

**Missoula City Council Committee of the Whole Minutes - DRAFT**

**January 25, 2023**

**10:00 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, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka

**Members absent:** Heidi West

**1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

**1.1 Roll Call**

**1.2 Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes for December 14, 2022.

Minutes for January 11, 2023.

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

(Items were taken in reverse order from the agenda.)

**3.1 Review of Mason's Rules of Procedure**

Informational only.

Gwen Jones introduced this item, including the historical reasons for relaxing procedures during the pandemic, however she wants to review the procedures in order to make committees and Monday night meetings more efficient.

Marty Rehbein, City Clerk, reviewed City Council Rule 2 (see presentation). Calling for the motion at the proper time helps to focus the conversation and debate specifically to the motion on the floor. Encouraged committee chairs to properly plan with staff and council members to properly address sticky issues. Chairs can also break out issues into sub-issues. Using Section 102 from Mason's describes that every member has the right to speak once and may be permitted to speak again. Also, it's helpful to use committee time to shape the issue and recommend to the full council and most amendments will have been handled before Monday nights.

Gwen Jones stated the purpose of reflecting on these rules and practices is to do more the "sausage-making" in committee and not late at night on Mondays. Hopefully, most

discussion will happen in committee and although the council never strictly enforced these rules, the goal was to keep things efficient.

Amber Sherrill commented that there is latitude, and the rule is flexible, it's more of culture of council. Asked if this is the same for committee meetings and full council meetings. Marty Rehbein stated that the rule is a council rule in terms of order of business, the Mason's section describes that every member has a right to speak once, it is a privilege to speak more than once.

Amber Sherrill asked if council has the ability to take things out of order or ask more questions in the other stages. Marty Rehbein stated that the rule is not that clear and it depends upon how you define "stage of procedure."

Stacie Anderson made a distinction between asking questions, which should be encouraged, and making statements, which should be limited and concise. Clarifying that substantive discussion and decision making happening on the fly on the final night is difficult for staff to provide accurate information as to how amendments interact and affect the overall proposal.

Marty Rehbein provided a final comment to look to Mason's for the flexibility needed.

Jennifer Savage stated that sometimes committee meetings are too short and there isn't time to discuss all the ramifications, and that it would be helpful to either schedule more time, keep things in committee, or refer them back to committee if necessary.

Mirtha Becerra said that Marty Rehbein suggested adding subsections to an item on the agenda, specifically as it refers to speaking once. Agrees that this might mean longer committee meetings.

Gwen Jones mentioned that prior to the pandemic the committee meetings were conducted with more flexibility and the council meetings were more for making one statement and moving on.

Mike Nugent mentioned that he appreciates rules and structure, but the work of the constituents is more important. This calls for being more prepared in committee, especially so that amendments can be sent to staff for review.

Sandra Vasecka asked about being prepared for committee meetings and the timeliness of finding out information. Gwen Jones responded that it is not something that can be changed due to when items are referred to staff and how other review timelines work.

### **3.2 Midtown Master Plan Update**

Informational only.

Melanie Brock introduced the Midtown Master Plan project (that has been reviewed by over 1000 Missoulians), and Tyler Bump, lead consultant (see presentation attached).

Gwen Jones reminded all that there is a public workshop at 5:30 on January 26 at the Fairgrounds. She also asked about the process that was used to create a foundation for engagement. Tyler Bump responded that engagement has been great considering the size of the community, in both in person events and through the survey. Rachel's connections to nonprofits, etc. has really impacted the success of the process. The

technical and design perspectives are well aligned with the feedback from the community.

Gwen Jones asked if there were sectors that they haven't heard from or gaps. Tyler Bump responded that they've had broad engagement and have looped back with many community groups and community guides that have helped reach different segments of the community.

Emily Brock commented on the concept of engagement and how this project was different. Pulled the community engagement portion of the design team contract so that the engagement is more collaborative. Also, basic community organizing like having relationships in the schools has been improved by coming in from a grassroots perspective.

Amber Sherrill asked about strategies for this big study area. Tyler Bump replied that they are asking the constituents where they want the focus to be for investment and infrastructure. It was a bit intimidating, but they are focusing on 1/4 mile walking radiuses.

Amber Sherrill asked about positioning for future federal funding. Tyler Bump responded that immediate focus needs to be in relation to the existing federal work, specifically the Brooks Corridor work.

Mirtha Becerra asked if they are tracking the forms of participation re commercial versus residential. Tyler Bump said they always first ask if participants live, work or visit Midtown. So far, the outcomes have been pretty consistent, and themes have emerged regardless of participant status. Melanie Brock said they do have a sign in system that does some tracking at community events.

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 11:11am.