

Missoula City Council Committee of the Whole Minutes --DRAFT

February 28, 2024

9:00 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, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka

Members absent: Jennifer Savage

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

1.2.1 Minutes from February 7, 2024

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Travis Mattier provided public comment on his personal subjects of interest including his build back happier development, therapeutic Lego usage, and the library.

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Why We Plan

Informational only presentation by staff.

Laval Means gave a presentation titled "Why Do We Plan". Which provided context to why we plan and examples. She explored community planning, public interest, the City's Strategic Planning, growth policy, and focus inward concepts.

Aaron Wilson provided insight into development, diversity of location, and future growth. He further discussed transportation issues, public lands, growth challenges, infrastructure expense, increased population growth, the right mix of people and activities in neighborhoods, and the B.U.I.L.D. Grant (infrastructure grant for main connections on Mullan), federal transportation grant funding, and planning for projects.

Annette Marchesseault provided information on landscape architecture, MRA examples, Urban Renewal District III (Midtown), blighting influences (i.e. status of transportation system), Urban Land Institute Report, New Mobility West, Mary Avenue East/West Connection, Montana Rail Link Park, Brooks Street Corridor TOD Infrastructure Study 2020, the Midtown Missoula Master Plan 2023, and the RAISE Planning Grant 2023-2024.

Bob Campbell provided comments on Land Use Planning, technology improvements over time, and community involvement.

Daniel Carlino inquired about the growth and development of Reserve Street.

Sandra Vasecka provided comment on the presentation, importance of the matter, and noted she found it interesting.

Gwen Jones provided discussion on Malfunction Junction and the success of Russell Street.

Mirtha Becerra discusses why we need long range planning and short-term planning.

Mike Nugent provided comment on Reserve Street and working with state and federal governments on roadway planning.

Annette discussed Reserve Street being a State Route and National Highway.

There was no public comment.

3.2 2024 Local Government Review and Study Commission Resolution

Claire Trimble, City Clerk of Missoula, delivered a presentation on the 2024 Local Government Study Review.

She presents on the Montana State Constitutional right of state residents to conduct a local government study once every 10 years. Advised the resolution must be passed by March 11, 2024. Upon passing, it will be placed on June 4 Primary Election ballot, and upon passing again, on August 12, candidates will begin filing to appear on the November 5 ballot. At that point, the November 5 General Election will determine the selection of study commissioners.

The commissioners will have one year to conduct a study with additional support from Montana State University Local Government Center.

Claire provides further detail concerning the study, reporting, and future ballot measures. She advises the last time the study was conducted in Missoula was from 2004-2006. Voters chose a 7-member commission, recommendations were provided by the study commissioners, and voters ultimately chose not to support commission recommendations.

Kristen Jordan inquired as to how we can educate voters on how we might use funds, methods of outreach, and how the city will provide information to the public. She also asked if Engage Missoula can be used to communicate with the public? She advised approving the study could change ward boundaries, change the number of city councilors, and suggests this is a unique opportunity to review our structure.

Dale Bickell, Chief Administrative Officer, advised we will use traditional communication techniques, and that something similar to Engage Missoula could be used.

Claire noted the study is very specific to our form of government (i.e. nonpartisan elections and primaries), it is limited decision space (and will not affect items such as property taxes), is limited to how government is formed, and advised there is more information located in the City Charter.

Sandra Vasecka asked if we can add a stipulation in the ballot language that two-thirds of voters would need to vote yes in order to approve the study?

Claire advised that how charters are changed is already stipulated.

Stacie Anderson voiced appreciation as to how things are done in Missoula and clarifies what will transpire on the June ballot.

Claire advised this will not be funded by the mutual fund.

Mayor Davis speaks to if the City Charter could be changed without a local government study.

Eric Hallstrom, Chief Operations Officer, responds.

Daniel Carlino inquires if the cost could be a lower amount, and if there is a way to read what the commission options entail?

Claire advises we are required to fund a certain amount, options are found in Montana State Law, and that Montana State University provides training for commissioners if the study passes.

Eric Melson inquired about the timeline and how quickly changes would take place if voters support the measure?

Claire advised there is a transition timeline located within the law.

Amber Sherrill clarifies the amount listed in the motion is up to \$200,000.

Gwen Jones makes the motion.

Eric Hallstrom clarifies information around the number of commissioners for the study.

Matts Larson provides public comment concerning the 2006 study and inquires why we would do this again prior to discussing the climate of high taxes.

