

## Missoula City Council Public Works Committee Minutes

May 25, 2022, 10:15 am  
ZOOM Webinar

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

**Members absent:** Stacie Anderson, Sandra Vasecka

### 1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

#### 1.1 Roll Call

#### 1.2 Approval of the Minutes

##### 1.2.1 Public Works Committee Minutes from May 18, 2022

The minutes were approved as submitted.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

### 3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

#### 3.1 Appointments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board

The Mayor is appointing Kate Whittle and Brandon Wasser to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board. Ms. Becerra said that both of these individuals bring a lot of knowledge and experience to this board.

**Moved by:** Amber Sherrill

Confirm the Mayor's appointment of Kate Whittle and Brandon Wasser to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board. Kate Whittle will begin immediately and fill a vacated term that expires on September 30, 2023, and Brandon Wasser will begin immediately and fill a vacated term that expires on September 30, 2024.

AYES: (8): Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, and Amber Sherrill

ABSENT: (4): Stacie Anderson, John Contos, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

**Vote results: Approved (8 to 0)**

#### 3.2 Access Agreement & Encroachment Easement for the Northwestern Energy Substation at Pattee Street

Troy Monroe City Engineer for Development and Review presenting,

Mr. Monroe explained that NorthWestern Energy currently has a substation at Pattee Street. They are redoing the substation, but they are keeping the original fencing. However, the original footprint of the substation was never officially recorded, so Northwestern Energy is asking for this easement to make the original layout official.

**Moved by:** Amber Sherrill

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an Access Agreement & Encroachment Easement with NorthWestern Corporation, dba. Northwestern Energy for the substation at Pattee Street.

AYES: (10): Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, John Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (2): Stacie Anderson, and Sandra Vasecka

**Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)**

**3.3 A Resolution Declaring VHF Radios as Surplus and Authorizing its Disposal**

Brian Hensel Deputy Director of Public Works Streets presenting,

This resolution would allow the City Communications Shop to donate the unused and surplus radio supply to the County.

**Moved by:** Amber Sherrill

Adopt/deny a resolution of the Missoula City Council declaring certain City of Missoula property as surplus and authorizing its disposal.

AYES: (10): Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, John Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (2): Stacie Anderson, and Sandra Vasecka

**Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)**

**3.4 Referral – Street Operations and Maintenance Division Informational Presentation**

Brian Hensel, Deputy Director of Public Works and Mobility, presenting,

The City Street Division maintains all city street right of way. In addition to this, Streets has a maintenance agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation (State) to maintain the state highways that run through Missoula. The City has 311 centerline miles, and the State has 30.2 centerline miles. This maintenance agreement includes street and traffic signal maintenance and takes a lot of the street division's time. However, the State does reimburse the City for materials. The State Route map can be found on the city website.

Signals, Lighting and Communications Shop is under the street division and has a Superintendent and four employees. There are 11 city-owned traffic signals and 58 State-owned signals that the City maintains. In addition, 85 city-owned streetlights and poles. The City maintains and owns two tower sites that they maintain. Another part of the

communication shop's responsibility is they install, repair, and maintain all electronics on the police patrol cars. This includes computer equipment, video cameras, light bars, and radios. In 2021 they did 16 installations, and it took them around 700 hours to complete. Traffic Services is responsible for signing, striping, and traffic calming circles. In 2021 they painted over 94 miles of long line striping. They also paint the school and other crosswalks, bicycle sharrows, turn lanes, and curbs. They also replace signs that do not meet current reflectivity standards and replace damaged and stolen signs. Traffic services plow and maintain 4.5 miles of bridge sidewalks and city-owned sidewalks in the winter. In addition to these duties, they perform over 100 traffic and speed counts each year and grind down sidewalks.

Street Maintenance is also responsible for street sweeping, leaf collection, paving, chip sealing, patching potholes, crack sealing, and snow plowing. The City sweeps the streets four times a year. Street sweeping helps improve air quality and prevents pollutants from entering the stormwater system. During the 2021 leaf collection, 1,056 loads of leaves were taken to Garden City Compost. Leaf collection helps keep the streets clean and prevents the leaves from clogging the stormwater system. The street division milled and paved 3.8 miles of city streets during the summer of 2021. In addition to this, the street division chip sealed 14.4 miles during the summer of 2021. Chip Sealing extends the life of the streets and helps prevent potholes. During the fiscal year of 2021, the crew patched 7,188 potholes. In addition, the crew spent 1,942 hours crack sealing to extend the life of the streets. The street division is busy plowing and deicing operations during the winter months. The streets are all split into a priority system and plowed according to the priority. The street priority map can be found on the city website.

The street division also assists the Stormwater Utility with sump installation, re-digging, and cleaning. In 2021 the City installed four new sumps, re-dug ten sumps, and cleaned 680 sumps and 103 catch basins. The City also tries to get out and blade all of the dirt alleys once a year. In 2021 they spent 1,335 hours alley grading.

The funding for the Street Division comes from the road district, gas tax, and the Bridge and Road Safety Accountability Act (BarSAA).

N/A Informational Only

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**