

Missoula City Council Public Safety, Health and Operations Committee Minutes

February 28, 2024

10:55 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, Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bob Campbell, Eric Melson

Members absent: Jennifer Savage

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 Minutes of PSHO meeting held on February 21, 2024

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Purchase of one towable screening plant

Chief Operation Officer Eric Hallstrom made a request for Fleet Director Scot Colwell for one Fabtech Pro Screen from Modern Machinery of Missoula at a cost of \$182,856.00. It was in the CIP and came in a bit above the bid. The initial anticipated cost was \$160,000. He states that we are well under our CIP budget in general, so this should not require a budget amendment.

Moved by: Mike Nugent

Approve the purchase of One (1) Fabtech Pro Screen from Modern Machinery of Missoula, MT for the purchase price of \$182,856.00.

AYES: (11): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bob Campbell, and Eric Melson

ABSENT: (1): Jennifer Savage

Vote results: Approved (11 to 0)

3.2 Fire Department Levy Resolution

Chief Gordy Hughes states that the top priority the Fire Department is seeking with this levy is staffing.

The National Fire Protection Agency Standard (NFPA) creates a standard by which all fire departments are measured. These standards are developed to be a guideline in which to measure the efficiency of a fire department. He states that the fire department is currently not living up to standards and best practices set by NFPA.

He summarized the Fire Department's current situation. Call volume has increased 59.37% from 2012 and 2022 without an increase in operations staffing. The City of Missoula's limits have also expanded rapidly from 24 square miles in 2008, to 35 square miles currently, and the city's population has increased by 15.22 during this same period. This situation has resulted in the department running two minutes behind on calls. Chief Hughes states that the outcome of calls will not be favorable if we don't meet NFPA benchmarks.

The Mobile Support Team (MST) call volume has increased substantially. This is due in part to its purpose in our community along with community support. AARPA funds ran out for Mobile Support Team (MST) and is now being funded with general fund monies. He is going to apply for a grant this month for future funding.

There was considerable discussion about the Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating that determines how well the fire department can protect the community and homes. Currently the rating in Missoula is three (3). In summary, as the ISO rating increases, the cost of the homeowner's insurance increases to reflect the greater risk.

There was also considerable discussion as to how the fire department got into its current predicament. Council member Stacie Anderson summed up the situation by explaining that just adding one FTE (full-time equivalent) here or there doesn't really help the system wide capacity because you need to have an additional engine company and someone to man that apparatus. In other words, you need to have the capacity before adding an FTE.

Moved by: Amber Sherrill

Adopt a resolution of the City Council of the City of Missoula, Montana, submitting to the qualified electors of the City of Missoula, at an election on June 4, 2024, the question of whether the City of Missoula shall be authorized to exceed the statutory mill levy provided for in Section 15-10-420, M.C.A. by permanently levying up to 34 mills per year, currently raising approximately \$7 million annually, for the purposes of providing additional funding or financing for Fire and Emergency Services including apparatus, vehicles, equipment, operations, personnel, facilities, and training.

AYES: (10): Stacie Anderson, Daniel Carlino, Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bob Campbell, and Eric Melson

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

4. ADJOURNMENT

12:35 p.m.