

Missoula City Council Housing, Redevelopment, and Community Programs Committee Minutes

DRAFT

December 7, 2022

11:10 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, Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Heidi West

Members absent: Kristen Jordan

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Committee Chair, Heidi West, called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Rhea Sanders called the roll.

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 Approval of the Minutes from November 9th 2022

The minutes were approved as submitted.

1.2.2 Approval of the Minutes from November 16th 2022

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Contract – Poverello Center Outreach and Operations Funding

Cerina Azure-Kjorstad, the houselessness operations specialist with the Department of Community Planning, Development and Innovation presented the contract amount and funding source. She highlighted the services and programs the funds would support.

Sandra Vaseka joined the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Committee member Jones made the recommended motion.

There was no public comment.

A committee member spoke positively to the public/private partnerships that serve those most vulnerable in the community.

Moved by: Gwen Jones

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute a contract with the Poverello Center for the provision of services and programs specific to people without a house in Missoula and providing comprehensive outreach services to that same population, funded by City of Missoula.

AYES: (10): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, John P. Contos, Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, and Heidi West

ABSTAIN: (1): Sandra Vasecka

ABSENT: (1): Kristen Jordan

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

3.2 Contract Amendment – FY23 Poverello Center Emergency Winter Shelter Contract

Mayor Jordan Hess gave background on the Emergency Winter Shelter (EWS) and information regarding the proposed contract amendment to support increased staffing, add sleeping areas, and provide a higher level of services at the EWS. He touched upon the County passing a similar amendment. He outlined the funding sources that support the Poverello Center. Mayor Hess announced his office would issue a statement supporting the year end effort of the Poverello Center to raise additional funds to provide more hot meals to those who are staying at the EWS. He spoke to his personal donation to the Poverello Center and encouraged the committee as well as members of the public to consider donating if they are able. He reiterated what the proposed contract amendment funds would support and that community generosity would help these funds stretch farther and provide a higher level of service. Mayor Hess introduced Emily Armstrong, the houseless initiatives program manager in the Department of Community Planning, Development and Innovation who presented the contract amendment to increase the “not to exceed” amount in the existing contract with the Poverello Center and provided details regarding this proposed amendment. She touched upon the additional grant funds awarded and outlined that the funds would support increased staff and service capacity. For more information, please see the attached video.

The committee and Ms. Armstrong discussed the location of the additional sleeping space in the winter shelter, clarified what how the funds would be used, and the adequacy of the fiscal year 2023 Operation Shelter funds. Mayor Hess conveyed there is a group of city and county staff that meets to assess the status of the Operation Shelter funds. Jill Bonny, the Poverello Center’s executive director, provided details on the expanded sleeping space.

Committee member Gwen Jones moved the recommended motion and spoke positively toward the Poverello Center, and the services they provided.

There was no public comment.

A committee member spoke positively to the increased sleeping space but expressed concerns with the appropriate use of ARPA funds as well as the stewardship of tax dollars. They conveyed they would not be supporting the additional funding. Other committee members spoke in support of the contract amendment, the appropriate use of

ARPA funds and the necessity to support those who provide services to vulnerable populations. A committee member and Ms. Bonny discussed the types of donations needed including hats, gloves, blankets, socks, toilet paper and monetary donations in hopes of providing an additional hot meal.

Moved by: Gwen Jones

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute an amendment to contract A8972 to increase the total not to exceed contract amount to \$385,900 for the Poverello Center to provide adequate services and operations to meet high demand at the Emergency Winter Shelter.

AYES: (10): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, John P. Contos, Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, and Heidi West

NAYS: (1): Sandra Vasecka

ABSENT: (1): Kristen Jordan

Vote results: Approved (10 to 1)

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.