

Missoula City Council Public Works Committee Minutes

December 11, 2024, 9:25 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 (chair), Bob Campbell, Daniel Carlino, Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Eric Melson, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 Minutes from December 4, 2024

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Appointment to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board

Ms. Becerra commented that she is appreciative of John Kittelson for volunteering his time to serve on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board.

Moved by: Stacie Anderson

Confirm the Mayor's appointment of John Kittelson to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board for a term beginning immediately and expiring on September 30, 2027.

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

ABSENT: (1): Jennifer Savage

Vote results: Approved (11 to 0)

3.2 Trash and Recycling Collection Hours Restricted

Eric Melson presenting,

This Ordinance has been in progress for several months. The residents of Missoula are being woken up in the early morning to trash collectors. The early morning hauling is detrimental to our mental health to our sleep and to our overall wellness. It also enables bears to become more habituated to human food and waste. When garbage pickup is at 4:00 am it is unlikely residents will get up that early to take out the garbage. It is more

likely that they will put it out the night before allowing bears opportunity to get into garbage. The addition of bear resistant trash has helped with this issue. This ordinance would only apply to residential areas and the city vehicle exemption was included so that we don't prohibit our own city vehicles from responding to an event.

Mr. Carlino wanted to know what percent of residents live in an area that are affected and what times the trash would be collected. Mr. Melson said that he is not sure what the exact percentage is. As the ordinance is written now the proposed start time is 7:00 am. However the hauling community is requesting the start time be 6:00 am.

Ms. Jordan wanted to know how the current trash companies feel about this change and also if the costs would increase for trash collection. Mr. Melson replied that he has been working with Republic Services and Grizzly Disposal and will let them speak on this issue. He said that he heard from the companies that they will not increase rates.

Ms. Sherrill said she would like to hear from the companies to see what the effect will have on labor contracts or other issues they may have.

Ryan Coffman with Republic Services the labor contracts will not be effected by this schedule change. He said the change in the ordinance will not have a rate change. He also said that in bear buffer zones those containers can come out the night before. Republic Services is currently in the process of doing a reroute overall to their schedule. This has not been updated in years.

Ms. Jones said her neighbor runs recycling works and they use pickup trucks. Mr. Melson said that the ordinance does say recycling haulers so Recycling Works would fall under this. He says he did not think about reaching out to them. She added this is a city action that impacts a private business plan. She wants to make sure that the businesses are in support. She would like this to be a collaborative action.

Mr. Coffman says Republic Services is in support of this but they would like to see the start time at 6:00 am. He feels 7:00 am has a lot more congestion on the roads and they are concerned about safety.

Billy Fisher owner of Grizzly Disposal also spoke to the fact that it will not change anything they are doing operational or price wise. He stated that he is in support of this Ordinance.

Shannon Terrio from environmental health said they have a regulation now that requires people in bear zones without a bear can to not put the cans out till 5:00 am. She added that it is really hard to put your can out in the morning because of how early the trucks come. She says it is very important that people do put cans out in the morning and it is helpful to people if collection starts later.

Ms. Anderson asked Republic Services asked what the relational for starting that early was initially. Mr. Coffman said that precedes his employment so he is not sure of the exact reason. However, they are working on rerouting schedules which take a lot of time. She also asked the labor representative to speak on the subject.

Derek Hitt the teamsters representative added that a lot of the members understand this change and want to work with it. One of the concerns is there might be some mission creep and this could extend to other professions.

Mr. Nugent asked why they go in commercial areas earlier. Mr. Fisher said that commercial areas they are not the only hauler so it is advantageous for them to get into these areas before 7:00 am. He also added they like to be in school areas before 7:00 am for safety reasons.

Mr. Carlino asked if we need to set a public hearing since its and ordinance change. The attorney and council agreed this should set a public hearing.

Ms. Vasecka has an amendment to propose. They are attached to the agenda. She suggests to change the time to be 6:00 am and strike the last part of the ordinance where it says it does not apply to city vehicles. She would like to accommodate the companies and let them start earlier than the general public. She also added that it does not make sense for us to ask private companies to start later but allow the city to start early.

Committee members decided that they want to rework the current motion to include setting a public hearing.

Chris from the bear smart working group commented about the time change. He said they want to get people to not leave out cans overnight. He says the are bear resistant and not bear proof. If you go to 6:00 am it is basically telling residents that they have to put cans out the night before because most wont do it that early.

Jack Reed lives on Raymond street where a lot of bears come around. He says his neighborhood is very active from 6am to 7am. He says his area does not have sidewalks or street lights. So by allowing the trucks in neighborhoods at 6am you are infringing on this time where residents really enjoy the morning activities.

Ms. Jones would like to see us keep this in committee to do an MOU and get everyone on the same page.

Moved by: Sandra Vasecka

The amendment to the motion is to strike out the city vehicles sentence in the ordinance.

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

NAYS: (9): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Eric Melson, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, and Amber Sherrill

ABSENT: (1): Sierra Farmer

Vote results:Failed (2 to 9)

Moved by: Gwen Jones

The motion is to keep this item in committee

AYES: (3): Stacie Anderson, Gwen Jones, and Jennifer Savage

NAYS: (8): Mirtha Becerra, Bob Campbell, Daniel Carlino, Kristen Jordan, Eric Melson, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, and Sandra Vasecka

ABSENT: (1): Sierra Farmer

Vote results:Failed (3 to 8)

This motion is to set a public hearing. Monday the 16th will be a reading and a public hearing will be in January

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

ABSENT: (1): Sierra Farmer

Vote results:Approved (11 to 0)

4. ADJOURNMENT