

**BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
140 WEST PINE STREET
MISSOULA MONTANA**

August 5, 2009,-Following Committee Of the Whole

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

Members absent: Dick Haines; Stacy Rye,

Others present: Brentt Ramharter, Bruce Bender, Dee Krevey

I. Administrative Business

A. Approve committee minutes dated: [July 8, 2009](#)- will be approved at a later date.

B. Public Comment on items not listed on the agenda-none

II. Regular Agenda

A Resolution fixing the annual appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2010 budget ([memo](#)).— Regular Agenda (Brentt Ramharter) (Referred to committee: 04/20/09)

Ed Childers stated that there were two items of discussion and asked Mr. Hendrickson to start with his concerns in regards to the unions.

John Hendrickson expressed his concerns regarding the union contracts and the decrease in the City's contribution to the Health Plan by \$100 per month per employee. He said he would like verbal confirmation from the three unions that this is going to be acceptable to them.

Bruce Bender, Chief Administrative Officer, said we have been in communications with three unions in regards to this issue:

- The Fire Department Union already had a provision in their contract that we were going to negotiate their idea of allowing the health premium to go toward their pension. So in that negotiation, this particular issue was brought up for discussion. Their request was a commitment from the City that if in the future, there was an increase to the health premium it would go back to the City before it went to the employees.
- The Teamsters Union said they understood our circumstances and asked for a City Administration Commitment that for the duration of their contract, the City will not plan to initiate any increases in employee contributions or decrease employee benefits without first increasing the City's contribution. He then provided the [letter](#) of commitment from the City to the Teamsters Union.
- The Police Union also said they understood the City's circumstances and wanted the same commitment from the City. They also wanted to address the complicated issue of the loss of contribution.

He stated that the Montana Public Employees Association will also be receiving a letter of commitment from the City.

Mr. Hendrickson asked if our financial circumstance turns into a multi year situation are the unions on board with this solution in the future.

Mr. Bender replied yes and added that it will be an issue of negotiation.

Mr. Hendrickson asked where we are on the issue of adding the health premiums toward retirement.

Mr. Bender said that it is in the beginning stages of discussion.

Mr. Childers asked for the next item of discussion which is when the taxable value numbers from the State Department of Revenue will be available.

Brentt Ramharter, Finance Director, said it is premature at this time, and that he will provide a summary of year end to the administration this week. After it has been reviewed it will be passed on to the Council. We are waiting to get our taxable values and without that we will not be able to set our levy's and we won't know how it will offset our revised revenue estimates.

Mr. Childers asked if there are there are any advantages for passing the budget now as to oppose to waiting.

Mr. Ramharter said the biggest advantage for passing it on Aug 17th would be for the Finance Department. It would give us an additional month to begin the publication of the budget. If we need to amend or adjust the budget that is easily done.

Mr. Hendrickson asked about the Impact Fee Fund and if the \$814,000 is the total, and does it include transportation fees.

Mr. Ramharter said the majority of that is transportation fees and it is the total in the fund.

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:51pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Krevey

Administrative Secretary