

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
City Council Chambers
140 W. Pine
MISSOULA MONTANA
March 15, 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: Mayor Engen, Bruce Bender, Roger Millar, Marty Rehbein, Keila Spzaller

I. Administrative Business

[Minutes of February 24, 2010](#) were approved as submitted.

II. Public Comment on items not listed on the agenda

There was no public comment.

III. Regular Agenda

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

Mayor Engen reported:

- Staff are still working on the parameters for the coming year's budget. They anticipate a combination of cuts, savings and new revenues.
- There are consultants in Missoula this week gathering economic development data. He said that there will be a meeting this week about the Google fiber application
- The Human Resources department is advertising for a city attorney.
- The city will appeal the recent Heffernan ruling and will not be likely to appeal the Neighborhoods by Design case.
- The Police department recently hosted a conference for women in police work.
- The Fire department recently worked on two large structure fires where no human lives were lost.
- OPG is working with realtors on a housing summit this spring. They will also present a housing survey that will show what types of housing people are interested in in the housing market. The goal is to develop affordable housing for working families that meets their needs.
- The Parks department is working on some playgrounds funded by HB 645 and the playground in Pineview Park which is funded by an SID. The mountains are open early this year.
- The Public Works department is moving forward with improvements in the Miller Creek area. There will be a meeting on March 25th at the golf course for the neighbors. On Higgins Avenue, utility work is beginning in advance of the downtown streets project.
- The Mayor has been appointed as a director of the Montana League of Cities and Towns. He has been talking with Alec Hansen and keeping an eye on the revenue sharing program enacted by the legislature. They will be forming a legislative agenda this coming spring, so City Council members who would like to see legislative changes should contact him or Mr. Childers.
- He outlined his recent fundraising events and other volunteer work.

Mr. Wilkins said he is concerned about some of the cuts departments are making and specifically mentioned the plan to discontinue the subdivision comment cards that are mailed out by OPG. He'd like to get that reinstated. He would like to know how much the city spends on that program before he makes a referral to committee.

Ms. Rye asked if there was any news about Macy's. The Mayor said he hasn't heard anything. He said it is a pretty challenging building, but it is in an urban renewal district which is helpful. There are many suggestions in the community for uses of the building.

Ms. Walzer noted the city will resume leaf collection this spring. She appreciates the Street department for taking that project on.

Mayor said he has told departments that they don't have to cut their budgets if they can increase revenue. Streets has done that.

The Mayor said he had a call from a downtown property owner last week about access to his business. The city, the project engineer and the contractor are trying to be as responsive to those issues as possible.

There was no public comment.

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

- Health

Ms. Mitchell said the board and employees met in February to draw up strategic directions and a strategic plan. They decided to divide the water permit into two parts, but there is no increase in fees. They will meet again this Thursday.

- Community Forum

Mr. Wilkins said the Community Forum has a new look to the newsletter. There are three neighborhood council meetings tomorrow night--Capt. John Mullan, Moose Can Gully, and Lewis and Clark. The Community Forum meets next week Thursday. Many neighborhoods are having meetings now that spring is arriving.

Mr. Wiener said the Heart of Missoula recently had an interesting meeting. There were representatives from the Bonner and East Missoula community councils there to talk about Highway 200. Hopefully those discussions will be helpful to the commissioners.

- TPCC

Ms. Rye said the committee last met in January. She noted several transportation projects are underway. The update to the non-motorized transportation plan has started. The plan hasn't been updated since 2001. She was elected chair and Commissioner Landquist is vice-chair of the committee. Director Lynch, Department of Transportation, talked with the group about potential elimination of CMAQ funding. Congress has been funding the program intermittently while they work on the transportation funding. Hopefully Congress will pass permanent legislation soon to fund this program. Director Lynch suggested moving funds from the core of the transportation improvement program to STPU and then move funds from STPU to

CMAQ to keep funding whole for local CMAQ projects to deal with the current situation. The core program Director Lynch recommended using was from the bridge program in fiscal year 2012 or 2013. The committee endorsed this idea. Hopefully Congress will pass legislation funding the CMAQ program this fall. The committee also endorsed a grant application for 5309 funds. These are funds that haven't been used by other communities. TPCC plans to use these funds for MRTMA and Mountain Line.

- Aging Services

Mr. Haines reported Aging Services has had two retreats to determine what they are going to do given their current funding. They are trying to reinvent the organization. The organization serves senior citizens well. There will be an effort to let the community know more about what Aging Services is and what it does.

- Saturday Market

Ed Childers said board recently had a meeting. They had seven available slots for new vendors and forty-seven applicants.

There was no public comment on the reports.

IV. Held in Committee

- A. 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)
- B. Develop short and mid-term goals ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 4/23/2007)
- C. 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)
- D. Examination of Office Planning and Grants ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Lyn Hellegaard) (Referred to committee: 09/08/08)
- E. 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. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Rehbein
City Clerk