

Missoula City Council Public Works Committee Minutes

Date: July 24, 2019
Time: 12:30 pm
Location: City Council Chambers
140 W. Pine Street, Missoula , MT

Members present: Stacie Anderson, John DiBari, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West
Members absent: Julie Armstrong, Mirtha Becerra, Jesse Ramos

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes from July 10, 2019 and July 17, 2019

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Bid Award for the Alder St. and Cooper St. Water Service Swap Project

Ross Mollenhauer, Utility Project Manager, spoke on the bid award for the Alder Street and Cooper Street Water Service Swap Project. After completing the bid selection process, Territorial-Landworks, the City's engineering consultant, recommended awarding the project to Western Excavating

Missoula Water wishes to connect homes and businesses to a newer, larger main, and the project will encompass five blocks of leaking water main.

Water Utility Funds will pay for this project, and the budgeted cost will cover the associated construction work and materials.

Moved By John DiBari

Award the bid for construction services for the Alder Street and Cooper Street Water Service Swap Project to Western Excavating for an amount not to exceed \$275,268.00 and authorizes the return of bid bonds.

For (8): Stacie Anderson, John DiBari, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

Absent (3): Julie Armstrong, Mirtha Becerra, and Jesse Ramos

Approved (8 to 0)

3.2 Construction Agreement with the Montana Dept. of Transportation for the Higgins Ave. Bridge Rehabilitation Project

Jeremy Keene, Public Works Director, spoke on the construction agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) for the Higgins Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation Project. In 2016, an initial funding memorandum agreement was created to establish how costs would be distributed; in May 2017, the funding agreement was approved by City Council and signed by the Mayor.

This construction agreement replaces the prior agreement and adjusts the City's portion of the funding from \$1.6 to \$1.7 million. The overall cost has increased dramatically but MDT is only asking for a minor contribution. At the end of this project, there will be significant improvements to the Higgins Avenue Bridge.

Two elements of the project needed additional attention: the West staircase down to Caras Park; and the Hip Strip Plaza, a pedestrian space adjacent to the Penwell Building. The feasibility of incorporating the plaza into the overall project needs to be determined. MDT has to adhere to a tight schedule in order to complete this grand project.

The staircase has received a lot of focus from community members, as there is a great deal of emotional attachment to it. Sewer line constraints just outside of the footprint of the steps must be considered; as a result, this presents some engineering difficulties. In the future, getting to those sewer lines may involve more expensive work. However, it would not be expected to occur during the next 40-50 years. At this point, this is just a feasibility assessment regarding the staircase.

John DiBari and Heidi West discussed keeping the topic of staircase access as a focal point during the project. Proposed improvements are

expected to be up for bid in November 2019, with the actual construction projected to begin by early Spring 2020.

There have been discussions about bridge closures, accounting for events like parades and the Missoula Marathon. Several overnight bridge closures can be expected during the project. Jordan Hess stated that the Higgins Street Bridge daily traffic count is around 16,000 cars per day, which has remained almost constant for 50 years; therefore, adverse effects from bridge closures should be minimal.

Heather Harp asked what accounted for the overall cost increase of the Higgins Avenue Bridge Project. Mr. Keene answered that the increased cost of materials and the expanded project design attributed to the extra expenses. The costs associated with this agreement will be paid from Impact Fees.

Moved By Bryan von Lossberg

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a construction agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation for the Higgins Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation Project at a cost not to exceed \$1,700,000.

For (8): Stacie Anderson, John DiBari, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

Absent (3): Julie Armstrong, Mirtha Becerra, and Jesse Ramos

Approved (8 to 0)

3.3 Railroad St. Water Main Replacement Project Agreement Amendment 1 with Knife River, Inc.

Ross Mollenhauer, Utility Project Manager, spoke on the Railroad Street Main Replacement Project. As the project design was studied, it became apparent that including the McCormick Street improvements as part of this project made sense. By eliminating the older water main on this street and working in conjunction with a separate Missoula Water service swap project on West Alder Street, neighborhood residents will experience minimal service disruption.

