

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
140 WEST PINE STREET
MISSOULA MONTANA
FEBRUARY 10, 2010 at 3:05 – 4:00 pm**

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

Members absent: Marilyn Marler

Others present: Keila Szpaller, Ellen Buchanan

I. Administrative Business

Minutes for January 13, 2010 and January 27, 2010 were approved unanimously.

II. Public Comment on items not listed on the agenda

None

III. Regular Agenda

A. Review Committee of the Whole and Budget Committee of the Whole referrals. (memo) – Regular Agenda (Marty Rehbein) (Referred to committee: 01/11/10)

Ed Childers reviewed the referrals and stated the Budget Committee of the Whole referral is a report from the Finance Office on the city's financial status.

Mr. Childers said the ongoing items such as #1, #2 and #3 will remain on the referral list.

Item #4 "Discuss possibilities for enhancing the applicant pool for vacancies on volunteer boards and commissions" is on his agenda to address at a later date.

Item #5 "Joint meeting with public schools" will be addressed.

Item #6 "Examination of Office of Planning and Grants" was Mr. Hendrickson's referral and asked if this item is still a concern, and if so, could it be part of the quarterly meeting.

Lyn Hellegaard stated she is looking at this from a budget standpoint. The budget is tight, and fiscal year 2011 will be just as bad. The county laid off two employees and none from the city. She would like to keep item #6 on the list and hear explanations of the status regarding OPG staff and the lack of building permits.

Mr. Childers noted it will be addressed as a budgetary item.

Item #7 "Review CIP funding mechanism, vehicle replacement policy, and department vehicle use practices, specifically Police, Fire, and Parking Commission" has been addressed to some extent and should be discussed further.

Item #8 "Outside legal consultation on the legal opinion regarding zoning rewrite" can be eliminated.

Item #9 "Referral of support for the expo-center" should be eliminated because they do not have a plan yet, and this item can be brought back at a later date when it is ready to be discussed.

B. Develop short and mid-term goals (memo).—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 4/23/2007) **(Held in committee)**

Mr. Childers stated this item was referred three years ago by Bob Jaffe. He said he emailed the [list](#) to the council and requested feedback about each council member's interests. He noted he received good ideas.

Mr. Jaffe stated he referred this item to create a structured discussion about what each council member would like to accomplish and find a common ground to move forward. He noted he would like to see the council establish goals and find a way to complete them with success.

Mr. Childers said he likes the idea of finding out where the council would like to go. He said the list is a good and the council should choose some important items to discuss. He said he would like to hear what is important to each council member.

Mr. Jaffe said he is interested in a lot of items, and supports affordable housing, sidewalk financing, and continued transportation issues.

Renee Mitchell said if Missoula loses more businesses and jobs, the town will reach affordable housing because there won't be enough people to occupy what already exists. She suggested creating a list of services the city provides and prioritize services to see where some services are overlapping.

Stacy Rye stated many of the items on the list are established with the help of revenue. She suggested Missoula needs to look at other revenue options such as local sales taxes, gas tax and others. Ms. Rye suggested creating maintenance districts and creating more affordable housing.

Jon Wilkins said his goals surround Ward 4 because that is who he represents. He suggested maintaining single family neighborhoods and keep the garden areas abundant and keep infill in appropriate places. There are quite a few homes that are starting to get run down, and would like to find a way to help bring them up to standards.

Mr. Wilkins stated he is concerned with the safety factor for rental units as there have been a few disasters in the past and reminded the council the volunteer inspection program is not going well.

Mr. Wilkins said his short term goals for the city are to maintain what we have and try not to cut services. He mentioned some streets in the city are in bad shape and need maintenance. He does not support street maintenance districts, because the money in the general fund currently pays for street maintenance and that money will go towards something else. That will leave street maintenance totally dependent on the maintenance districts.

Mr. Wilkins said he supports a convention center and a railroad service from Hamilton to Missoula.

Jason Wiener stated he would like to structure the budgets and not wait on the growth revenue and essential assessments every year to figure out how to pay for salary obligations that we know occur every year. He said he supports traffic

projections that make sense, and he would like to see improvements with Van Buren Street.

Dick Haines supports traffic projections that make sense that the council could agree to. He supports broad spectrum jobs and creating new ones.

Dave Strohmaier stated he supports several categories, some are legislative and some will require funding of some sort. He supports sidewalks and street maintenance, and noted funding is a problem as people do not care much for SID's. He would like to see council discuss funding issues.

Mr. Strohmaier also supports the Greater Downtown Master Plan as it influences Missoula's future.

Mr. Jaffe reminded the council that the value of this referral is to have open discussion and to hear what the council thinks of as priorities.

Roy Houseman said he is still getting a sense of city council general business. He is interested in encouraging economic development. He also supports street improvements and exploring the idea of street maintenance districts. He said the city should support its own issues and not rely on grants for funding. He noted SIDs create jobs.

Pam Walzer supports holistic development and strengthening our relationship with the public school systems. She is also interested in promoting agricultural land and would like the City Council to consider moving the urban service boundary line. She would like to have more discussion regarding various maintenance districts to service the community better.

Lyn Hellegaard said she does not agree with a holistic approach, but to move forward with a pragmatic approach. She suggests looking at other cities to see how they are attracting businesses. Ms Hellegaard stated before increasing taxes, the council should take a pragmatic look to see how the city is spending money. She would like to compare how the city has spent money in the past as to how it is being spent in the present.

Mr. Wilkins supports this council discussion and would like to see it continue. He said some of the council members have some of the same ideas that could help everyone work together more effectively and do what is good for Missoula.

Ms. Walzer clarified what she means by the holistic approach. She said by working with the whole college system including the COT, it could help create funding for scientists who currently live in Missoula who can help create a technology company with manufacturing as that would create jobs.

Mr. Strohmaier noted he has heard a lot of good ideas and maybe it's time the council addresses some of them.

Mr. Wiener clarified he is not in favor of reducing the size of government. He said government needs to do things differently that aren't being done at this time.

Ms. Rye stated Missoula is a great place to live, work and play and the city needs to maintain that status and not cut back on things that will affect the way people live.

Mr. Childers noted the meeting went great and he is sorry Marilyn Marler could not attend because she is sick.

Mr. Wilkins said the committee agrees on goals, but there are different ideas of how to approach them. He stated this meeting was effective and suggested revisiting a couple times a year.

Mr. Childers reminded the committee if there is something they want to discuss to submit a referral for discussion.

IV. Held in committee

1. Mayor's Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Mayor Engen)
2. Updates from Council representatives on the Health Board, Community Forum, Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee, other boards and commissions as necessary. – (Ongoing in Committee)
3. Joint meeting of the Mayor, City Council and County Commission; a facilitated quarterly OPG review as directed in the [Interlocal Agreement](#) (Agenda)—Ongoing (Mayor Engen)
4. 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)
5. 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)
6. 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)

V. Change of referral sponsor

1. Examination of Office Planning and Grants ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Lyn Hellegaard) (Referred to committee: 09/08/08)

VI. Remove from agenda

1. Outside legal consultation on the legal opinion regarding zoning rewrite ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (John Hendrickson) (Referred to committee: 05/04/09)
2. Referral of support for the Expo-Center ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (John Hendrickson) (Referred to committee: 05/04/09)

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Kelly Elam

Kelly Elam
City Clerk Office