Missoula City Council Public Works Committee Minutes

March 4, 2020, 10:00 am
City Council Chambers
140 W. Pine Street, Missoula, MT

Members present: Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra (chair), John P. Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West

Members absent: Jesse Ramos

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There was no public comment.

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Council update on 2020 plan for removal and restoration of the Rattlesnake Reservoir and Dam by the City, Trout Unlimited and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Morgan Valliant, Conservation Lands Manager, and Rob Roberts with Montana Trout Unlimited updated the council on the 2020 plan for removal and restoration of the Rattlesnake Reservoir and Dam. Mr. Roberts reviewed the history of the site from 1901 through 2017 when the city acquired the land through the purchase of Mountain Water. The goal of the project is to eliminate safety and liability problems at the site, reduce maintenance and operation costs to Missoula Water, restore habitat for native and threatened fish species and wildlife, and enhance recreational opportunities.

Mr. Roberts provided a report on the progress at the site and activities to date. He showed images of the dam, the spillway, and the drained reservoir. He reviewed the design plan, including demolition, excavation and fill, and restoration. Restoration includes 1000 feet of stream restoration, flood plain and wetland restoration.

During the project, the stream will be diverted to a bypass channel to minimize impacts to fisheries and stream sediment. The quantities of material included material imported and onsite. All concrete will be cleaned and buried onsite. The demolition of the infrastructure will all be done via heavy equipment; no explosives will be used. The 1,687 plants to be
used in the restoration have been grown in the city’s greenhouse and nursery from seeds collected along the Rattlesnake Creek corridor.

Morgan Valliant, Conservation Lands Manager, presented on the opportunities for recreation and education that comes with this project, including two miles of trail, stream-access, and onsite interpretive kiosks to show the site’s historical importance and significance to the Salish and Kootenai tribe. An overlook will be built to allow public participation through observation as the project progresses, as well as a webcam to connect to those who cannot get to the site itself.

The budget for the project was reviewed, as well as funding, which will come from federal, state, and private grants, as well as other, smaller sources. The goal is to be finished with the project by late November 2020 with continued monitoring through 2023.

The anticipated results of the project include the creation of new stream side channels, channel restoration, wetland restoration, enhanced wildlife habitat and migration, and interpretive aspects along the newly created trail space.

The council recognized that this project and its associated ecological restoration was only possible thanks to the acquisition of Mountain Water.

There was no public comment.

NA

3.2 Professional Services Agreement – Project 2020-007: Railroad Quiet Zone & Traffic Study

Kevin Slovarp with City Engineering presented on the professional services agreement for the railroad quiet zone and traffic study.

This agreement is for a contract with the consultant to establish the railroad quiet zone for the railroad crossing at Madison Street, Spruce Street, and Greenough. The study will also include a traffic analysis at the intersection of Madison and Spruce. The Federal Railroad Administration requires trains to blow their horns at railroad crossings. In order for the trains to not blow their horns, there has to be additional safety measures in place; this is what the quiet zone will establish. The study will inform the next steps, including Capital Improvement Project (CIP) preparation, implementation of the quiet zone, and eventually construction of the project. This project is within the Hellgate Urban Renewal District. The Missoula Redevelopment Agency (MRA) recently approved funding for the study.

Committee member von Lossberg explained that train traffic has increased by a 10th of a percent, and with that comes more whistle-blowing and increased disturbance to quality of life. In addition, the city is federally preempted, and has no authority to move the train tracks, nor enforce noise ordinances against the railroad. The quiet zone is one solution within the city's purview.

Mr. Slovarp stated that the study will suggest different ways to mitigate the risk at the intersection while allowing trains to silence their horns. Some examples include installing gates or standard medians that restrict vehicular movement. The study will facilitate an onsite review with stakeholders to review options for improvements.
The committee discussed whether the agreement is an appropriate use of funds. They concluded that it is because it has been an ongoing concern for a long time, and that noise pollution affects health and wellness.

There was no public comment.

Despite her opposing vote, committee member Vaseka agreed that the item could be on the consent agenda.

**Moved by:** Bryan von Lossberg

Approved and authorize the Mayor to sign a Professional Services Agreement with Triple Tree Engineering, Inc. for railroad quiet zone and traffic study Project 2020-007 for a cost not to exceed $26,300

AYES: (8): Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

NAYS: (1): Sandra Vasecka

ABSENT: (3): Stacie Anderson, Heather Harp, and Jesse Ramos

**Vote results:** Approved (8 to 1)

### 3.3 Presentation by consultants and MPO staff on public kick-off for the Long Range Transportation Plan update

Aaron Wilson, Transportation Planning Manager, presented on the public kick-off to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update. The LRTP is a federally-funded requirement that must be updated every four years. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is responsible for coordinating with the city, the county, the state Department of Transportation and other stakeholders in coming up with a long range vision for transportation.

Jennifer Wieland, project manager with Nelson Nygaard reviewed the opportunities that come along with the update, as well as values to consider such as economic, performance, social, and quality values. In addition, Ms. Wieland spoke about current trends and how those might impact the update.

Missoula has had a 5.7% increase in growth over the last seven years. The LRTP update will help frame the challenge that presents, and will include a public involvement plan, and a plan to evaluate existing conditions, which will eventually shape a framework to make decisions and improvements.

Ms. Wieland reviewed the project schedule for the coming year, and identified priorities for March and April.

The committee discussed their suggestions for the project, including a reminder to keep in mind non-motorized transportation, gender disparity, and those with higher barriers to transportation.

Ms. Wieland shared her first impressions of Missoula as a community. She stated that the community is ambitious, that there are some key gaps the plan can focus on, and that there are challenges in relation to excess capacity on the roadways.
3.4 **Contribution Agreement with spectrum for Education Products**

Dennis Bowman, Water Utility Superintendent, and Tracy Campbell, Regulatory Compliance Specialist with Storm Water, presented on the contribution agreement with Spectrum for education products. The funding for this agreement will come from the two enterprise funds, Storm Water and Missoula Water.

The city holds a general permit for discharging storm water. As a part of that permit, there are six minimum control conditions. These conditions are in compliance with the Clean Water Act to directly address public outreach and participation. This agreement will establish a water education room at the library to teach children and the public about the urban water life cycle.

The committee suggested that Storm Water incorporate dry wells into their education, and that rain jackets or vinyl aprons be included.

There was no public comment.

**Moved by:** Bryan von Lossberg

Approve and authorize the mayor to sign an agreement with the University of Montana spectrUM for education products at a cost not to exceed $25,000.00.

**AYES:** (9): Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

**ABSENT:** (3): Stacie Anderson, Heather Harp, and Jesse Ramos

**Vote results:** Approved (9 to 0)

3.5 **Professional Services Agreement – Project 2019-047: construction project assessment program updates**

Kevin Slovarp, City Engineer, presented on the professional services agreement to update the software used for city-ordered projects. The existing Construction Project Assessment Program (CPAP) software requires urgent updates in order to facilitate the new requirements. The update will include a new field data collection system and a GIS integration that will enhance staff's ability to complete projects in a timely fashion and provide the ability to track recently constructed improvements for asset management purposes.

There was no public comment.

**Moved by:** Julie Merritt

Approve and authorized the Mayor to sign a Professional Services Agreement with Axiom IT solutions for construction project assessment program updates in an amount not to exceed $82,593.

**AYES:** (9): Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West
ABSENT: (3): Stacie Anderson, Heather Harp, and Jesse Ramos

Vote results: Approved (9 to 0)

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.