

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ADMINISTRATIVE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

MISSOULA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 199 WEST PINE STREET, ADMIN ROOM 206
July 15, 2021

ATTENDANCE

Present: Josh Slotnick, Dave Strohmaier, Juanita Vero, Adriane Beck, Mel Fisher, Chris Lounsbury, Sarah Bell, Anna Conley, Dave Wall, Erica Grinde, Allison Franz

Other attendees: Violet Plummer, Kyla Lehnerz, Heather Powers, Jamar Galbreath, Aaron Wilson, David Everingham, Martin Kidston, Genera Zoltek, Ginny Merriam, Emily Armstrong, John Engen, Diane Strenslan-Bickers

I. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

II. ACTION ITEMS

1. Request board approve and sign updated transportation planning agreements with the city: Memorandum of Agreement for the Missoula Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process, Agreement for the Distribution of Metropolitan Planning (PL) Funds, and Memorandum of Agreement for Cooperative Performance Based Planning Measures and Targets

Presenter:

Aaron Wilson

Moved:

Juanita Vero

Second:

Josh Slotnick

Motion:

Motion passed as written

Vote:

Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0

Additional Info:

Contract/Project Begin Date:

Contract/Project End Date:

Electronically sent to Aaron Wilson, City of Missoula.

2. Request board approve and sign employment agreement between Jaime Dixon, Healthcare Revenue Cycle Administrator, and Partnership Health Center-Missoula County with a rate of pay at \$35.28 per hour, budgeted at 32 hours per week.

Presenter:

Chris Lounsbury

Moved:

Josh Slotnick

Second:

Juanita Vero

Motion:

Motion passed as written

Vote:

Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0

Additional Info:

Contract/Project Begin Date:

7/25/2021

Contract/Project End Date:

6/30/2023

Agreement filed with Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer's Office: Book 1059 Page 521. Electronically sent to Karen Harrison, Human Resources.

3. Request board implement Stage II Fire Restrictions in Missoula County.

Presenter: Adriane Beck
Moved: Juanita Vero
Second: Josh Slotnick
Motion: Motion passed as written
Vote: Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0

Additional Info:

Contract/Project Begin Date:

Contract/Project End Date:

Resolution 2021-085 filed with Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer's Office: Book 1059 Page 522.

Electronically sent to Adriane Beck, Office of Emergency Management.

4. Request board close the public comment period on recommendations from Operation Shelter and direct staff to either proceed, modify or stop work on efforts to address the immediate needs related to addressing homelessness and camping in the urban wild.

Presenter: Chris Lounsbury
Mayor Engen
Moved: Josh Slotnick
Second: Juanita Vero
Motion: Motion passed as written. Commissioners' are directing staff to proceed. Closed Comments and Public Hearing.
Vote: Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0

Additional Info: Chris Lounsbury, Chief Administrative Officer, gave a summary of public comment received: 13 Comments in support / 24 in opposition. Almost two to one in opposition of supporting housing and homelessness needs. Some of the comments in opposition received generalized are that they don't want Missoula to become the next Portland or Seattle; by providing additional services it attracts more homeless people and other cities such as Bozeman but homeless to our area; Missoula should offer less services to homeless and bus them to other city's; homeless should be cited and arrested for being homeless; additional laws should be passed making homelessness illegal; most commenters' noted they are long time Missoula residence and that they do not what their property taxes effected or used to support the homeless; Government should not be providing these services, charitable organization should and needs unmet should just be left unmet. Some comments in favor received generalized are: To make sure the location has access to services: care food bus and medical services; Require a work component such as working in the camp to make sure it stays clean; Consider the impacts on the locations that are being proposed, especially the north side that already serves as one of the shelter providers.

Commissioner Slotnick commented on the concerns of Missoula becoming the next Portland or Seattle. He said that if we do not provide these services, then we will be creating that exact issue and have more issues with illegal camping like under the Reserve Street Bridge. By providing services, we will see fewer tent cities everywhere.

Commissioner Strohmer commented that we will not be making homelessness illegal or be shipping homeless people to other cities. These comments are unacceptable and go against the ninth circuit court.

Commissioner Slotnick says the ninth district court ruled in Boise that you can not arrest people for camping on public land. We are looking for better and more answers to solve this issue.

Mayor Engen commented that we are taking positive steps in trying to crack this issue and make a difference. These are real folks with real problems. The City and County are working together on this and making decisions on what steps we want to take. We are threading the needle and we have a great opportunity here.

Contract/Project

Begin Date:

Contract/Project

End Date:

Electronically sent to Chris Lounsbury, Commissioners' Office.

5. Request board adopt the Resolution to hold a special election for voters to consider a 3% local-option tax on marijuana sales.

Presenter: Chris Lounsbury

Moved: Juanita Vero

Second: Josh Slotnick

Motion: Motion passed to go on the election ballot as two separate ballot questions on medical and non-medical marijuana tax.

Vote: Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0

Additional Info: Chris Lounsbury, Chief Administrative Officer, gave some of the summarized public comments. Received 20 comments. Two to one in favor of the tax by written comment. Desire to tax recreational and not medical marijuana. In addition, several commenters suggested taxing alcohol in a similar way. That is not an authority the county can do. Only the state can tax alcohol. Money from the tax should be used to reduce property tax relief, and funding for housing or mental health services. In opposition, they were generally in opposition to any type of sales tax. One comment in opposition had concerns that taxing would not allow these new businesses to grow.

David Everingham commented that the County and City should grow marijuana and make profits instead of private companies. And if this is passed, the tax should be 10%, not 3%.

Commissioner Strohmaier let Mr. Everingham know that by law we can only go to 3%.

Commissioner Slotnick said comments that he has received the monies from this tax go to property tax relief and housing.

Anna Conley, County Attorney's Office, said that the DOR may have restrictions on where this money could go to.

Commissioner Strohmaier closed the public comment.

Contract/Project 7/1/2021

Begin Date:

Contract/Project

End Date:

Resolution 2021-086 filed with Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer's Office: Book 1059 Page 523.

Electronically sent to Chris Lounsbury, Commissioners' Office.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

None

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Wildfire update

Adriane Beck, Office of Emergency Management, No new starts. We have had some initial attack activity that were caught in the early stages without a lot of fan fair. Still keeping a close eye on the Granite Creek Complex fire. Which is three fires burning in the upper portions of HWY 12 corridor and they have ordered a type two incident management team. The West Lolo complex fire continues to burn just outside of Missoula county. The Deep Lookout Fire near Supior is right at the county line and they are making progress on that fire.

2. Communications needs/requests

None

V. UPCOMING EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

None

VI. SIGNING OF ITEMS APPROVED AT PUBLIC MEETING

None

VII. OTHER COMMENTS/INSTRUCTIONS

None