

Missoula City Council Public Safety, Health and Operations Committee Minutes

August 24, 2022
1:15 PM
Microsoft Teams 1

Members present: Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, John P. Contos, Gwen Jones, Mike Nugent, Sandra Vasecka, Heidi West

Members absent: Jordan Hess, Kristen Jordan, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Legislative Lobbyist for 2023 Session

Jessica Miller, citizen services manager, gave presentation regarding the contract for the services of a lobbyist for the 2023 Montana Legislature. This line item is included in the budget that the City Council approved on Monday. This lobbyist is based in Helena so that they can attend meetings that city staff are not able to attend, they have a good relationship with the legislatures themselves, and they can let the City know when we need amendments. Having someone in Helena is really important for our cause. This lobbyist will also coordinate with lobbyists from other cities and counties if we have something in common. The meeting today is to approve that contract. Prior to the session, we will come back to the City Council with a discussion on how the legislature is going to work, a demonstration of our tracking software, and an introduction to our lobbyist. This typically happens after the election in November/December. The Missoula delegation is invited as well, so that City Council can meet the legislatures that will be representing us.

For the past few sessions, John McDonald has been representing us, but has decided to retire. SK Rossi, founder of Central House Strategies, has taken over his clientele in regards to local government. Central House Strategies is also representing the City of Bozeman.

Sandra Vasecka said she did not support this in the 2021 legislature session and will not be supporting this measure because she doesn't believe that government lobbying government is best practices.

Moved by: Heidi West

Approve and authorize the mayor to sign a contract with Central House Strategies in the amount of \$38,000 for lobbyist services for the 2023 Montana Legislature.

AYES: (7): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, John P. Contos, Gwen Jones, Mike Nugent, and Heidi West

NAYS: (1): Sandra Vasecka

ABSENT: (4): Jordan Hess, Kristen Jordan, Jennifer Savage, and Amber Sherrill

Vote results: Approved (7 to 1)

4. ADJOURNMENT

1:32 pm