

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
140 WEST PINE STREET
MISSOULA MONTANA
AUGUST 5, 2009, 3:05 PM**

Members present: Ed Childers, President; John Hendrickson; Bob Jaffe; Marilyn Marler; Renee Mitchell; Pam Walzer; Jason Wiener; and Jon Wilkins

Members absent: Stacy Rye, Vice President Dick Haines; Lyn Hellegaard Dave Strohmaier;

Others present: Vickie Zeier, Brentt Ramharter, Marty Rehbein

I. Administrative Business

Minutes dated [July 20, 2009](#) and [July 29, 2009](#) were approved as submitted.

II. Public Comment on items not listed on the agenda—None

III. Regular Agenda

- A. Authorize mail ballots for 2009 Primary Municipal Election ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Ed Childers) (Referred to committee: 07/20/09)

Motion: The committee recommends the city council adopt a [resolution](#) notifying the Missoula County Election Administrator of the City's desire to conduct the 2009 city general election by mail ballot in accordance with 13-19-202 Montana Code Annotated (MCA)

Jason Weiner moved a resolution to do the elections by mail but the resolution attached has a 21 day leave time on the ballot and he would like to change it to 15 days prior to the Election Day which the minimum leave time according to state law.

Ed Childers clarified the resolution has one thing missing and that is if they would like to have the results by precincts or wards.

Mr. Jaffe stated he is in support of the 15 day leave time. He also expressed they do not have any money in the executive budget to do the precinct balloting.

Marty Rehbein stated currently only \$80,000 has been budgeted in the current budget. Vickie Zeier stated the cost of the election will be in the \$75,000 - \$80,000 because the new auto-mark for the disabled. If the election is run by district, the election offices must do two ballot styles because of the ballot rotation. Each candidate gets a fair share of being listed first on the ballot.

Mr. Jaffe asked where they are providing actual polling places. Ms Zeier stated in the 2007 election they used the following locations: Hellgate, Cold Springs, Russell school, Paxon school, the courthouse, and Rattlesnake.

Mr. Jaffe asked what the cost implications of running each of the locations. Ms. Zeier stated each location must have two judges to receive ballots. The number of drop sites can increase or decrease a little in cost. The substantial cost in a mail ballot is not the election judges pay.

Mr. Wiener asked if there is a problem with mail ballots being mailed out on the 15th day. Ms. Zeier stated she has no problem.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Jaffe motioned to accept the same polling places as prior elections. Ms. Zeier stated the "polling places" are considered "drop sites." There are only 5 "drop sites" plus the court house. They added one more drop site: which makes a total of 6. A person can only submit their ballot as there is no issuance of ballots at a drop site.

Jon Wilkins stated he misses the personal touch when submitting the ballot.

Mr. Childers stated mail ballot elections are such a cost savings otherwise he would not support it either as he likes the personal touch in voting.

Ms. Walzer stated she would like to see a flyer posted at traditional polling places to let people know where they can drop off their ballots.

Mr. Jaffe asked if it would be good to add a drop site at Lowell school in addition to the five already in place.

Ms. Zeier stated Lowell school has one of the largest numbers of voter turnout because of its location on the Northside. According to Ms. Zeier, the top voter polling places are Hellgate is number 1, Cold Springs #2, Rattlesnake #3, Lewis and Clark #4, Russell #5, and Lowell #6. She stated the election department may move to the fairgrounds this fall to accommodate the late registration. The County Commissioners are looking into the computer access now. She also pointed out the larger counties are moving to an election center to accommodate for the room it takes to process the late registrations. The current courthouse location is running out of room.

Mr. Jaffe stated he would like to include Lowell school as a drop site for an additional \$300.00.

Mr. Wilkins asked why they chose Paxson instead of Lewis and Clark. Ms. Zeier stated Paxson is more accessible for the disabled.

The motion with the friendly amendment was approved unanimously.

Ms. Zeier stated if they run an election by mail per ward there are currently are 11 ballot faces because ward 4 is running unopposed. If we go to a precinct election there are 63 different ballot faces because each precinct has a different ballot face. It is going to cost at least \$10,000 more on top of \$80,000.

Mr. Wilkins stated he supports the Wards method.

Ms. Walzer motioned to balloting by districts.

Mr. Hendrickson called for the question.

The motion on calling for the question was approved unanimously.

The motion to do the balloting by districts was approved unanimously.

IV. Held in committee

1. Mayor's Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Mayor Engen)
2. Updates from Council representatives on the Health Board, Community Forum, Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee, other boards and commissions as necessary. – (Ongoing in Committee)

3. Joint meeting of the Mayor, City Council and County Commission; a facilitated quarterly OPG review as directed in the [Interlocal Agreement](#) (Agenda)—Ongoing (Mayor Engen)
4. Develop short and mid-term goals ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 4/23/2007)
5. Discuss possibilities for enhancing the applicant pool for vacancies on volunteer boards and commissions ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 09/17/07)
6. Joint meeting between the Missoula City Council and the Missoula County Public Schools' Board of Trustees ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 09/17/07)
7. Examination of Office Planning and Grants ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (John Hendrickson) (Referred to committee: 09/08/08)
8. Review CIP funding mechanism, vehicle replacement policy, department vehicle use practices, specifically Police, Fire, and Parking Commission ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Ed Childers) (Referred to committee: 11/10/08)
9. Outside legal consultation on the legal opinion regarding zoning rewrite ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (John Hendrickson) (Referred to committee: 05/04/09)
10. Referral of support for the Expo-Center ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (John Hendrickson) (Referred to committee: 05/04/09)

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Nikki Rogers

Deputy City Clerk