

Missoula City Council Public Safety, Health and Operations Committee Minutes

June 8, 2022
10:30 AM
ZOOM Webinar

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

Members absent: Jennifer Savage

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.2 Approval of the Minutes of May 11, 2022 PSO meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Continued COVID Funding

Missoula County Health Officer/Department Director D'Shane Barnett reported that COVID-19 response operations have been scaled back significantly, largely due to the federally funding source that covers testing and vaccine activities going away at the end of this month. Activities that have not been federally funded for sometime include: case monitoring, case investigation, and contract tracing. In response to this, the testing center has been closed as of May 19. Before making this move, community health providers were consulted. Ultimately, COVID-19 case investigations can not be discontinued because they are a reportable disease. Moving forward, a skeleton crew will be used and that is what the requested funds will be used for.

Moved by: Amber Sherrill

Commit an additional \$120,927 in American Recovery Plan Act funds for continued Health Department COVID response for July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

AYES: (11): Stacie Anderson, Daniel Carlino, John Contos, Mirtha Becerra, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (1): Jennifer Savage

Vote results: Approved (11 to 0)

3.2 Interlocal Agreement with Missoula County for Health Services

D'Shane Barnett explained that two years ago the legislature passed HB121 and HB257 which necessitates that a change be made as to how the Board of Health does business. This updated interlocal creates a governing body, separate from the Board of Health.

Under these new bills, the Board of Health does not have the authority to establish the health code. The governing body will now put health code in place, with a couple of exceptions. These exceptions do not apply to emergency rules, unless the governing body repeals the rule. If the governing body does not repeal the rule, the rule will stay in effect for the duration of the emergency. This does not apply to property specific actions, such as a health code issue with a restaurant. Health code violations will continue to be processed by the Board of Health.

Also, the Missoula County Board of Health will no longer hire the Health Officer. The Health Officer is a County employee and will be hired by process led by the County Commissioners. This process allows for the Missoula City Council to appoint someone to the Search Committee, if they so choose. The Search Committee will make the recommendation to the County Commissioners. The County Commissioners then become the hiring body for the health officer.

Dale Bickell discussed the 60/40 cost split in the tax support that the City provides.

(Note: Gwen Jones was not present during the vote.)

Moved by: Amber Sherrill

Approve and authorize the mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Missoula and Missoula County to Cooperate in the Provision of Health Services.

AYES: (10): Stacie Anderson, Daniel Carlino, John Contos, Mirtha Becerra, Jordan Hess, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

3.3 Livestock Exemption for Youth Agriculture Organization Projects

Heidi West introduced an idea to increase urban youth involvement in agricultural educational opportunities and to increase participation in the Missoula County Fair. She shared the current animal ordinance language and discussed the barriers in the language to keeping animals within the city limits. She is seeking support in allowing goats, sheep and additional poultry within the city limits. This exemption would apply strictly to meat animals that are auctioned off at the Fair.

Ms. West is proposing to implement a free animal permit process under Title 6. She pointed out that this would all be a short term project that would have minimal impact on neighbors, as participants get their animals in about April/May and auction them off in August.

Ms. West wanted to see what sort of support she would receive from the committee before moving to the next steps. As she gleans more information, she will update the committee.

Moved by: Sandra Vasecka

Direct staff to assist in the creation of a Livestock Exemption for Youth Organization Projects

AYES: (11): Stacie Anderson, Daniel Carlino, John Contos, Mirtha Becerra, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (1): Jennifer Savage

Vote results: Approved (11 to 0)

4. ADJOURNMENT

11:35pm