

## **Missoula City Council Public Works Committee Minutes**

**February 28, 2024, 3:45 pm**

**Council Chambers (in person) or TEAMS (virtually)**

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

**Members present:** Mirtha Becerra (chair), Daniel Carlino, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Eric Melson, Bob Campbell

**Members absent:** Stacie Anderson, Sierra Farmer, Sandra Vasecka

### **1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

#### **1.1 Roll Call**

#### **1.2 Approval of the Minutes**

##### **1.2.1 Minutes from February 14, 2024**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 Bid Award to Prospect Construction for the Monroe Jackson St Water Main Replacement project**

Triston Firth presenting,

This project is to replace the water main on Monroe St and Jackson St. This water main is considered priority one due to the age constructed in 1914. Prospect Construction was the lowest bidder on the project.

**Moved by:** Mike Nugent

award the bid for the Monroe/Jackson Water Main Replacement project to Prospect Construction Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$872,857.00 and authorize the return of bid bonds

AYES: (9): Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Eric Melson, and Bob Campbell

ABSENT: (3): Stacie Anderson, Sierra Farmer, and Sandra Vasecka

**Vote results: Approved (9 to 0)**

#### **3.2 Bid Award to RLC Enterprises for the Edith Street Water Main Replacement**

Adam Marsh presenting,

This project will replace old water main constructed between 1939 and 1947. This project was selected because of the age of the water main and the number of leaks reported. This project had seven bidders, with RLC coming in with the lowest bid. This project overlaps with the Ivy and Franklin sidewalk project. The contract for both projects has been updated to require the contractors to coordinate with each other. This project will also work near the southeast corner of St. Joe's Elementary School. The contractor has agreed not to work in this project area until school is out for the summer to minimize any extra congestion.

**Moved by:** Mike Nugent

award the bid for the Edith Street Water Main Replacement project to RLC Enterprises at a cost not to exceed \$831,043.53 and authorize the return of bid bonds.

AYES: (9): Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Eric Melson, and Bob Campbell

ABSENT: (3): Stacie Anderson, Sierra Farmer, and Sandra Vasecka

**Vote results: Approved (9 to 0)**

### **3.3 RAS Valve Procurement for the Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Adam Marsh presenting,

This is to purchase 24 valves for the wastewater treatment plant's Return Activation System (RAS). These valves were installed in 1980 when the wastewater treatment plant was built. They have corroded to the point they no longer seal, and it is becoming a maintenance issue. The pumps are not operating correctly. This would replace all the valves, and this contract is only for purchase. This will give about nine months of lead time, and then the City will bid for someone to replace the valves. This bid received two supplies, and Northwest Pipe Fittings was the lower bid.

**Moved by:** Mike Nugent

Award the procurement bid to Northwest Pipe Fittings for the RAS valves for the wastewater treatment plant at a cost not to exceed \$186,992.00.

AYES: (9): Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Eric Melson, and Bob Campbell

ABSENT: (3): Stacie Anderson, Sierra Farmer, and Sandra Vasecka

**Vote results: Approved (9 to 0)**

### **3.4 Stephens Orange MDT Construction and Maintenance Agreement**

Kevin Slovarp presenting,

This Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Safety Project is being conducted at the intersection of Stephens and Orange. The community benefits of this project are less property damage and injury crashes that will occur. The design is complete, and

construction should start later this year. The improvements are both in MDT and City right-of-way.

This project came about because of a high crash history at this intersection. Most of the crashes involved roadway departure at the tight corner. City staff has talked with property owners about this project. One of the residents wanted to ensure the on-street parking would be retained, and with this current design, that could be done. The design can be found in the attached PowerPoint.

MDT will fund the construction, and this project has no local match. Public Works and Parks and Recreation will do the needed maintenance.

Mr. Melson thinks this improvement will make that area safer for all modalities. He likes to see improvements keeping the safety of all residents in mind.

Mr. Campbell says he has seen several cars go off the road at that intersection. He added that at night, the traffic on Tremont Street feels like it is coming directly at the traffic on Orange.

