

Missoula City Council Administration and Finance Committee Minutes

September 16, 2020

11:15 AM

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Members present: Stacie Anderson, 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

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 Minutes from the August 26, 2020 meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jones - Reviewed call in information for public comment. Seeing none.

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Appointment to the Public Art Committee

Jones - The Mayor is nominating Hailey Kern to the Public Art Committee. The Mayor could not be here today. Ms. Kern is a huge volunteer in our community and will bring energy to the committee. Let the record show that Heidi West has joined the meeting. Are there any comments? Seeing none.

Merritt - Made the recommended motion.

Moved by: Julie Merritt

Confirm the Mayor's appointment of Hailey Kern to the Public Art Committee to fill a vacated term beginning immediately and expiring on June 30, 2022.

AYES: (10): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Jesse Ramos, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (2): Jordan Hess, and Bryan von Lossberg

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

3.2 Local Option Fuel Tax Interlocal Agreement with Missoula County

Jones - Jeremy Keene is here today to talk to us about the local option fuel tax.

Jeremy Keene, Director, Public Works Department - We have an interlocal agreement with Missoula County for the local option tax gas authorized by the State of Montana. It will bring in approximately \$1.1 million annually split between the city and County minus administrative costs. The county will collect this new tax this fall. The first disbursement will be next spring. Questions?

Sherrill - Will you remind everyone how this money can be used?

Keene - The state statute was reviewed. It is broad. We anticipate using this for street maintenance and our capital improvement program (CIP).

Harp - How are you going to prioritize those projects?

Keene - This will be part of our budget process; a portion to our maintenance fund and part to our CIP process.

Merritt - How did we arrive at a 50/50 split with the County?

Keene - It was a local political decision. The County has slightly more road miles than the City and the City has a greater population than the County so a 50/50 split was decided on.

Vasecka - Don't we also get a State gas tax? If that is true, what is the total amount we will get?

Keene - We get two additional State taxes: the State gas tax and BaRSAA (Bridge and Road Safety and Accountability Act). I don't know the State gas tax amount, but we get about \$1 million from BaRSAA. They are both larger revenues than this will be.

Becerra - Can this money be used for our complete streets resolution - non-motorized?

Keene - Sidewalks are part of our streets but we cannot use it for stand alone bike paths. When we do a sidewalk project that we subsidize we can use it there.

Harp - Please remind us what our needs are for transportation maintenance?

Keene - Deferred maintenance is about \$7 million a year. We are doing a survey to look at this in a more scientific way. We will need to supplement the street maintenance budget to maintain our service. We need to put more money into maintenance and this is one of the ways we can do that. We choose what condition of the streets we are willing to accept. Most streets now are at a 60 - 70% range.

Jones - We have talked about how we don't put enough money into our streets. This will be helpful. We have a freeze/thaw cycle that chews up our streets.

Anderson - The voters realize that we do need to put more investment into our roads - that is why this passed. I'm glad to see this come through.

Moved by: Julie Merritt

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement with the Missoula County to define roles and responsibilities of the County and the City in the collection, administration, and distribution of revenues from the Local Option Fuel Tax.

AYES: (10): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Jesse Ramos, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (2): Jordan Hess, and Bryan von Lossberg

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

4. ADJOURNMENT

11:31am