

Missoula City Council Public Works Committee Minutes

August 9, 2023, 1:30 pm

Council Chambers (in person) or TEAMS (virtually)

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

Members present: Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra (chair), Daniel Carlino, John P. Contos, Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill

Members absent: Jennifer Savage, Sandra Vasecka, Heidi West

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 Minutes from July 19, 2023

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Service Agreement with 2G Energy for Co-Gen Maintenance

Gene Connell presenting,

This is a service agreement with 2G Energy for the maintenance of the Co-Generator. This would be the sixth year of the contract with them. The Co-Gen is a sophisticated piece of equipment and is essential to be operational. 2G has always been very responsive, and they can log in and troubleshoot the system remotely.

Moved by: Stacie Anderson

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a service agreement with 2G Energy for Co-Gen maintenance for the wastewater treatment plant at a cost not to exceed \$85,031.65

AYES: (8): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, and Amber Sherrill

ABSENT: (4): John Contos, Jennifer Savage, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

Vote results: Approved (8 to 0)

3.2 Mary Jane Boulevard & Flynn Lane Speed Limits

Kevin Slovarp presenting,

The Mullan BUILD project constructed a portion of Mary Jane Blvd, and this allowed Mary Jane Blvd to be a collector street in this area. This street was built to be a collector and was anticipated to become so once further developed. Once this happened, Flynn Lane would then revert to a local road. Based on the design, the speed was set at 30 miles per hour for the new segments. However, city staff would like uniform speed limits in this area and does not want to speed to change multiple times along one street. Dropping the speed to 25 miles an hour would create one speed along Mary Jane Blvd. Flynn Lane is 35 miles per hour everywhere except for the school zone. The city staff recommends changing the speed to 25 miles per hour, consistent with most local roads within the City. Mr. Carlino asked if the design of the road was going to change at all and if quick builds were going to be added. He said sometimes speed is not the only thing that needs to be changed, and infrastructure changes help also. Mr. Slovarp noted in the future, as adjacent development is being planned, it will change the environment. Ms. Becerra asked if the police department would monitor the area once the speed changed. Mr. Slovarp said that police would be present and they would provide a grace period before writing tickets. Mr. Contos asked when the new portions of Mary Jane Blvd were smaller. Mr. Slovarp said this is because the Mullan BUILD development designed that section to include on-street bike lanes, which made the street narrower than the rest of Mary Jane Blvd. Mr. Contos added that he did not like the design and thought a slower speed limit would slow and back traffic up in this area.

Moved by: Sierra Farmer

Adopt a resolution for Missoula City Council to establish posted speed limits of 25 miles per hour (mph) for Mary Jane Boulevard from Mullan Road to Melrose Place and Camden Street to W. Broadway Street and Flynn Lane from Mullan Road to W. Broadway Street.

AYES: (8): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, and Amber Sherrill

NAYS: (1): John Contos

ABSENT: (3): Jennifer Savage, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

Vote results: Approved (8 to 1)

3.3 Lower Miller Creek Road Right-of-Way Vacation and Speed Limit Reduction

Steve Reichert presenting,

This petition would vacate a portion of Lower Miller Creek Road and reduce the speed limit through Linda Vista Subdivision. The Linda Vista Estates Subdivision and rezoning was approved on January 26, 2009. The preliminary plat approval provides a new Lower Miller Creek road requiring vacation and closure of the existing road. This includes six conditions of approval which are included in the resolution. As a result of the new alignment of the road, a speed limit reduction is also recommended to 25 miles per hour. A map and phasing plan are included in the presentation.

Ms. Anderson said she has had several requests for speed changes along the golf course. Mr. Reichert explained the speed limit would only change in the area listed in the presentation. Ms. Anderson asked how to make the speed limit consistent along the entire street. Mr. Slovarp said the City would need to conduct an engineering study and bring that to City Council.

Moved by: Stacie Anderson

I move the City Council: Adopt a resolution declaring it to be the intention of the City Council of the City of Missoula, Montana, to close and vacate a portion of Lower Miller Creek Road public right-of-way in Linda Vista Estates Subdivision Phase 2, and subject it to six (6) conditions of approval, and set a public hearing on August 28, 2023. I move the City Council: Adopt a resolution for the City Council of the City of Missoula, Montana, to establish a speed limit of 25 mph for Lower Miller Creek Road in Linda Vista Estates Subdivision Phase 2.

AYES: (8): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, and Amber Sherrill

NAYS: (1): John Contos

ABSENT: (3): Jennifer Savage, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

Vote results: Approved (8 to 1)

3.4 Presentation and Resolution supporting Missoula County’s Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program (PROTECT) 2023 Application

Charlie Menefee presenting,

This Lolo Street Bridge replacement project is a project the City would like to submit to the PROTECT Grant opportunity. The current Lolo Bridge is fifty-seven years old. PROTECT stands for Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation. The grant funds climate change, sea level rise, flooding, and extreme weather events. This grant does require a twenty percent match.

The Lolo Street Bridge is located in the Rattlesnake neighborhood, one of two bridges providing access to this neighborhood. This project's benefits include replacing degraded infrastructure, improved bike, and pedestrian crossing, increased resilience to flood risk, and increased emergency evacuation route capacity.

The project would include the replacement of the entire bridge with a wider opening to help water flow through better at higher flow times and mitigate any backup flooding. The decking would be expanded to 10 feet, allowing for a shared-use path.

If awarded this grant, the City would begin contracting for engineering in the summer of 2024, and construction would begin in the summer of 2025. The total estimated cost would be \$3,672,375.

Ms. Farmer asked if the driving lanes would be expanded. Mr. Menefee said the decks on both sides would be 10 feet wider, but the driving lanes would not change much.

Mr. Contos asked if the bridge was a risk of caving in. Mr. Menefee said it is in poor condition but, at this time, is not in danger of caving in.

Ms. Sherrill said that she appreciates this bridge as a main street through the Rattlesnake, and she runs over it and agrees that it is not in good shape. She asked if the height of the bridge would be the same. Mr. Menefee said there is currently no change in the bridge's height, but it will be wider, which will help with water flow.

Ms. Becerra says she appreciates all the work staff does to look for and apply for grants.

Moved by: Amber Sherrill

Adopt and authorize the Mayor to sign a Resolution to support the intent of the Lolo Street Replacement PROTECT 2023 grant application.

AYES: (9): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, John Contos, Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, and Amber Sherrill

ABSENT: (3): Jennifer Savage, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

Vote results: Approved (9 to 0)

4. ADJOURNMENT