

Missoula City Council Committee of the Whole Minutes - DRAFT

September 21, 2022

9:35 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, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Heidi West

Members absent: John P. Contos

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

Approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Food Policy Advisory Board Update

Discussion only.

Heidi West introduced Erika Berglund and the second update from the Food Policy Advisory Board. (See attached presentation.)

Questions from Council

Mirtha Becerra commented that she's interested in seeing this work folded into code reform. Question about the county survey, do we know the ratio of respondents between city and county residents? What is the definition of small ag land and is it economically viable? Erika Berglund responded that the responses were primarily from inside the city limits, and a lot of distinction between them in terms of their priorities. Also, the county is in the early stages of looking at conservation servitudes to allow small ag parcels to be preserved, possibly those under 30 acres. Those small parcels are a significant part of the local economy and should be invested in.

Mike Nugent asked about the details of the county plan, questioning how the agreements would work for easement-type arrangements on these small parcels. Also asked about meat packing public-private partnerships that might be feasible to alleviate the meat-packing bottleneck. Erika Berglund responded that they are still exploring options about what portions of the process are both needed, what can be supported by the local workforce, etc. There are some exciting projects going forward in other areas of the state, like a Helena co-op model. Has the investment at the MPC level been helpful? Yes, the

program out of Big Sky has been helpful and could make this more viable than other programs in other areas.

Gwen Jones asked about the history of the meat packing infrastructure. Erika Berglund responded that many decades ago there was more infrastructure. More recently there has been an increased interest in local sustainable food systems. Local suppliers have to currently drive to Superior, and of course, there are labor issues as well creating up to six-month delays. Erika Berglund mentioned there is some local infrastructure could use support to be expanded.

3.2 Appoint Land Use and Planning Committee Chair 2022

Amber Sherrill nominated Mike Nugent. She spoke to his nomination and his clear understanding of real estate and development during a housing crisis and while the City is embarking on code reform.

Sandra Vasecka also supported Mike Nugent and his great background with land use and planning.

Gwen Jones also spoke to Mike Nugent's nomination noting his masters in public administration.

Recommended motion: Nominate Mike Nugent to the position of Land Use and Planning Committee Chair

(Committee business only—no council action required)

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

ABSENT: (1): John Contos

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

4. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 10:10am.