

Missoula City Council Committee of the Whole Minutes - DRAFT

September 14, 2022

11:45 AM

Council Chambers (in person) or TEAMS (virtually)

Attend in person: City Council Chambers, 140 W Pine, Missoula MT

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

Members absent: Jordan Hess

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Ward 2 vacancy appointment process

Council President Gwen Jones explained that the appointment of alderperson Jordan Hess to the position of mayor creates a vacancy in Ward 2. The appointment process is outlined in both the state law and the city council rules.

City Clerk Marty Rehbein outlined the state law requirements, the requirements to be qualified to be a councilperson, and the proposed timeline for receiving applications, scheduling interviews, and voting on the applicants (see attached presentation). She explained the reason for having the application close on Thursday at noon to allow time to confer with the county regarding eligibility. Due to conflicts with the Montana League of Cities and Towns conference and to honor Indigenous Peoples Day, it is recommended that the rules be suspended to allow eight (8) days for applications rather than ten (10).

Amber Sherrill asked for clarification regarding the shortening of the ten (10) days.

Mirtha Beccera asked about what the schedule would look like if the council were not attending the League conference. Marty Rehbein responded that there would still need to be special meetings called due to there not being a regularly scheduled meeting on Indigenous Peoples Day. This requires eight (8) votes of council or the mayor to call.

Kristen Jordan asked if the application questions are finalized. Gwen Jones responded that the questions are finalized (and attached), it is a slightly different process than the mayor. Kristen Jordan stated that she has issues with question number five (5).

Amber Sherill moved to the suspend the rules and asked how the interview process will work. Gwen Jones responded that because no members of the council will be applicants, the council will proceed as though it were a board or commission interview. Mirtha Becerra confirmed that it was similar to a board or commission interview. Gwen Jones asked that there be some form of timing provided to applicants.

Marty Rehbein noted that the question process is slightly different from the last time a council vacancy was filled. Heidi West noted that when boards or commissions added questions, they added them for all, Gwen Jones responded that it would not be appropriate to add questions.

Daniel Carlino asked for clarification about the council president selecting the interview questions. This is found in the council rules.

Gwen Jones noted that applicants will have two weeks notice as to the interview date. Marty Rehbein added that the interview questions will be available earlier for applicants to review as of the time of application.

Gwen Jones asked for clarification that this does not need to go before council on Monday to be effective. Marty Rehbein confirmed that procedural matters such as a suspension of the rules do not need to go before the council at a regular meeting.

Applications will open this afternoon after Jordan Hess is sworn in as mayor and there officially becomes a vacancy on council.

Moved by: Amber Sherrill

Recommended Motion: Suspend City Council Rule No. 31 and allow 8 days for applicants to submit an application for Ward 2 alderperson to fill the vacancy.

AYES: (10): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

NAYS: (1): Daniel Carlino

ABSENT: (1): Jordan Hess

Vote results: Approved (10 to 1)

4. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 12:13pm.