Jordan Hess, Amber Sherrill, and Heidi West

Vote results: Approved (7 to 2)

4. ADJOURNMENT