

Missoula City Council Committee of the Whole Minutes

September 23, 2020

1:15 PM

ZOOM Webinar

Members present: John P. Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West

Members absent: Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Heather Harp, Jesse Ramos

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 Minutes from the June 24, 2020 meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

1.2.2 Minutes from the June 17, 2020 meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

1.2.3 Minutes from the June 10, 2020 1:00pm meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

1.2.4 Minutes from the June 10, 2020 11:00am meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

BVL - Any comment? Seeing none.

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Mountain Line Mill Levy Request

von Lossberg - Shanti Johnson and Corey Aldridge are here to give a presentation on a mill levy ballot request for Mountain Line. This is informational only.

Corey Aldridge - Gave a presentation on Mountain Line and their proposed mill levy increase for the November 2020 ballot. In 2017 they reached out to the community to see what Missoulians wanted for bus service. This guided the next steps for Mountain Line. This mill levy will help them meet the goals of these next steps including expanded service, enhanced Zero-Fare program and conversion to electric buses. They have two electric busses on the road.

Shanti Johnson - Elaborated on the increased services.

Corey Aldridge - Spoke about economic return on bus service.

Shanti Johnson - Spoke about state and federal funding support and the benefits to the local economy. The decision to be on the ballot this year was influenced by feedback they received by people in the district.

Hess - I think the objectives of the mill levy are in line with our community goals. How will expansion effect livability?

Corey Aldridge - Public transit needs to arrive frequently and during desired service hours. The mill levy will provide additional service.

Hess - It feels to me that we have an opportunity to help households to reduce car use. Can you share on this?

Corey Aldridge - Zero fare makes using the bus service easy. Support is high in the community for Zero Fare.

Vasecka - What is the current levy amount on a \$300,000 house?

Shanti Johnson - We looked at a \$315,000 house it is currently about \$150.00.

West - How will this effect labor?

Corey Aldridge - It will create up to 25 new jobs.

Merritt - How much do our Zero Fare partners contribute to your budget?

Shanti Johnson - Our community share was based on 2014 ridership and we received about 40% of what we would have received if we had charged a fare.

Merritt - The current amount you get from Zero Fare partners is about 40% of what you would have gotten from fares. Is that correct?

Shanti Johnson - Yes. If we were to collect fares, there is about a 60% difference. We surveyed riders and most of them ride or ride more often because of Zero Fare.

Becerra - Clearly Zero Fare is successful, but I think that there is misconception out there. The City does not pay for all of it. Can you list some of your partners and the percent of City contribution?

Shanti Johnson - The County also contributes as well as private businesses. We have 26 partners.

Becerra - A lot of partners.

von Lossberg - I remember City, County, hospitals, etc.

Sherrill - I'm interested in the 70% increase in ridership, is there a way to do an estimate on saved emissions?

Shanti Johnson - The Department of Transportation found that a person can reduce their own emissions by 80%. There is a 4% reduction in carbon footprint by a typical household.

Corey Aldridge - We know we need to update our data.

Hess - Another goal is electric busses. This is a significant benefit to our airshed. What is the perception of your electric busses so far?

Corey Aldridge - The community is supportive.

Hess - The ballot for this year is very long. I want to encourage people to vote their whole ballot. Local measures are at the end of the ballot.

Informational only

4. ADJOURNMENT

1:50 PM