

**ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
140 WEST PINE STREET  
MISSOULA MONTANA  
May 20, 2009 1:05pm**

**Members present:** Stacy Rye, Chair; Ed Childers; Marilyn Marler; Pam Walzer; Jason Wiener; Lyn Hellegaard; John Hendrickson; Dave Strohmaier; Jon Wilkins; Bob Jaffe.

**Members absent:** Marilyn Marler, Renee Mitchell, Dick Haines

**Others present:** Bruce Bender, Brentt Ramharter, Jim Hausauer, Reggie Bardgett, Dee Krevey.

**I. Administrative Business**

A. Approve committee minutes dated: [May 13, 2009](#)-approved as submitted.

**B. Public Comment on items not listed on the agenda-None**

**II. Consent Agenda**

A. Approve claims (accounts payable). -Consent Agenda (Brentt Ramharter)-No Claims this week

**III. Regular Agenda**

A. Consider the establishment of Parks and Street Maintenance Districts ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 05/04/09) **HELD IN COMMITTEE**

Bob Jaffe introduced the referrals and requested more information on setting up maintenance districts.

Bruce Bender, Chief Administrative Officer, reviewed Street and Park Maintenance Districts with a [PowerPoint Presentation](#).

He identified the following Montana cities that have *Street Maintenance Districts* and the amount of revenue generated annually:

- Billings-\$4 million
- Bozeman-\$2 million
- Great Falls-\$2.5 million
- Helena-\$2 million
- Kalispell-\$1.5 million

He explained these assessments are fairly large \$40-50 dollars per residence per year annually (not including commercial) to generate the revenue needed.

He identified the following Montana cities that have *Parks Maintenance Districts* and the amount of revenue generated annually:

- Billings-\$600,000
- Great Falls-\$350,000
- Helena-\$160,000
- Kalispell—several small districts \$20,000 each

Mr. Bender pointed out for a Parks Maintenance District; state law requires a 10% petition for the Council to consider *or* a resolution initiated by the Council.

Ms. Rye suggested investigating the issue further and taking it to the voters this November. She also asked Mr. Bender how you shift money from the General Fund Parks Maintenance District when the General Fund hasn't funded parks maintenance for six years.

Mr. Bender said currently you're funding Parks Maintenance Operations in the amount of \$2.5 million dollars, so if you created a Parks Maintenance District you could put a half million dollars into Parks Maintenance Operations and now you have freed up a half a million dollars of General Fund Revenue that you could take and put back into the CIP and say its earmarked for that particular purpose. That would be your decision to make each year.

Jon Wilkins said that when we get funding from other sources the original money goes elsewhere so in effect, we stay in the same situation. He expressed concerns over the senior citizens who cannot afford any additional property taxes or they will lose their homes.

Ed. Childers pointed out that there would be no point in maintenance districts if there was no increase in tax revenues. The intention of a maintenance district is to get more revenue so we can do more projects. He requested a comparison between Missoula and the other Montana cities mentioned as to what residents pay in support of their City Government. He said he was not in favor of over taxing, but is willing to charge residents for the services they receive.

Pam Walzer inquired about the CIP equipment, and asked if it can be paid for out of the Street Maintenance Districts, she supported Ed's request for comparison to see if we are comparing apples with apples with the other cities used in the example.

Mr. Bender replied he thought they are funding CIP equipment out of these districts.

Ms. Rye supported the idea of a Tree Maintenance District as citizens cannot afford to take care of the trees in the boulevard, but the budget has not allowed for that work to be done.

Jason Weiner suggested creating a Tree Maintenance District by jurisdiction only in the areas which have boulevard trees and suggested ways to create an ordinance to define specific improvements.

John Hendrickson commented on the shifting of funds especially in a budget shortfall. He also expressed concerns about the CIP and the General Fund Balance. He suggested controlling expenses without cutting services. He said he will not support City wide Maintenance Districts.

Ms Rye requested the tax information that Ed discussed and more information on setting up Tree Maintenance Districts for the next meeting.

Ms. Walzer requested the Neighborhood Council results as soon as it is completed.

#### **IV. Held in committee**

- A.** Confirm the reappointment of David Nelson to the Public Art Committee for a term commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2013 ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Mayor Engen)
- B.** Reappointments to the Missoula Housing Authority: James Hoffman as a regular board member for a term starting June 26, 2009 and ending June 25, 2014 and Betty Zander as a resident commissioner for a term starting June 26, 2009 and ending June 25, 2011 ([memo](#)).—Information Only (Mayor Engen)
- C.** Review the FY 2010-14 CIP projects in committee ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Brentt Ramharter) (Referred to committee: 03/23/09)
- D.** Update from the Missoula Performing Arts Center ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 04/07/08)
- E.** [Resolution](#) revising the City's sewer use fee structure and increasing sanitary sewer rates by 5% per year for four years to support infrastructure improvements required to operate the city's sanitary sewer system. ([A&F](#)) ([Slideshow presentation as a webpage](#)) (Returned from Council floor: 11/03/08)
- F.** An ordinance amending the municipal code as it relates to bike licensing. ([A&F](#)) (Returned from council floor: 12/15/08)
- G.** Amend City Council Rule 21(a) to clarify quorum requirements ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Jason Wiener) (Referred to committee: 04/28/08) (*Tabled in Committee on 02/11/09*)
- H.** Implications of establishing maintenance districts. ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 05/11/09)

#### **V. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Dee Krevey*

Administrative Secretary