

Missoula City Council Public Works Committee Minutes

April 6, 2022, 2:10 pm
ZOOM Webinar

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

Members absent: Stacie Anderson, Mike Nugent

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 March 30, 2022

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Vacation of Public Utility Easement adjacent to S 2nd Street W

Mark Todorovich Construction Project Coordinator presenting,

The owner's Sherpa Properties LLC and Bricks and Spurs LLC & Scariano are requesting the City vacate the two public utility easements that are 40 feet wide and adjacent to Knowles Addition No. 3 Block 85 Lots 1, 2, 3 and COS 6685 Tract A. This request is because the north property owner has preliminary plans, which include a new building inside this public utility easement.

After consulting with City Utilities, Parks and Recreation, and MRA, City Engineering recommends that the City vacate the two 40 foot easements and retain a single 20-foot wide public utility easement (PUE) and public access easement (PAE) centered on the existing sewer main. This 20 foot wide PUE/PAE has already been signed and recorded and is attached to this referral. The 20 foot wide PAE will also provide bike and pedestrian neighborhood access for a future trail that will tie into the Bitterroot Branch Trail. The two 40 foot wide public utility easements have no private utilities, and all utility companies have signed the easement releases.

Moved by: Gwen Jones

Approve the Resolution vacating two 40 feet wide Public Utility Easements adjacent to Knowles Addition No. 3 Block 85, Lots 1, 2, 3 and COS 6685, Tract A.

AYES: (9): Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, John Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, and Sandra Vasecka

ABSENT: (3): Stacie Anderson, Mike Nugent, and Heidi West

Vote results: Approved (9 to 0)

3.2 An Informational Water Utility Presentation

Logan McInnis, Deputy Director of Public Works Utilities, presenting,

The existing water system has forty groundwater wells producing 101 million gallons per day of water rights. The City has twenty-five storage facilities and twenty-two booster stations. The water system serves about 73,000 people.

Missoula Water has 32 employees located in Missoula. In 2021 the staff inspected and tested 3,225 hydrants, turned 1,925 valves, and performed 86 taps and 5,134 locates. The staff also completed 2,800 service orders and installed 1,900 meters. The water is sampled and tested weekly and monthly by Missoula Water employees.

The system currently includes 340 miles of water mains and plans to replace 3.4 miles per year which is 1% a year. The cost is about 2.4 million to replace the 1% of water mains per year. The contractors available to work in Missoula are tapped out and working on as many projects as possible. Ms. Savage asked what part of the City had the oldest pipes. Mr. McInnis said most of them are located on the valley floor, particularly in the downtown area.

Ms. Jordan asked if any of the pipes were lead pipes. Mr. McInnis said the City does not have lead pipes. However, nine miles of pipes are made out of Kalmein, which has some lead traces. The samples are very low on lead. That is the pipe material the water company is looking to replace.

The Capital Investment projects going on this year include two new water tanks in the Upper and Lower Lincoln Hills and a new tank in the Prospect Area. In addition, water main replacements are scheduled at Cooley-Stoddard, Cooper Alley, Beckwith, Shakespeare, and Broadway-May. A map of current projects can be found on the City of Missoula public works website. <https://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2649/Projects>.

Missoula Water typically repairs 25-35 main leaks a year. A large portion of the leaks are on service lines. The customer owns the service line from the main to the house. These are galvanized lines and would cost around \$120 million to replace. Mr. Hess asked about when the City partnered with an insurance carrier to provide assistance to property owners. Mr. McInnis said that he thinks around 850 customers are utilizing that service. At www.missoulamaps.com, you can look up your service line information.

The main sustainability effort for Missoula Water is to reduce system leakage. Other sustainability efforts are to install a production well at the airport and the Clouse property. The money from utility rates goes back into projects that Missoula Water does.

4. ADJOURNMENT