

Missoula City Council Committee of the Whole Minutes --DRAFT

May 22, 2024

3:45 PM

Council Chambers (in person) or TEAMS (virtually)

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

Members present: Amber Sherrill, Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Bob Campbell, Daniel Carlino, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Eric Melson, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Sandra Vasecka

Members absent: Sierra Farmer

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 Minutes from April 24, 2024

The minutes were approved as submitted.

1.2.2 Minutes from May 09, 2024

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. REPORT OUTS

Council member updates on recent activity and involvement within the community.

Kristen Jordan had no updates from Missoula Aging Services and advised there will be an update soon.

Daniel Carlino provided no updates.

Bob Campbell provided no updates.

Sandra Vasecka advised the new rules for the Business License Appeal Board are going well, and there will be updates for Public Art Commission coming soon.

Gwen Jones advised the Midtown Masterplan meeting is upcoming and they will discuss Johnson Street and Code Reform.

Mirtha Becerra advised the monthly Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee has been discussing electric vehicles, charging stations, and the results from the metropolitan planning organization transportation survey.

Mike Nugent Missoula Redevelopment Agency has not met since he was appointed so there are no updates. He advised they will start the process for the Johnson Street plan soon, the hiring of the Director of Public Health will be moving forward soon with a recommendation being made to the Commissioners.

Eric Melson had nothing to report.

Amber Sherrill advised the Missoula Economic Partnership meetings are on a quarterly basis, the Affordable Housing Resident Oversight Committee (AHROC) did not have a meeting and Transform Brooks has not had a meeting. She mentioned she appreciates the support of a new budget process, the goal is to approve the process, they are working to make good and informed decisions for everyone, and she is open to feedback.

Jennifer Savage advised the Energy Climate Team is part of what the Mayor is reviewing. They had interviews with stakeholders and a report from Montana James will be coming out soon.

Stacie Anderson had no updates.

4. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

4.1 Proposal to Make Motions to Table Debatable

Daniel Carlino discusses Mason's Rule of Legislative procedure and how tabling an item works currently. He mentioned how policy decisions affect many people and council members should have an opportunity to speak before an item is tabled. He is interested in adding one sentence to City Council Rule 23 which would allow for a debate around tabling.

Amber Sherrill advised tabling is tool used to end debate on items but requires a majority of vote and discusses the function and purpose of tabling in Mason's Rules.

Kristen Jordan advised she appreciates Daniel bringing the issue forward, discusses issues with no debate on tabling an item, and suggests tabling is used to prevent discussion about difficult topics. She stated she understands tabling is to prevent endless conversation and feels tabling is used to cut conversations short.

Sandra Vasecka inquired if there an easy way to see a list of all items that have been tabled, noted it was difficult not to be able to speak to contentious items without directly contacting each member, and suggested if you want to table an item perhaps politely wait until the end of the meeting.

Bob Campbell agreed with Sandra and thinks Daniel's proposal is straightforward and efficient.

Mirtha Becerra suggests Mason's Rule says tabling is the ending debate, and by amending Council Rules are we adding a contradiction.

Ryan Sudbury advised there is no contradiction, City Council Rules control all items, and all items are not under the control of Mason' Rule, but we defer to Mason's Rule.

Mirtha Becerra inquired as to when we follow City Council Rules and not Mason's Rule. She agrees with Ms. Vasecka in that maybe we don't need to be changing the rules but making sure there is room for conversation at the end of the item, doesn't see need for a change in rules, but a need for the body to allow for conversation.

Daniel Carlino stated we should make it official in writing for future councils.

Mike Nugent discussed the recent history of tabling in council, that Mason's Rule has been used for years when rules don't apply to something, and inquired if we are we going to change other rules. He suggested we need to build consensus and find a majority and should be careful to add ground rules that are from feelings rather than facts.

Stacie Anderson advised it takes a majority of council body to table something, it is a parliamentary rule, she is not comfortable with nit picking Mason's Rule as it is a reference used when no council rule exists and agrees with Mike Nugent.

Kristen Jordan discusses the dynamics of city council, conversations help the minority, Mason's Rules are old and were completed in different environment, this will level the playing field for those that are in the minority, we should have a conversation about what is working or not, discusses her work on the ceasefire resolution and that it was dismissed after months of work. She wants to evaluate Mason's Rule and be more representative, discusses equity and equality and this proposal will help level the playing field.

Daniel Carlino advised it is important for everyone to have a chance to speak, asked if we are consolidating power, discussed examples of policy decisions, we are just asking for an opportunity to speak, freedom of speech is important, asking for an opportunity to comment, and asks for an open mind to let all council members speak before a decision is made.

Mike Nugent states it is easy to bring a topic in front of council compared to other levels of government, democracy is about working together, the sponsor has an opportunity to speak, he has no issues with people's right to participate/comment, equating free speech to parliamentary procedure is not the same thing, he can't think of a time when something was immediately tabled and not discussed, we have to be able to balance the democratic process and move the agenda forward, and there are times when things don't need to be discussed twice.

Stacie Anderson advises she will not support the resolution.

Amber Sherrill states it is an odd job representing the body, discusses tabling, and will not vote for the item.

Daniel Carlino advised he is open to amendments on Monday night.

Mirtha Becerra asks how to ensure everyone feels heard before a motion to table has been put on floor and suggests calling for comment after a motion is on the floor.

Amber Sherrill advises she does not want to discuss a topic twice.

Sandra Vasecka thinks that would take unnecessary time.

Ryan Sudbury discusses the rules for debate.

Stacie Anderson discusses Mason's Rule.

Mike Nugent discusses the process after motion is made, and tabling exists for a reason.

Jennifer Savage discusses Kristen Jordan's comments, some council members feeling like they are not being heard, it is everyone's responsibility to improve relationships, it

takes work on both sides, she is not excited about amending Mason's, and perhaps we could talk about other things that are not quite a rule change.

Amber Sherrill discusses the process of tabling and things she would support.

Stacie Anderson advises this is the type of item we should table.

Stacie Anderson makes a Motion to Table the Motion to amend City Council Rule 23 and Override Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure for Debate on Motions to Table. Motion fails with 3- yes and 7-no votes.

Daniel Carlino wants to hold the item in committee.

Amber Sherrill asks Daniel Carlino to send an amended version out to council.

A motion to amend City Council Rule 23 and override Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure to allow for debate on motions to table.

Moved by: Stacie Anderson

A motion to table the motion to amend City Council Rule 23 and override Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure to allow for debate on motions to table.

AYES: (3): Stacie Anderson, Gwen Jones, and Mike Nugent

NAYS: (7): Amber Sherrill, Mirtha Becerra, Bob Campbell, Daniel Carlino, Eric Melson, Jennifer Savage, and Sandra Vasecka

ABSENT: (2): Sierra Farmer, and Kristen Jordan

Vote results: Failed (3 to 7)

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 4:55 PM.