

**DRAFT - Missoula City Council Budget and Finance Committee Minutes**

**August 14, 2024**

**9:00 AM**

**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, Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Eric Melson, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Sandra Vasecka**

**1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

**1.1 Roll Call**

**1.2 Approval of the Minutes**

**1.2.1 Minutes from August 7, 2024**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was provided.

**3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**3.1 Emergency Houseless Levy**

Staff presentation.

Mayor Davis provided a presentation to City Council on the Emergency Houseless Levy.

Additionally, she explained that the Levy will be utilized in the following year budget and up to 2 mills and to fund the Johnson Street Emergency Shelter. See recording for details.

Councilor Jordan asked if the Johnson Street Shelter location will change and the timeline for that. Mayor Davis provided an answer.

Councilor Sherrill asked that this is just an informational item and that it will be voted on at next Monday's City Council meeting - August 19th.

Council Anderson asked that if Council does not pass it, what is the long term budget ramifications for these one time funding allocation. Mayor Davis and Leigh Griffing, Finance Director, provided answers to each question. See recording for details.

Ryan Sudbury, City Attorney, provided a presentation to Council on the details of the levy. See recording for details.

No public comment was provided.

**3.2 Budget Motions Explainer**

Informational item only.

Leigh Griffing, Finance Director, provided a presentation on the budget adoption process.

She discussed the various resolutions that will need to be approved by Council on August 19th. See recording for details.

### **3.3 FY 2025 Budget Council Deliberations**

Continue City Council deliberations and amendment discussions on the Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

Councilor Becerra laid out the ground rules for how amendments will be deliberated. See recording for details.

Councilor Jordan asked a question about when public comment will be provided. Councilor Becerra responded that once all amendments are discussed for each Councilor, then public comment will be provided as a package.

Council Campbell began his amendments:

1) Defund Community Engagement Specialist Position: Responsibilities seem to be merged with other city officials and can be picked up by other staff or supervisors. See recording for additional details.

Councilor Sherrill asked if Councilor Campbell spoke with staff already and if they can assume those responsibilities if the position was defunded.

Eran Pehan, Director of CPDI, provided a response to Councilor Sherrill on how this position would affect City business. See recording for details.

Councilor Jordan asked a question to Councilor Campbell why to bring it back forward since it was already voted down last year.

Public Comment: Chris Foster. See recording for details.

Various Council members provided comment. See recording for details.

2) Defund Houseless Operations Specialist: Does not believe it is needed contingent on defunding of Johnson Street Shelter.

Councilor Jones asked staff for input on the benefits of this position to the City.

Montana James, Deputy Director of CPDI, provided rationale for the position.

Councilor Sherrill requested for a vote on this prior to discussion of defunding Johnson Street Shelter.

No public comment was provided.

Council members provided comment. See recording for details.

3) Defund Lobbyist and 2025 Legislature Tracking: Council Campbell believes that the information that the lobbyist can provide is accessible via the Montana League of Cities and Towns and the Legislature websites.

Councilor Sherrill asked if Councilor Campbell spoke with Administration in advance. See recording for details.

Eran Pehan provided input on behalf of the Administration about the importance of having a lobbyist on behalf of the City to track and manage the volume of bills that the City may be involved with. See recording for details.

Councilor Jordan asked Councilor Campbell if this amendment was personal or in response to community input.

No public comment was provided.

Various councilors provided comment on the amendment. See recording for details.

4) Restore position of IT Support Specialist for Public Safety: Importance of maintaining public safety and the increased reliance on technology, this position would be beneficial moving forward.

Councilor Carlino asked what Department this would fall under. Councilor Campbell replied that it is under Central Services.

Councilor Jones requested that Administration would provide input on the restoration of this funding.

Eran Pehan provided input on the needs for this position. See recording for details.

No public comment was provided.

Councilor Carlino provided comment on support for this position.

5) Defund Municipal Court Pass/Shelter Court Program, including the position of Program Administrator: According to Councilor Campbell, the cost of the program does not warrant the benefits that the program provides. Expressed frustrations with getting answers from Municipal Court to questions that the Councilor asked. See recording for details.

