

DRAFT - Missoula City Council Administration and Finance Committee Minutes

January 26, 2022

9:40 AM

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 (chair)

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 Approval of the Minutes from the 1/05/2022 Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public in attendance.

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Ratify Approval for Mechanical Renovations at Emergency Winter Shelter

Emily Armstrong - This is to approve the mechanical work at the Emergency Winter Shelter to make sure it is functional and safe.

Stacie Anderson made the motion. It is paramount to make sure this is a safe and warm space.

Public comment called for and there was none.

Onto consent agenda.

Moved by: Stacie Anderson

To ratify approval and authorization of the Mayor's signature on the proposal to perform mechanical renovations at the Emergency Winter Shelter located at 1919 North Avenue W. in the amount of \$32,234.

AYES: (12): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, John Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

Vote results: Approved (12 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.

January 5, 2022 Meeting

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.

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.

January 26, 2022 Meeting

Marty Rehbein presented the information on the incorporated/suggested changes, see attachment/presentation for specific details.

Jordan Hess provided an update of the realigning/renaming of committees.

Discussion was had on professional tone and conduct, along with public comment and addressing the public during meetings.

Jordan Hess made the motion.

Sandra Vasecka - Would like to amend the statement regarding impugning the motives of others.

This was discussed regarding an amendment or a glossary of terms.

Sandra - Would like to make the amendment.

Amber Sherrill - Before voting, I would like to hear more of the history behind this to understand the item.

Mike Nugent - My concern is that the rules get too protective of issues that need to be addressed.

Kristen Jordan - I think there is a misunderstanding of some key terms and I support this change.

Heidi West - I would support moving forward as the language as it, with the caveat that we update the definition by public hearing. I do not support the amendment, but would like clarification.

Marty Rehbein - When we talked about this, it was in reference to defaming someone's character, ie: parenting skills, weight; something that is not relevant.

Gwen Jones - We will hold this item over until the next meeting, due to time constraints.

Stacie Anderson - Won't support, as I agree with the examples Marty provided. It is an archaic-sounding word, but best covers things.

Sandra Vasecka - The only portion I want to change is the word "Impugn" motives of members part.

Gwen Jones - We will put this amendment off for now and pick back up in February.

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

4. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 am