Stacie Anderson reiterates we are allocating up to \$200,000 to make sure we have enough room for the outcome, we don't want to scramble to find funding, and voices her support for the study.

Sandra Vasecka agrees with the number of commissioners on study, voices her support for the study, and notes people are more interested in local government now than 10 years ago.

Amber Sherrill also voices support for the study, addresses Mr. Larson's questions, and notes it was the that voters did not decide to follow recommendations not council.

Eric Hallstrom answers Daniel Carlino's question and states that once the study is closed any money left over comes back to general fund.

Bob Campell inquired about funding, if the cost can be split up, and requests a stipulation in the motion.

Claire advises it can be split up, we would not go back and ask voters for more funding later, and the full amount needs to happen in one resolution.

Dale Bickell discusses the budget process and recommends Bob's concerns be addressed during that process. If the voters vote no, then there is no way to collect the funds.

The motion passes with 11-Yes and 0-No votes.

Moved by: Alderperson Jones

Adopt a resolution of the City Council of the City of Missoula, Montana, submitting to the qualified electors of the City of Missoula, an election on June 4, 2024, the question of conducting a local government review of the City of Missoula, and if approved, established a study commission consisting of 7 members and levying \$200,000 for study expenses.

AYES: (11): Alderperson Anderson, Alderperson Becerra, Alderperson Campbell, Alderperson Carlino, Alderperson Farmer, Alderperson Jones, Alderperson Jordan, Alderperson Melson, Alderperson Nugent, Alderperson Sherrill, and Alderperson Vasecka

ABSENT: (1): Alderperson Savage

Vote results: Approved (11 to 0)

3.3 Approval of JEDI Advisory Board Appointments

Alex Lawson presents on the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Advisory Board appointments and seeks council for approval.

Mirtha Becerra provided insight as to the selection process and supports those selected.

Bob Campbell makes a motion to table the item.

Daniel Carlino makes the recommended motion to approve the JEDI Advisory Board appointments.

There is no public comment.

Council provides comments.

Gwen Jones advised she is supportive of the effort, worked with applicant selections, and discusses the wide variations in the applicant pool. She further states it is important to have those voices involved in local government, and that people have the best intentions.

The motion passes with 9-Yes and 2-No votes.

Moved by: Alderperson Carlino

Approve the recommendations of the selection committee and name Destiny Devine, Jay Raines and Lily Sussman as JEDI Advisory Board members, and Kiyomi Looney as a board alternate.

AYES: (9): Alderperson Anderson, Alderperson Becerra, Alderperson Carlino, Alderperson Farmer, Alderperson Jones, Alderperson Jordan, Alderperson Melson, Alderperson Nugent, and Alderperson Sherrill

NAYS: (2): Alderperson Campbell, and Alderperson Vasecka

ABSENT: (1): Alderperson Savage

Vote results: Approved (9 to 2)

3.4 New Presiding Officer Format

Informational Item on New Council Presiding Officer Format

Mayor Davis discusses new City Council Agenda format, advises the City Clerk will no longer read the Committee Schedule, and that time will be used to address any changes to the Committee Schedule and board appointments.

Item 4 will be used to set the tone for the meeting and how public comment will be taken on item.

Public hearings will be moved up on the agenda. Public comment will still take place during each hearing.

Final consideration has now been eliminated as a standing agenda item.

Public comment will also be taken during New Business items.

Public comment will be called on the Consent Agenda and remaining council business. Comments will be limited to three minutes each, and we will soon have a red/yellow/green light timer.

The Consent Agenda will remain the same, and if a councilor dislikes an item, then that item will be moved to Committee Reports under Regular Business on the Agenda.

For example, the JEDI advisory board appointment item will exist on Regular Business.

Comments from Mayor and council members will follow.

Mayor Davis advises we will be streamlining, increasing access, will not call for public comment on procedural matters (i.e. will not take public comment on returning an item to a committee). If there are amendments or other substantive changes, then public comment will be taken.

Mayor Davis advises she has directed staff to create a new website for public comment.

She further commented we are working to create council rule guidance, clarity on council decision actions, screening and procedures for the disbursement of materials, participants will provide any handouts to officers, and change will be made in how we keep minutes and other future efforts.

Mirtha Becerra wants to schedule Jessica Miller's new public comment website presentation at next Committee of the Whole meeting and asks for comments after this Monday night's meeting for any potential changes needed.

4. COMMUNITY ACTIVITY REPORT OUT

Mirtha Becerra wants to conduct the Community Activity Report Out item at a later time.

5. ADJOURNMENT

at 11:00AM