

# **University Neighborhood Council General Meeting Minutes**

Date: October 2, 2018

Time: 6:15pm

Location: Hellgate High School Knight Hall Library

900 S. Higgins Ave.

Missoula, MT 59801

Approximately 55 in attendance

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1. Welcome: Meeting started at 6:30pm.
2. University District Leadership Team Report: The team discussed the recurring problem of speeding in neighborhoods, investigating city leash laws, Jeannette Rankin planting and maintenance help.
  - a. Neighborhood Priorities : UNC member Jennifer Copley, discussed survey cards that were handed out at the meeting for attendees to fill out and hand in to be prioritized, in terms of one thing that the attendee would change in his/her neighborhood.
  - b. Proposed 2018 Neighborhood Grant application: UNC member Jeff Birkby, discussed the proposed \$ 3,000 grant application submission for the Kim Williams trail project expansion. In his presentation he outlined need to increase the amount of signage trail, and post a new sign every 10th of a mile, also known as wayfair/bollard. Extend the trail to the Railroad Trestle, posting the markers between a distance of 1.5-5.0 miles, which would be 1 sign every 1/2 mile for a total of roughly 7-8 signs. The cost to produce each wayfarer/Bollard and install is between \$ 250- \$ 350/per. Total cost for the proposed signage would be roughly between \$2,400-\$2,600. The deadline for submission of the grant is October 25th, 2018. Jeff also passed around a survey to the attendees to fill out in support of, or not.
3. University District Parking – Tiffany Brander, Administrative Services Manager, Missoula Parking Commission: Tiffany Blander outlined a little about parking and permitting in Missoula dating back to 1986 early enforcement.

Tiffany outlined the current parking Citywide ordinance, which states a car may be parked in one spot no longer than 120 hours, unless the vehicle has a

clearly displayed parking permit where it is required to park in that specified area.

A resident is allowed to call and lodge a complaint after 120 hours has passed. The tires are then marked, several tickets may be issued, and the possibility of towing that may occur. Tiffany also briefly discussed the Downtown Master Revitalization plan, parking enforcement, ordinances, etc. that will be considered.

4. Van Buren Street and Russell Street projects – Katie Klietz, Account Executive, Big Sky Public Relations: Katie Klietz presented an overview of the Van Buren and Russell Street projects. Major construction on the Van Buren roundabout should wrap up in about a month. Trees and shrubs will be added to beautify. Mention of the new sound wall in the lower rattlesnake was outlined, as well as the plexi-glass partition. Proposed project completion will be Spring 2019. The Russell Street Bridge East side construction overview included an overview on the progress, like the Milwaukee trail, bike trails, and new walkways. Project completion will be roughly Spring 2020. Katie also said that the West side construction will be the next phase.
5. Animal & Leash Ordinances – Christino Esparza, Animal Control Officer-K9-11: Officer Esparza outlined animal Leash Laws/Ordinances in the City of Missoula. The officer stated that there has been a large number of tickets issued in Bonner Park, and in the Kim Williams trail. The officer also described to the attendees the requirement of a dog owner to show voice control over his/her animal in an open space area. The officer also stated that an owner must provide proper shelter for his/her animal during the cold winter months. He also mentioned that on leash, off leash areas are available online.
6. History of Neighborhoods/Office of Neighborhoods Councils Report – Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator: Jane Kelly outlined History and purpose of having a Neighborhood council. Jane also stated that there are 20 councils citywide.
7. Election of Leadership Team members - Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator: The election of three Leadership Council Team members, and one alternative member took place. The two year roll/Members include: Tony LaPlante, Peter Drakos, Jeff Birkby, and alternate Bryce Rowe. A 1st motion to elect to elect said members was voiced by attendee Chip Miller, and a 2nd motion was voiced by attendee Tim Edwards. A unanimous motion voted all the members in.
8. ASUM Neighborhood Ambassadors - Jordan Lyons, Off Campus Renter Center, Director : Three representatives of the ASUM spoke to the Attendees about Bridging the gap between the UM and the neighborhood, Trash pickup

in the neighborhood, Sunday sweeps, saying hello to ASUM volunteers, glow stick handouts, and the can the cats event.

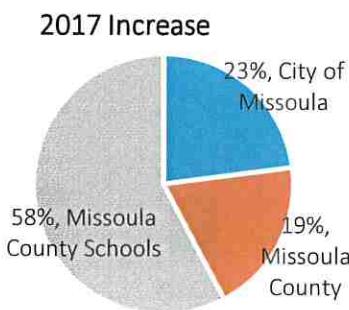
9. City Council Q&A: Ward 3 Council Members, Gwen Jones, John DiBari, and Heather Harp discussed property tax distribution in the City of Missoula, and income tax, and where it all goes. They also discussed how more of tax burden is shifting more towards residential, and less towards commercial because of tax breaks. The three member also fielded questions from the attendees.
10. Public Comment – none
11. Adjournment: 8:30 meeting end.



## Budget Q & A

### Q: Why did my property tax bill increase last year?

**A:** Several factors were at work last year. The Montana Department of Revenue's new appraisals of property in Missoula reflected significant increases in real estate value for many properties. The City lowered property taxes last year, but many people paid more because their homes were worth more. Voter-approved bonds and tax increases from other jurisdictions also played a role.