Councilor Jordan asked three questions for this particular item. See recording for details.

Councilor Jones asked for a synopsis of the Pass program. Chantelle Gaynor, Director of the Community Justice Department for Missoula County, provided discussion about the beginning of the program and the benefits to the community. See recording for details.

Councilor Anderson asked about clarification if Council can actually cut this from the budget.

City Attorney Sudbury and Municipal Court Judge Coolidge provided feedback to Councilor Anderson's question. See recording for details.

Municipal Court Judge Streano provided information on the Program Administrator position. See recording for details.

Councilor Vasecka asked if this amendment could even be voted on if it affected the Constitution and separation of powers. City Attorney Sudbury provided a response.

Public comment: See recording for details of each speaker.

Melissa Vawter.

Kari Gibadlo

Micah Mousbir

Celia Avila.

Nicole Gomez

John Rhodes

Council comments were provided from various members. See recording for details.

6) Defund Aquatics Assistant positions through Park District Funding: These positions should be fully funded from enterprise revenues and not Park District sources.

Councilor Savage requested that Parks and Recreation Director, Donna Gaukler, provide input on this item. See recording for details.

No public comment.

Various council members provided comments on the amendments. See recording for details.

7) Defund ongoing operational costs for Marshall Mountain: Councilor Campbell believes this would be a poor use of taxpayer funds and will require more money for improvements and upkeep for years to come.

Councilor Savage requested that Director Gaukler provide input on funds that are used for operational costs at Marshall Mountain. See recording for details.

Councilor Jordan asked Councilor Campbell about any interactions he has had with business owners that utilize the mountain. See recording for details.

Councilor Sherrill asked about the interlocal agreement with Missoula County. See recording for details.

No public comment.

Various council members provided comments on the amendment. See recording for details.

8) Restore funding for a School Resource Officer (SRO): Play an important role in our local schools and has been available for over a decade and continually requested by MCPS.

Councilor Anderson requested input from Police Chief Colyer or Eran Pehan on if this amendment is to address a vacancy or to increase of 1 SRO. See recording for details.

Police Chief Colyer spoke to the Council and addressed Councilor Anderson's questions. See recording for details.

Councilor Carlino asked Finance Director, Leigh Griffing, about the mill cap. Ms.Griffing provided a response.

Councilor Jordan asked Chief Colyer to speak about how many schools are requesting SRO's and the need for them across the City. See recording for details.

Mayor Davis requested that Leigh Griffing display the break down of the additional SRO and the costs associated. See recording for details.

Councilor Campbell asked several questions to Chief Colyer concerning the grant funding. See recording for details.

Public comment:

Nicole Gomez

Various council members and Mayor Davis provided comment on this amendment.

Daniel Carlino's Amendments:

9) Neighborhood Project Funds for Improvement Grants: Support resident-initiated projects that improve our neighborhoods and city as a whole. Will increase Road and Park District Assessments.

Councilor Savage asked Councilor Carlino if he spoke with staff about this particular amendment. He provided a response back. See recording for details.

Councilor Jones requested that Eran Pehan for more information on the improvement grants. See recording for details.

No public comment.

Various council members provided comment on this amendment.

Jeremy Keene, Public Works and Mobility Director, provided clarification about the funding sources of this amendment.

10) Sidewalk Program Modifications: Public and Works and Mobility are requesting modifications to the sidewalk program to reduce the cost burden on certain property owners.

Councilor Becerra asked Councilor Carlino if this amendment was coordinated with staff. She also requested that Jeremy Keene speak to the amendment in depth.

No public comment.

Various council members provided comment on the amendment. See recording for details.

11) Three New Street Maintenance FTE's: Additional staffing is required to maintain core levels of service for snow operations, street sweeping, and pavement maintenance.

Jeremy Keene, PWM Director, spoke about the benefits of new FTE's as the City grows, the need for more staff is important to maintain a high level of safety.

Councilor Campbell asked Councilor Carlino about a potential amendment to his amendment for equipment. Carlino would be open to changing it from 3 FTE to 1 FTE. See recording for details.

