

Missoula City Council Public Works Committee Minutes

**June 30, 2021, 2:10 pm
ZOOM Webinar**

Members present: Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra (chair), John P. Contos, Heather Harp, Gwen Jones, Jesse Ramos, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West

Members absent: Jordan Hess, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Referral – Professional Services Agreement with WGM Group for the Russell Commuter Trail Crossing

Mark Todorovich Construction Project Coordinator Surface Engineering Public Works & Mobility presenting,

The South Russell Commuter trail crossing is North of the YMCA and across from Opportunity Resources. The crossing will include bulb-outs, flashing indicators, a center median refuge island, and lighting. A few years ago, a pedestrian was hit crossing the road in this area. This crossing would allow pedestrians to access Opportunity Resources better as well as the new commuter trail. The City and County will split the funding costs, which are estimated at \$146,500 that includes design and construction. WGM was selected because of previous work they did on the commuter trail in that area.

Mr. Contos explained that he drives this road frequently and questioned the need for a crossing. Mr. Slovarp, City Engineer for Transportation, replied that a pedestrian was hit by a vehicle in this area and the businesses in the area have asked the City to look into a way to help commuters access the businesses. The original design didn't tie in the bike and pedestrian facilities across Russell street. They need a safe way to get to the trail.

Ms. Jones added that Council has had several conversations about Russell and people crossing safer. Many people, especially kids from the neighborhood behind Opportunity Resources, cross Russell going to Russell School, the YMCA, or Playfair Park. On the other side, people who ride the bus cross Russell to go to Opportunity Resources. It's a street that does not have good access East and West.

Ms. Harp mentioned that driving Russell street is different than trying to cross such a busy road. She wanted to know what other options were looked at and why this contract for \$28,315 was the best option. Mr. Slovarp said these improvements are the least expensive option they have come across. Ms. Becerra added that we do need to focus on connecting all these trail systems to help reach our multi-modal transportation goals.

Moved by: Heather Harp

Approve and authorise the Mayor to sign a professional services agreement with WGM Group for the Russell Commuter Trail Crossing at a cost not to exceed \$28,315.00

AYES: (6): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Heather Harp, Gwen Jones, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

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

ABSENT: (3): Jordan Hess, Julie Merritt, and Amber Sherrill

Vote results: Approved (6 to 3)

3.2 A Resolution Vacating a (Public) Utility Easement for the Mill Site Subdivision

Traci Freshour Engineering Tech Public Works and Mobility,

The public utility easements are located on Wyoming Street in front of the Mill Site Subdivision. WGM Group and the property owners are asking that the City vacate these public utility easements. The property owners are proposing a boundary line relocation and a utility alignment. The utilities in the easement have been notified and signed to release.

Ms. Jones added she is happy to see construction moving forward in this location.

Moved by: Gwen Jones

Adopt/deny a resolution of the Missoula City Council of the City of Missoula, Montana, vacating a 14.5 foot wide by 31 foot long (Public) Utility Easement and 12.5 foot wide and 20 foot long (Public) Utility Easement crossing lot 9, 10 and 12 of block 6 of Mill Site Subdivision, Phase 1 - Wyoming North as recorded in the Missoula County Clerk and Recorder's Office, Missoula, Montana.

AYES: (9): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, Gwen Jones, Jesse Ramos, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (3): Jordan Hess, Julie Merritt, and Amber Sherrill

Vote results: Approved (9 to 0)

3.3 A Resolution Vacating a (Public) Utility Easement for the Hanson Addition No. 2

Traci Freshour Engineering Tech Public Works and Mobility,

The public utility easement is located at 2160 Carol Ann Ct, and it runs through the middle of the owner's property. WGM group and the property owner are requesting the City vacate this easement. The reason for this the property owner would like to build a structure on top of this easement. There are no existing utilities in this area.

Moved by: Jesse Ramos

Adopt/deny a resolution of the Missoula City Council of the City of Missoula, Montana, vacating a 20 foot wide by 118.73 foot long (Public) Utility Easement crossing lot 2, of Hansen Addition No. 2 as recorded in the Missoula County Clerk and Recorder's Office, Missoula, Montana.

AYES: (9): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, Gwen Jones, Jesse Ramos, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (3): Jordan Hess, Julie Merritt, and Amber Sherrill

Vote results: Approved (9 to 0)

4. ADJOURNMENT