

**BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
140 WEST PINE STREET
MISSOULA MONTANA
May 27, 2009 3:05pm**

Members present: Ed Childers, President; Stacy Rye, Marilyn Marler; Renee Mitchell; Pam Walzer; Jason Wiener; John Hendrickson; Dave Strohmaier; Bob Jaffe.

Members absent: Lyn Hellegaard, Jon Wilkins.

Others present: Mayor John Engen, Bruce Bender, Brentt Ramharter, Dee Krevey.

I. Administrative Business

Approve committee minutes dated: [May 20, 2009](#)-approved as submitted

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)**HELD IN COMMITTEE**

Ed Childers asked Mr. Ramharter how much tax authority we have.

Brentt Ramharter, Finance Director, replied \$41,000.

Mr. Childers asked fellow committee members how they wanted to proceed with the budget discussions.

Stacy Rye said she would like to have Ellen from MRA on Urban Renewal Districts (URD) II & III, and Donna Gaukler from Parks and Recreation to present their budget and see what their goals are.

Mayor Engen asked how much time they would need for each department, and it was decided to have the following four departments for next week's meeting

- Fire
- Police
- Public Works
- MRA

Marilyn Marler offered to let BCOW use 30 minutes of the Conservation Committee's meeting time next week 06/03/09 from 9:30-10:00am.

Mr. Childers inquired about non-departmental.

Mr. Ramharter a small increase in Correctional Services around \$1000, and the Art Museum's Otis Elevator Contract \$5,000 and there was a slight increase in the Opportunity Resources Maintenance Contract.

Jason Wiener thought that Council had removed the Opportunity Resources Maintenance Contract.

Mr. Ramharter clarified that the resolution was such that there were several maintenance agreements but not janitorial, and they were going to come in talk to you each year about the janitorial contracts.

Mr. Childers requested the Art Museum come in and discuss the janitorial contracts.

Pam Walzer would like to see the Council's budget and find ways to decrease it; she also wanted to know much we are not going increase taxes

Mr. Ramharter stated that we are taking advantage of some of our levy's that have gone down. Our debt service has gone down, so it freed up the general fund to take advantage of some un-levied taxes from the prior year, and about 75% of the trending that would be allowed us. We have done a swap-out between the general fund and health insurance. The trending was at 1.12 percent so it was just over \$200,000. Of that, in order to hold our overall tax bill the same to the public we could use all of that except for \$41,000.

Ms. Walzer restated that we are actually saving money on our debt service so we are utilizing that to help pay for some costs.

Mr. Childers said as he understands it, the bill for property taxes from the City will essentially be the same. So if you break it out, the portion that is collected for bond levies would be less, debt service will be less, and the portion collected for general fund property tax will be more.

Mr. Ramharter said that the bottom is that the dollar amount is practically the same. You can compare it to last year.

Bob Jaffe said basically it's a wash from the tax payer's perspective, but it pushes us up to our cap. Even though we have rolled \$850,000 into the general fund, we have lost that revenue elsewhere in the General Fund Budget.

Mr. Ramharter replied that there are two areas in particular that are down \$500,000-\$600,000.

- Fees and permits related to construction.
- Traffic citations.

Mr. Jaffe expressed concern about the course of action to balance next year's budget FY11.

Ms. Rye asked if the new police station will be on the ballot this year.

Mayor Engen said he doesn't feel it will be on the ballot this year, and is on the back burner for now.

Ms. Rye asked what the yearly percentage of delinquent tax collections are.

Mr. Ramharter responded that its 1.5 percent and we will be watching those very carefully this year. We will know in July and get you the numbers in late July/ early August. We are hesitant to guess until we get the taxable values in August.

Ms. Walzer asked if the property values increase in certain areas of Missoula and someone has their home appreciate much greater than others, will they see an increase in City property taxes.

Mr. Ramharter responded we tend to see that in new construction. It is very difficult to project, and you would need to take it on a case by case basis.

Ms. Walzer restated that even though the City's intention is to not increase property taxes overall, if taxable values increase, then individual property taxes may go up or down, but the total will remain the same.

Mr. Childers began scheduling the discussions for next week's meetings, he said Marilyn Marler offered to share 30 minutes of Conservation Committees meeting from 9:30-10:00am to have Donna Gaukler from Parks and Recreation present her budget items. Then at the regular BCOW slot he would like to have Fire, Police, Public Works and Missoula Redevelopment Agency.

III. Held in committee

- A. Mayor's Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Mayor Engen)
- B. Updates from Council representatives on the Health Board, Community Forum, Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee, other boards and commissions as necessary. – (Ongoing in Committee)
- C. Joint meeting of the Mayor, City Council and County Commission; a facilitated quarterly OPG review as directed in the [Interlocal Agreement \(Agenda 04/29/09\)](#)—Ongoing (Mayor Engen)
- D. Develop short and mid-term goals ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 4/23/2007)
- E. 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)
- F. 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)
- G. Examination of Office Planning and Grants ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (John Hendrickson) (Referred to committee: 09/08/08)
- H. 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)
- I. Outside legal consultation on the legal opinion regarding zoning rewrite ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (John Hendrickson) (Referred to committee: 05/04/09)
- J. Referral of support for the Expo-Center ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (John Hendrickson) (Referred to committee: 05/04/09)

I. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Krevey

Administrative Secretary
Finance Department