According to Mr. Mollenhauer, Knife River has been doing excellent work thus far on this project. The Enterprise Fund will pay for the project's costs. Julie Merritt acknowledged the efficiency and coordination of efforts around the Railroad Street project. Heather Harp expressed appreciation

for the consideration of affected citizens and the significant reduction of inconvenience to them.

Moved By Julie Merritt

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement amendment with Knife River, Inc. for water line installation work along McCormick Street from Toole Avenue to West Alder Street as part of the Railroad Street Water Main Replacement Project at a cost not to exceed \$33,143.00.

For (8): Stacie Anderson, John DiBari, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

Absent (3): Julie Armstrong, Mirtha Becerra, and Jesse Ramos

Approved (8 to 0)

3.4 East Missoula Highway 200 Corridor Plan Contract

Tara Osendorf, Transportation Department Planner, spoke on the East Missoula Highway 200 Corridor Plan Contract. Her PowerPoint presentation is available to the public online.

Along with WGM Group, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will be developing a planning-level corridor plan for the section of Highway 200 from East Broadway through East Missoula.

The plan will contain three sections, with East Missoula being the main focus. Key points will include access management and improving safety. Stakeholders and steering committee members are involved in the planning process. The final report is expected to be available in November 2020.

Bryan von Lossberg spoke on the Montana Rail Link spot and the inherent danger for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists near that corner. Constituents have expressed grave concern about this area, so the consideration that the Transportation Department has given to this problem is appreciated.

John DiBari reiterated that things are still in the planning stage. Public outreach and community engagement are important elements of this process. The WGM consultants will refine and study the proposed plan.

Heidi West asked about the public engagement process. Ms. Osendorf said there will be a series of eight stakeholders meetings. Mr. DiBari

suggested breaking down the costs to provide citizens with a better understanding of the process. Ms. Osendorf confirmed that the possibility of annexation has been factored into planning.

There will be no financial implications for the City of Missoula. Federally-allocated MPO Metropolitan Planning (PL) funds will be used for this expenditure. Heather Harp stated that creating the actual plan will be the second-largest expenditure in the process.

Julie Merritt abstained from voting on this matter.

Moved By Bryan von Lossberg

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with WGM in the amount of \$283,800 for the East Missoula Highway 200 Corridor Plan.

For (7): Stacie Anderson, John DiBari, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

Abstain (1): Julie Merritt

Absent (3): Julie Armstrong, Mirtha Becerra, and Jesse Ramos

Approved (7 to 0)

3.5 Resolution to Adopt the Pedestrian Facilities Master Plan

Tara Osendorf, Transportation Department Planner, spoke on the Pedestrian Facilities Master Plan. Her PowerPoint presentation is available online for the public.

To allow for conversations around sidewalk funding, the process to get this plan approved was delayed. The Pedestrian Facilities Master Plan is critical to achieving City Goals. Goals include: safety; health and equity, connectivity and accessibility; economic growth; sustainability; and land use/community design. There is a steering committee and online access has been available for those unable to attend meetings in person.

Ms. Osendorf presented a Priority Pedestrian Needs Analysis, along with the formula used to determine the priority needs score. Additionally, she supplied a Priority Pedestrian Needs map and identified other area needs, including: Target Range/Orchard Homes; East Missoula/Bonner/Milltown; and Mullan/West of Reserve.

An Americans with Disabilities (ADA) transition plan/schedule, an ADA Plan Map, and projected costs were discussed. Committee members

asked her a series of questions, including how the prioritization of ADA projects was determined. Action Steps will include a walking audit for City Engineering and Planning staff.

The Pedestrian Facilities Master Plan funding discussion will occur at the July 31, 2019 Public Works Meeting.

Moved By Julie Merritt

Set a public hearing on August 12, 2019, on a resolution to adopt the Pedestrian Facilities Master Plan for the purpose of pursuing a complete, connected and safe network of facilities for pedestrians in the Missoula Urban Area.

For (8): Stacie Anderson, John DiBari, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

Absent (3): Julie Armstrong, Mirtha Becerra, and Jesse Ramos

Approved (8 to 0)

4. ADJOURNMENT

1:17