Missoula City Council Committee of the Whole Minutes --DRAFT

January 24, 2024
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, Bob Campbell, Daniel Carlino, Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Eric Melson, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka

1.   ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1   Roll Call

Mayor Davis is present.

1.2   Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

1.2.1   Minutes from December 6, 2023

1.2.2   Minutes from January 10, 2024

2.   PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3.   COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Amber Sherrill discusses upcoming changes and improvements with City Council.

3.1   Discuss Proposed Changes to City Council Meeting Agenda and Related Council Matters

Consider recommendations for improving meeting participation, efficiency, and flow that could be implemented through amendments of Council rules.

Amber Sherrill discusses new changes and how those changes will help constituents. A Committee of the Whole meeting is now scheduled or January 31, 2024. Amber Sherrill advises that when there is more than one Monday off per month, Wednesday committee meetings will still be held.

Mayor Davis discusses potential changes to Agenda, benefits to rearranging items, and how the Agenda impacts the way City Council connects with the community. Mayor Davis advised a vote will not take place today as today is intended for questions and conversation.

Eric Hallstrom provides relevant background information on research concerning the Agenda and Agenda formatting. He encourages City Council to be deliberate and thoughtful about their goals concerning the Agenda and formatting. Eric highlights the

importance of administrative actions, core council business and public comment in the Agenda and suggests placing public comment first for smoother transition between items.

Daniel Carlino proposes the idea of having one big committee rather than individual committees since all council members are already members of each committee.

Mayor Davis mentions the potential for scheduling issues.

Daniel Carlino notes issues with public comment being set at the end of the Agenda and expresses that public comment is at the beginning of the Agenda for the sake of the public. He mentioned concerns of potentially losing comments from the public if public comment is placed after committee business and advised he intends to make an amendment to the referral.

Kristen Jordan brings a concern that if new information comes up then the public may have interest in making more comments.

In relation to public comment, Eric Hallstrom advises the public will have important information available to them for prior to the meeting.

Claire Trimble more information is provided during committee meetings when conversations are more robust, including staff presentations, and all of this information is available prior to Monday night's Agenda.

Sandra Vasecka brings concerns that some people can't come to the Wednesday meetings if they have another job as committee meetings land in the middle of the workweek, and everyone on council is appointed to all of the committees because they cannot vote on committee issues otherwise.

Amber Sherrill discusses when and how many staff are required to be present for presentations during an Agenda.

Mike Nugent inquires if a motion is on the floor, then do we have to take public comment again?

Dale Bickell notes we do not, by statute, need to take public comment on each round.

Gwen Jones encourages there more conversation transpire around this topic.

Stacie Anderson advises we have already publicly noticed that we are not having a committee meeting next week.

Claire Trimble provides that we do not have to publish notice of committee business in the newspaper, and the requirement is 48 hours on website and kiosk.

There was no vote on this Item today.

There will be a vote next week when council will take public comment on the matter.

[Recommended vote for Feb. 7] I move the council to adopt the recommended changes to City Council Rules 2 and 11. [Requires 2/3 vote of council.]

3.2   Proposed Cease-Fire Resolution

A draft resolution calling on all governments around the world to facilitate de-escalation and a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas conflict to prevent death and violence in all forms. To be brought before City Council for comment on a future date.

Kristen Jordan discusses a short Missoula history of humanitarian efforts and thanks City Council for weighing in on this resolution.

Amber Sherrill notes we will take council questions and then make a motion on the floor.

Eric Melson discusses a 2007 ballot referendum, the body has not weighed in on civil war in places such as Ethiopia, and inquires if a precedence is being set that this body will weigh in on all civil matters?

Kristen Jordan states she will bring matters to the floor that her constituents raise, we have already set a precedence, it is okay for municipalities to weigh in on humanitarian crises, and it is her personal preference to stand up against any atrocity.

Daniel Carlino states that this is relevant here as war is funded with our community tax dollars.

Mike Nugent questions if there is any war the United States is not involved in.

Daniel Carlino stated we are funding the bombs that are bombing children.

Eric Melson questions if we would be creating any unintended targets in our community by passing this resolution.

Kristen Jordan advised this resolution was produced by Palestinian and Israeli community members.

Daniel Carlino makes a motion to adopt the resolution.

Community member, Brendan Work, provides public comment in support of a ceasefire, that Missoula should take a position against war, and encourages a vote to call for peace.

Ward 6 community member, Mark Anderlik, provided public comment as a representative of the Western Montana Democratic Socialist party, and spoke in support of the resolution.

Community member, Andi Hoelzel, thanked Ms. Jordan for bringing the issue forward, spoke in support of the resolution, and asked City Council to set a precedent.

Sandra Vasecka provided several comments from her constituents, and advised she will not support the resolution.

Bob Campbell advised he does not believe this is in the realm of local level City Council business and will not in support the resolution.

Gwen Jones stated she hopes for an end to the crisis soon, appreciates all of the work to produce this resolution, it is not at the direction of City Council, and is concerned it will cause harm to the local community.

Gwen Jones made a Motion to Table the Resolution resulting in a failed motion with 4 Yes and 8 No votes.

Mirtha Becerra comments in support of the resolution.

Daniel Carlino comments in support of the resolution.

Eric Melson comments on the United States withdrawal from Iraq in 2007, discusses a ballot referendum presented by an unnamed mayor, and has some concerns about the outcome of this resolution.

Mike Nugent advised he would like to take more time on the subject, his reasoning for wanting to table the issue, and that the issue requires more than a 20-minute discussion.

Stacie Anderson advised she will make amendments to the resolution, this is not the only conflict the United States is involved in, and it is causing more harm by discussing the matter.

Amber Sherrill holds the issue in front of the committee until next week, it will be the first item, and notes we will start with public comment next week.

Moved by: Daniel Carlino

A motion to pass the Cease-Fire Resolution

Moved by: Gwen Jones

A motion to table the Cease-Fire Resolution.

AYES: (4): Stacie Anderson, Bob Campbell, Gwen Jones, and Mike Nugent

NAYS: (8): Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Sierra Farmer, Kristen Jordan, Eric Melson, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, and Sandra Vasecka

Vote results: Failed (4 to 8)

Moved by: Stacie Anderson

A motion to make amendments to the resolution to not call out individual global conflicts.

4.   **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 AM.