

Missoula City Council Administration and Finance Committee Minutes

August 26, 2020

1:30 PM

To register to attend and/or comment: <https://ci-missoula-mt.zoom.us/calendar/list>

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

Members absent: Stacie Anderson

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 Minutes from the August 5, 2020 meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jones - Public comment.

Matts Larson - He is waiting for a fiscal year 2021 legal fee estimate for the water litigation. Line item??? I have made multiple attempts to contact Dale Bickell, he has not responded. How can we comment on the budget as a whole when we can't look at the budget as a whole. I think it is ridiculous that I cannot get access to the budget.

Jones - we will move on.

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 NIH Grant Exhibit Fabrication Agreement

Jones - We have two separate items pertaining to the National Institute of Health grant. Eran Pehan will be presenting on both at the same time.

Eran Pehan, Director of Office of Housing and Community Development - We have a grant for a climbing structure at the new library. We received a grant to support future health care providers. Holly Truitt is the co-investigator on the project. The project will support the LINK project at the library. We are asking for approval of a contract for the climbing sculpture. The other request is for a service agreement with UM for a research lab that will focus on STEM. We are amending the contract for another year.

Jones - I want to highlight that all of this is grant funded. Any questions? Seeing none.

Moved by: Julie Merritt

Approve and authorize the Mayor to execute a contract with Process Curiosity in an amount not to exceed \$360,000.00 to provide exhibit fabrication services for the National Institute of Health grant funded DNA Tornado climbing structure within the new Missoula Public Library.

AYES: (11): Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Jesse Ramos, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (1): Stacie Anderson

Vote results: Approved (11 to 0)

3.2 University of Montana Amendment to Service Agreement

Approve and authorize the Mayor to execute an amendment to the year one service agreement with the University of Montana to extend the contract by one calendar year and increase the contract amount by \$33,774 for a total amount not to exceed \$67,548.00 in order to provide project management and research for the National Institute of Health grant funded program.

AYES: (11): Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Jesse Ramos, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (1): Stacie Anderson

Vote results: Approved (11 to 0)

3.3 Resolution levying assessments for hazardous vegetation for fiscal year 2021

Jones - Next we have Marty Rehbein here to present on the next two items.

Marty Rehbein, Legislative Services Director/City Clerk - These are for hazardous vegetation removal and sidewalk snow removal. Hazardous vegetation removal is complaint driven. The property owner is notified to rectify the problem, if they don't, a City contractor removes the weeds. A bill is submitted to the property owner, if they don't pay, we place that bill on their taxes. That is what we are asking the Council to approve today allowing us to levy the assessments. The next item is similar but with snow removal. It is complaint driven. The City will notify the property owner to remove their snow, if they don't we contract for the removal then send them a bill. If they don't pay, we add the assessment to their tax bill.

Jones - Questions?

Merritt - I will make the motions.

Ramos - I am against all of these. It is against my personal view of personal property rights. Just because we can doesn't mean we should. With sidewalks, this makes no sense to me since this is right of way.

Becerra - I will be supporting the motion. It is important to recognize that both of these are public safety hazards.

Hess - I agree with Mr. Ramos in part in how we treat our sidewalks, I think they are in the public interest. In the mean time, I think this is an important program to support. I heard of a man who uses a wheelchair who couldn't get to the bus due to snow. I have another constituent that has a weed problem in a county parcel next to them that we cannot enforce. This person lives with a real concern that there could be a grass fire next to them.

Jones - I support this. There are other municipalities who address enforcement differently. As a courteous we take care of our sidewalks. Development Services does work with people extensively.

Jones - These will go on the consent agenda.

Rehbein - We need to put this on the meeting of 09/02 in order to get these on the tax bills.

Moved by: Julie Merritt

Adopt a resolution levying a special assessment and tax upon property for annual weed assessments for fiscal year 2021 to reimburse the city for hazardous vegetation and nuisance weed cut orders in the amount of \$1,187.50 pursuant to section 7-22-4101 Montana Code Annotated and section 8.40.040 Missoula Municipal Code

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

NAYS: (2): Jesse Ramos, and Sandra Vasecka

ABSENT: (1): Stacie Anderson

Vote results: Approved (9 to 2)

3.4 Sidewalk Snow Removal Assessments for fiscal year 2021

(Adopt/Deny) a resolution levying a special assessment and tax upon property for annual sidewalk/snow removal assessments to reimburse the city for removal of snow removal performed in 2020 in the total amount of \$1,360.00 pursuant to sections 12.16.030 and 12.16.040 Missoula Municipal Code.

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

NAYS: (3): John Contos, Jesse Ramos, and Sandra Vasecka

ABSENT: (1): Stacie Anderson

Vote results: Approved (8 to 3)

4. ADJOURNMENT

1:54 PM