

Missoula City Council Public Safety, Health and Operations Committee Minutes

December 10, 2025

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, Bob Campbell, Daniel Carlino, Betsy Craske, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Sean McCoy, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill

Members absent: Mirtha Becerra, Sierra Farmer, Eric Melson

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of Minutes

1.2.1 Minutes of December 3, 2025, meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Amended Collective Bargaining Agreement with Garden City Compost Teamsters

Angela Simonson, Chief Human Resources Officer for the city, asked for the council's approval and authorization for the mayor to sign an amended collective bargaining agreement (CBA) for the Garden City Compost and Missoula Cemetery union.

Changes made to the prior approved CBA include changes to wages for cemetery staff who are newly unionized, totaling \$6,101.54 over the fiscal year 26 personnel budget. The department is able to absorb that cost within the division's budget due to savings in other operating costs.

Moved by: Mike Nugent

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an amended CBA with Garden City Compost Teamsters to add Cemetery staff.

AYES: (9): Stacie Anderson, Bob Campbell, Daniel Carlino, Betsy Craske, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Sean McCoy, Mike Nugent, and Amber Sherrill

ABSENT: (3): Mirtha Becerra, Sierra Farmer, and Eric Melson

Vote results: Approved (9 to 0)

3.2 Resolution to Transfer Modular Bathrooms to Missoula County

Eric Hallstrom, Chief Operations Officer, requested the council to support a resolution to transfer ownership of modular sanitation facilities/bathrooms that were used at the Johnson Street shelter from the city to the county.

These facilities had been in operation from spring 2024 to fall 2025. The city no longer has a use for the facilities, but the county is upgrading or replacing the restrooms at the temporary safe outdoor space. The taxpayer fund investment into the restrooms was about \$377,000.

Kristen Jordan asked how the removal of the facilities aligns with the signed resolution relating to providing resources for the unhoused. Eric Hallstrom explained how these facilities are more complex to maintain compared to typical public facilities, so an alternative would be of better use for that purpose.

Bob Campbell asked about data showing the effectiveness of the Housing Sprint program. Eric Hallstrom said updates should be able to be provided down the line. Council member Jones recommended reaching out to Emily Armstrong, the Houseless Programs manager.

Amber Sherrill asked about the current status of the facilities, which are currently sitting unused awaiting deconstruction and transport. The facilities do need a utility hookup, so they cannot be used like a transportable porta john. Council member Sherrill also expressed the important of recognizing the funding and effort that went into the development of these facilities.

Moved by: Amber Sherrill

City Council adopt a resolution to declare the modular bathrooms used at the Johnson Street emergency shelter as surplus and to declare the City's intent to transfer the property to Missoula County.

AYES: (8): Stacie Anderson, Bob Campbell, Daniel Carlino, Betsy Craske, Gwen Jones, Sean McCoy, Mike Nugent, and Amber Sherrill

NAYS: (1): Kristen Jordan

ABSENT: (3): Mirtha Becerra, Sierra Farmer, and Eric Melson

Vote results: Approved (8 to 1)

3.3 Chronic Wasting Disease update and discussion

Morgan Valliant, Association Director of Ecosystems Services, explained how efforts have been made to prepare for chronic wasting disease arriving in the area.

Dr. Daniel Walsh, the unit leader for the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, gave a background of what chronic wasting disease (CWD) is and its history. CWD was first discovered in captive research deer in 1967 and is now found in wild deer/elk in 26 states, 4 provinces, and in captive cervid facilities in 22 states and 3 provinces.

Epidemiology:

- Transmissible spongiform encephalopathy

- Causative agent: prion

Host Range:

- Affects cervid hosts in nature

- Transmitted to raccoons, ferrets, cattle, sheep, pigs, squirrels, monkeys, and rodents in experimental studies

- Human risk believed to be low

CWD can be transmitted directly between infected animals and indirectly through prions released into the environment. Infected animals have lower survival leading to population decline.

Response:

- Preventing spread with early detection, host density management, and proper movement/disposal of carcasses

- Controlling an outbreak with a rapid and aggressive response and environmental decontamination

Ryan Klimstra, Missoula area Biologist for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, showed maps of the disease's presence and spread. CWD first showed up in Montana in 2017. Fish, Wildlife and Parks has a management plan with the main objective of management, not eradication, since the latter has not been proven successful elsewhere. Hunters can find information on the FWP website.

Recommended next steps:

- Develop and implement a basic "triage" plan to prepare for when CWD arrives

- Continue and expand discussions around urban cervid populations

Bob Campbell asked about how wild game processing centers handle testing/cases. Ryan Klimstra explained how the state agency can't require anything of those facilities since they fall under the jurisdiction of Health and Safety. FWP does notify these facilities if they encounter a specimen that tests positive.

Amber Sherrill asked about the risk of transmission in urban areas, specifically relating to ingestion and ticks. Ticks are not considered a vector because after they feed on a host, they die rather than feed on another host. Oral studies have been conducted and did not show neurological clinical signs of the disease through this type of exposure.

Council member McCoy expressed the importance of the triage plan involving harvest within city limits.

Informational only.

4. ADJOURNMENT

10:02 a.m.