Councilor Jones asked Jeremy Keene to outline how the City appropriated money in 2019 for 4 FTE's. See recording for details.

Public comment on new amendment:

Mary Gray.

Daniel Carlino made a motion to have the Mayor to cast a vote to break a tie.

12) Sustainable Building Incentives Startup Funds: Councilor Carlino provided background information on the benefits of Sustainable Building Incentives to the City.

Councilor Sherrill asked for staff input. Eran Pehan, Director of CPDI, provided a response to her question. See recording for details.

Montana James, Deputy Director, provided information on a "Place to Call Home", including information on incentives and cash support. See recording for details.

Councilor Jones asked Eran Pehan about funding sources for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

No public comment.

Eric Melson's Amendment:

13) Elevating the East Spruce/Madison Streets and Railroad Quiet Zone CIP Project: Provide a pathway to reduce the blowing of train horns as they enter and exit the City of Missoula. City staff have been working with BNSF Railway on an agreement to the Railroad Quiet Zone.

Jeremy Keene, Director of Public Works and Mobility, provided a presentation to Council on the Transportation CIP project rankings. See recording for details.

Councilor Carlino asked a question when this item will be acted on next. Councilor Melson responded that staff would start the process for securing funding.

Councilor Vasecka asked for clarification if Council had already addressed this in prior discussions. See recording for details.

No public comment.

Various council members provided comment on this amendment.

Councilor Sherrill discussed how the final amendments will be discussed. Will adjourn and finish up on Monday, August 19th.

**Moved by:** Sandra Vasecka

Bob Campbell Amendment: Defund the position of Community Engagement Specialist.

AYES: (2): Bob Campbell, and Sandra Vasecka

NAYS: (8): Amber Sherrill, Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Eric Melson, and Jennifer Savage

ABSENT: (2): Sierra Farmer, and Mike Nugent

**Vote results: Failed (2 to 8)**

**Moved by:** Sandra Vasecka

Bob Campbell Amendment: Defund the position of Houseless Operations Specialist.

AYES: (2): Bob Campbell, and Sandra Vasecka

NAYS: (8): Amber Sherrill, Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Eric Melson, and Jennifer Savage

ABSENT: (2): Sierra Farmer, and Mike Nugent

**Vote results: Failed (2 to 8)**

**Moved by:** Sandra Vasecka

Bob Campbell Amendment: Defund the position of Lobbyist for 2025 Legislature Tracking.

AYES: (2): Bob Campbell, and Sandra Vasecka

NAYS: (7): Amber Sherrill, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Eric Melson, and Jennifer Savage

ABSTAIN: (1): Stacie Anderson

ABSENT: (2): Sierra Farmer, and Mike Nugent

**Vote results: Failed (2 to 7)**

**Moved by:** Daniel Carlino

Bob Campbell Amendment: Restore position of IT Support Specialist for Public Safety.

AYES: (2): Bob Campbell, and Daniel Carlino

NAYS: (7): Amber Sherrill, Mirtha Becerra, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Eric Melson, Jennifer Savage, and Sandra Vasecka

ABSENT: (3): Stacie Anderson, Sierra Farmer, and Mike Nugent

**Vote results: Failed (2 to 7)**

**Moved by:** Sandra Vasecka

Bob Campbell Amendment: Defund the Municipal Court Pass/Shelter Court Program, including the defunding of the position of Program Administrator.

AYES: (2): Bob Campbell, and Sandra Vasecka

NAYS: (8): Amber Sherrill, Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Eric Melson, and Jennifer Savage

ABSENT: (2): Sierra Farmer, and Mike Nugent

**Vote results: Failed (2 to 8)**

**Moved by:** Sandra Vasecka

Bob Campbell Amendment: Defund the positions pertaining to Aquatics Assistants from Park District Funding.

AYES: (2): Bob Campbell, and Sandra Vasecka

NAYS: (8): Amber Sherrill, Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Eric Melson, and Jennifer Savage

ABSENT: (2): Sierra Farmer, and Mike Nugent

**Vote results: Failed (2 to 8)**

**Moved by:** Sandra Vasecka

Bob Campbell Amendment: Defund ongoing operational costs for Marshall Mountain.

