

Missoula City Council Public Safety, Health and Operations Committee Minutes

October 12, 2022

10:45 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

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

1.2.1 Minutes of September 28, 2022 PSO meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Repeal Domestic Partnership Registry Resolution

Legislative Services Director/City Clerk Marty Rehbein presented the history and action on this resolution.

In 2013, Council adopted a resolution creating a domestic partnership registry for unmarried couple to have their relationships recognized. Since then, the United States Supreme Court declared same-sex marriage legal in all 50 states. When same-sex marriage became legal, the domestic partnership registry was created as a way for Montana residents to declare their partnership and get a certificate they present to their employer to receive domestic partnership benefits. In 2020, 18 partnerships were registered and in 2021, 22 partnerships were registered.

The City Clerk's office would like to evolve this program from a registry to an affidavit declaration form that is available on the City website. Couples will access the affidavit on the website, fill it out and have it notarized, and present it to their employer for benefits. The City Clerk's office will also like to add an affidavit form for domestic partnership dissolution to the City website that can also be presented to an employer.

The benefits of passing this resolution include time, effort and money saved for citizens and the City Clerk's office. In addition, it will reduce data collection about the private lives of Montana citizens.

Moved by: Amber Sherrill

Adopt a resolution of the Missoula City Council to repeal resolution number 7801 entitled “A resolution of the Missoula City Council expressing support for the Human Rights Campaign’s important work and authorizing the creation of a Domestic Partnership Registry”.

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

Vote results: Approved (11 to 0)

3.2 Referral FY 2023 Community Justice Department Agreement

Kelleen Roseboom, business manager for the City Attorney’s office, made the presentation regarding the annual contract with the Missoula Community Justice Department. They provide services to the city of Missoula for victims of crime within the city. They provide one civil crime victim advocate that assists with Orders of Protection and community referrals. They also provide one criminal crime victim advocate that assists victims of sexual partner assault, partner family member, stalking, etc. They assist victims in navigating through the criminal justice system, which can be intimidating. They also provide healthy relationship project services. This includes education to middle school and high school workshops for social services and medical providers. The Council already approved this increase for this contract in the actual budget process. She is asking that the mayor be able to sign the contract.

Moved by: Gwen Jones

Approve the Mayor to sign the FY 2023 Community Justice Department Agreement in the amount of \$195,377.00.

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

Vote results: Approved (11 to 0)

4. ADJOURNMENT

11:05 a.m.