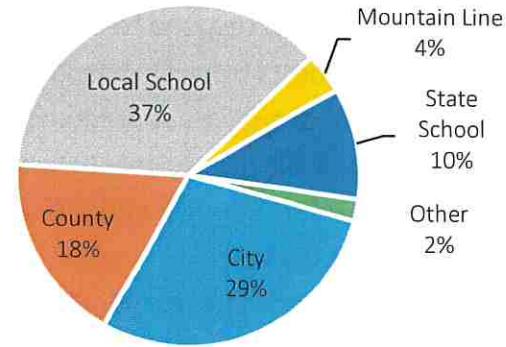


Taxing Jurisdiction	2016	2017	Increase
City of Missoula	\$910	\$1,024	\$114
Missoula County	\$545	\$631	\$96
Missoula County Schools	\$1,017	\$1,305	\$288

*Taxes for a home with a 2017 market value of \$267,800.*

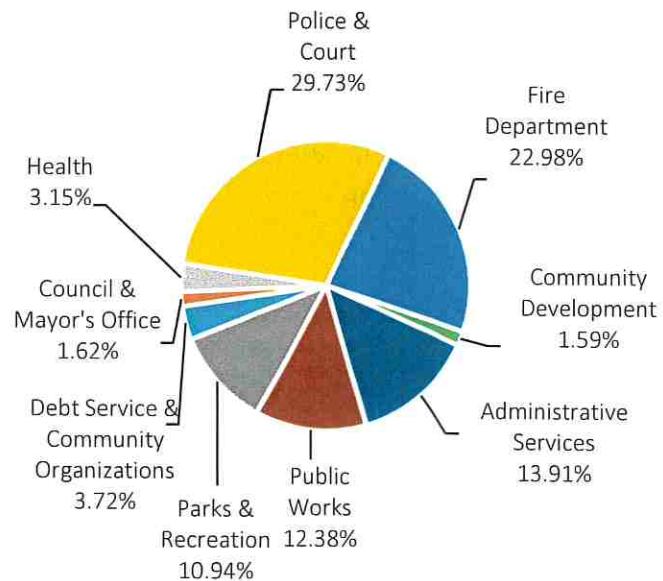
### Q: What part of my tax bill goes to the City?

**A:** In FY18, for a median-priced home, City taxes were 29% of a homeowner's total tax bill. The biggest taxing entity for a Missoula County property owner is Missoula County Public Schools, which in FY18 accounted for 37% of the tax bill. Missoula County was 18%.



### Q: Why do City taxes increase each year?

**A:** The City portion of property taxes increases slightly every year because the City buys many of the same things that every household buys – fuel, tires, power from NorthWestern Energy, health insurance – and all these costs increase yearly. Citizens have told Mayor Engen and the City Council that they strongly support the services they receive and that they want to preserve them, but it costs the City more each year to provide those services. Here's where the City tax money goes:

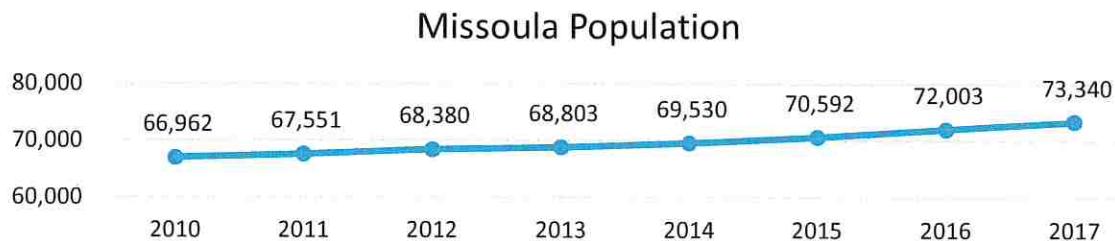
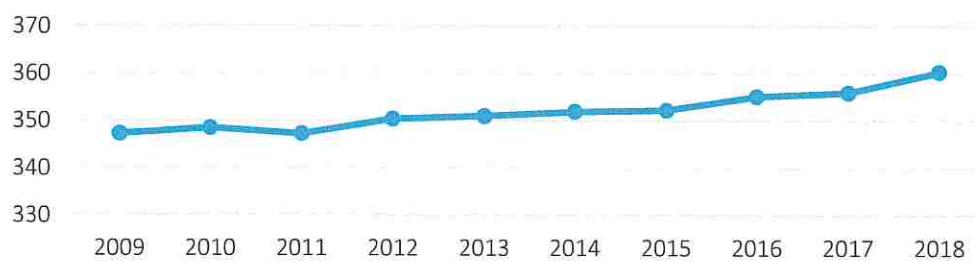




## Budget Q & A

**Q: What challenges does the City face every year?**

**A:** In addition to inflation increasing costs, Missoula is growing, and there is more demand for services. Here are a few examples:



**Q: How do Missoula's taxes compare to other Montana cities?**

**A:** The amount of tax revenue Missoula receives per resident is in line with our peer cities.