AYES: (2): Bob Campbell, and Sandra Vasecka

NAYS: (8): Amber Sherrill, Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Eric Melson, and Jennifer Savage

ABSENT: (2): Sierra Farmer, and Mike Nugent

**Vote results: Failed (2 to 8)**

**Moved by:** Sandra Vasecka

Bob Campbell Amendment: Restore funding for a School Resource Officer (SRO).

AYES: (2): Stacie Anderson, and Bob Campbell

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

ABSENT: (2): Sierra Farmer, and Mike Nugent

**Vote results: Failed (2 to 8)**

**Moved by:** Sandra Vasecka

Daniel Carlino Amendment: Neighborhood Project Funds for Improvement Grants.

AYES: (3): Bob Campbell, Daniel Carlino, and Kristen Jordan

NAYS: (7): Amber Sherrill, Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Gwen Jones, Eric Melson, Jennifer Savage, and Sandra Vasecka

ABSENT: (2): Sierra Farmer, and Mike Nugent

**Vote results: Failed (3 to 7)**

**Moved by:** Sandra Vasecka

Daniel Carlino/Kristen Jordan Amendment: Sidewalk Program Modifications.

AYES: (5): Bob Campbell, Daniel Carlino, Kristen Jordan, Eric Melson, and Sandra Vasecka

NAYS: (5): Amber Sherrill, Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Gwen Jones, and Jennifer Savage

ABSENT: (2): Sierra Farmer, and Mike Nugent

**Vote results: Failed on a tie vote (5 to 5)**

**Moved by:** Daniel Carlino

Daniel Carlino Amendment: One New Street Maintenance FTE with equipment. New friendly amendment.

AYES: (5): Bob Campbell, Daniel Carlino, Kristen Jordan, Eric Melson, and Sandra Vasecka

NAYS: (5): Amber Sherrill, Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Gwen Jones, and Jennifer Savage

ABSENT: (2): Sierra Farmer, and Mike Nugent

**Vote results: Failed on a tie vote (5 to 5)**

**Moved by:** Sandra Vasecka

Daniel Carlino Amendment: Sustainable Building Incentives Startup Funds.

AYES: (2): Daniel Carlino, and Kristen Jordan

NAYS: (8): Amber Sherrill, Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Bob Campbell, Gwen Jones, Eric Melson, Jennifer Savage, and Sandra Vasecka

ABSENT: (2): Sierra Farmer, and Mike Nugent

**Vote results: Failed (2 to 8)**

**Moved by:** Sandra Vasecka

Eric Melson Amendment: Elevating East Spruce/Madison Streets and Railroad Quiet Zone CIP Project from Out Year Project to Top 20 CIP Project List.

AYES: (8): Amber Sherrill, Mirtha Becerra, Bob Campbell, Daniel Carlino, Kristen Jordan, Eric Melson, Jennifer Savage, and Sandra Vasecka

NAYS: (2): Stacie Anderson, and Gwen Jones

ABSENT: (2): Sierra Farmer, and Mike Nugent

**Vote results: Approved (8 to 2)**

Kristen Jordan Amendment: Neighborhood Traffic Management Program - Quick-Build. Reduce Fund Balance item.

Kristen Jordan Amendment: Neighborhood Traffic Management Program - Quick-Build. Tax Increase item.

Sandra Vasecka Amendment: Defund the Johnson Street Temporary Emergency Shelter.

Sandra Vasecka Amendment: Partially Fund Equity in Programming for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Daniel Carlino/Kristen Jordan: Sidewalk Program Modifications Version 2

**Moved by:** Daniel Carlino

A motion to suspend the rules to allow the Mayor to vote to break a tie.

AYES: (6): Amber Sherrill, Mirtha Becerra, Bob Campbell, Daniel Carlino, Kristen Jordan, and Sandra Vasecka

NAYS: (4): Stacie Anderson, Gwen Jones, Eric Melson, and Jennifer Savage

ABSENT: (2): Sierra Farmer, and Mike Nugent

**Vote results: Failed (6 to 4)**

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

Morning session adjourned at 12:07 PM.

Afternoon session adjourned at 4:57 PM.