

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
City Council Chambers
140 W. Pine
MISSOULA MONTANA
August 16, 2010, After Council Meeting

Members present: Ed Childers, President; Stacy Rye, Vice President; Dick Haines, Roy Houseman, Bob Jaffe, Dave Strohmaier, Renee Mitchell, Pam Walzer, Jason Wiener, Jon Wilkins, Lyn Hellegaard, Marilyn Marler

Others present: John Engen, Ginny Merriam, Marty Rehbein

I. Administrative Business

The committee approved the [July 28, 2010](#), minutes as submitted.

II. Public Comment on items not listed on the agenda

John Hendrickson, Missoula Building Industry Association, asked if the City Council is planning to set aside some time to talk about the Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Childers responded yes.

III. Regular Agenda

A. Mayor's Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Mayor Engen)

Mayor Engen updated the City Council on the following issues:

Economic Development—The Best Place Project consultant is drafting a plan to move this initiative forward. The report should be available in a few weeks. The Missoula Redevelopment Agency continues to work on the Millsite project. His office just learned the Senate is considering earmark funding to help increase transportation connections in the Millsite area.

ARRA Project update (federal stimulus projects)--Construction continues across the city including curbs and sidewalks, the North Higgins streetscape project, the wye at Miller Creek and others. The parks in River Road and Southgate Triangle neighborhoods have new playground equipment.

Due to favorable weather conditions, the conservation lands have remained open all summer to date which hasn't occurred during his tenure as mayor.

The staff and Mayor have been talking with state representatives about the challenges facing the community in dealing with medical marijuana.

This week, the city will meet with the MT League of Cities and Towns to discuss the municipal legislative agenda for the upcoming session in Helena.

The City has received 250 applications for green blocks program to date. There are still about 50 slots available. People who are interested should contact the Mayor's office.

Ms. Hellegaard asked noted there is funding in the TIGER II application for federal funds for the Wyoming Cregg Lane connection. She asked what the earmark the Senate is considering would cover. The Mayor said the earmark is for a bare bones approach to the connection but there will be additional things needed like signalization which could be funded with the TIGER II grant.

B. Updates from Council representatives on the Health Board, Community Forum, Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee (TPCC), other boards and commissions as necessary. – (Ongoing in Committee)

Health Board

Ms. Mitchell reported the Board accepted the Director of Health's performance evaluation. The board is not meeting this month.

Community Forum

Mr. Wilkins said the Community Forum didn't have a quorum so no action was taken.

TPCC

Ms. Rye reported that the committee sent a letter of support for the TIGER II grant application. They received a request to partner with Transportation for America and join their coalition. They would like city to join too. This item has been referred to Public Works Committee and will be discussed on Wednesday.

The committee was updated on the Transportation Improvement Plan. The federal transportation bill has expired again, and there is some question about the availability of air quality funding in the coming future. The committee received updates on the ARRA projects in progress in Missoula. The next TPCC meeting is tomorrow.

Ms. Hellegaard asked about the letters Ms. Rye has signed while serving on the committee. She indicated that Ms. Rye has provided proper notification to the rest of city council. She would like to have an opportunity to comment on the letters before they are signed, and she requested copies of the letters Ms. Rye has signed as the City Council's representative on TPCC. Ms. Rye said she will provide the copies.

Employee Benefit Committee (EBC)

Mr. Wilkins noted a recent summary of EBC minutes mentioned a 401A plan. The member hadn't heard of this plan and noted the City Council hadn't approved the 401A plan.

Mr. Houseman said he was present for the June meeting during the discussion of the 401 A plan. When the subject came up, he said it seemed like the plan was common knowledge by the members present. One of the member of EBC expressed concern that that managers had received bonuses. Mr. Houseman said management is supposed to be paid at least 5% more than their highest paid employee. The city uses this 401A plan as a less expensive way to close that gap than increasing wages.

Mr. Wilkins said he would have liked to have had a report about that meeting. Mr. Houseman said EBC isn't normally reported on.

Ms. Walzer added that she attended the July EBC meeting, and the 401A plan came up again. The plan really isn't within the purview of the EBC. Ms. Walzer said the committee also discussed an amendment to the health plan to encourage city employees to use these community care centers rather than other medical clinics and increasing the amount paid to the employee as an incentive to use the clinic. This proposal would still save money for the plan.

Ms. Marler said she recalled at one time the Committee of the Whole heard the reports for EBC, and Ms. Walzer concurred adding that some City Council members requested she cease giving the updates.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Ms. Walzer said the fire danger is lower because it rained. Initially the LEPC officials were concerned about the lack of rain and were planning for a significant fire season.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Rehbein
City Clerk