Ms. Jones is excited about this project as this has been a dysfunctional intersection for many years. She thanked the staff for working so closely with the residents in this area.

**Moved by:** Eric Melson

**Authorize the Mayor to sign the City/MDT Stephens Orange Construction and Maintenance Agreement.**

AYES: (9): Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Eric Melson, and Bob Campbell

ABSENT: (3): Stacie Anderson, Sierra Farmer, and Sandra Vasecka

**Vote results: Approved (9 to 0)**

### **3.5 Sidewalk Presentation Informational Only**

Jeremy Keene presenting,

This presentation aims to get a clearer picture of what the City is doing now and what they have done in the past. The sidewalk presentation and a video are attached.

Mr. Nugent asked if there was a situation where a property with a curb and sidewalk would have to install a boulevard sidewalk. Mr. Keene said they have discussed that, and if someone has a functional curb and sidewalk, they will not make them rebuild it just because it doesn't fit the current boulevard design standards. However, if the sidewalk needed to be replaced or torn out, it should be replaced following the boulevard design standard.

Mr. Carlino asked if the city had a number of costs for replacing residential sidewalks. Mr. Keene said he could break that out and provide that number but did not have it now.

Mr. Campbell spoke about a project in Lower Miller Creek that stipulated sidewalks improved on one side of Lower Miller Creek. He was wondering, when new sidewalks are installed, how does the decision come about to only install on one side of the street?

Mr. Keene replied the policy is to install on both sides of the street. However, sometimes waiting if development is not happening on the other side of the street makes sense. Mr. Campbell asked about neighborhoods such as on 23rd Street, where there are no sidewalks and people have fences on the street. Mr. Keene said that neighborhood is a challenge due to limited right-of-way, so boulevards might not be possible.

Mr. Melson asked how the interest on the loans was calculated. Mr. Keene said that the rate was based on the last bond sale. It does follow the prime rate, but it will continually change.

Ms. Becerra asked how much money the Missoula Redevelopment Agency put into sidewalks. Mr. Keene said they have been spending half a million to a million dollars on their programs.

Ms. Anderson says the main concern is that some people feel we should move to a program where the City shoulders the entire cost of sidewalks vs. the model we have now, where the property owner has some financial responsibility. She added that we have only completed 1.5 miles of sidewalks, and if the City covered the total cost, adding no extra funding, we would be installing less than we are now. Mr. Keene said that was correct.

Ms. Jordan asked if code changes could be applied to projects currently in the works. Mr. Keene replied that, to a point, they could be. He would not recommend making changes to projects already past the design stage. She added that some council members are not asking the City to take full responsibility for the cost but to develop better funding options for residents to lower costs.

Mr. Carlino said that some council members would like to see the City fully fund sidewalks in the future. However, he would be open to some of the compromises that were brought up. He thinks we need to discuss why the City charges residents up to \$9,000 for sidewalks. He feels we should add sidewalks onto the Road District to help cover this essential infrastructure. He also added that some of his constituents are having difficulty paying the Franklin project bill. Then, six blocks over the City is covering the cost of sidewalks because they are in the Urban Renewal District.

Mr. Carlino asked why cities have become common practice to charge homeowners for sidewalks. Mr. Keene replied that it improves the frontage of the home. Many cities didn't have sidewalk standards when they built these neighborhoods. It is hard to come back and fund projects later.

Ms. Jones says she looks forward to this discussion on sidewalks. There are a lot of different levels to this. She asked how much funding was lost when the gas tax went away. Mr. Keene said the City received about \$500,000 from the gas tax, which helped with several projects, including sidewalks.

Ms. Savage said to Mr. Carlino that Mr. Keene has spent the last hour explaining to us why Cities can't pay for sidewalks. She added that this conversation keeps going around and around. She is open to the discussion, but at the end of the day, it's about economics. We have to figure out how to pay for it. She says in her mind, it is not the City because she remembers from past budget seasons that the money is not there.

Informational Only

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**