

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT
Wednesday, February 22, 2012 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM
Council Chambers, 140 West Pine Street, Missoula, Montana

Members Present: Bob Jaffe, Jon Wilkins, Caitlin Copple, Dick Haines

Members Not Present: Dave Strohmaier, Adam Hertz, Cynthia Wolken

Other Present: Jim Carlson, Sarah Coefield

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Approve minutes from [February 15, 2012](#). Minutes approved unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approve the Missoula County outdoor burning inter-local agreement. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jim Carlson) (Referred to committee: 02/13/12) **(REMOVE FROM AGENDA)**

MOTION: The committee recommends the city council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the inter-local agreement with Missoula County agencies involved in the regulation of outdoor burning in Missoula County to cooperate in outdoor burning permit issuance and enforcement.

Jim Carlson described the Missoula County outdoor burning inter-local agreement. The agreement provides for the unification of burn permitting with the City, the County, and with the Air Pollution Control Board. The new agreement allows for online permitting. This will greatly streamline the permitting system. Jim discussed the general permitting requirements. City and County Fire Departments support the new system. Jim feels that the new system will be a real time saver. The cost of an outdoor burning permit is \$5.00. The City-County Health Department provided one half of the funds to implement the new permitting system. Permit fees will be used to pay back the City-County Health Department. Once the Health Department is reimbursed, fees will cover the administration of the program. A portion of the fee revenues will be shared with the Fire Departments. Jim discussed changes to burning regulations within City limits.

Dick Haines asked how the process has changed for a citizen applying for a permit.

Sarah Coefield described the process of obtaining a permit either online, or via the automated telephone system. Interactive mapping is available to review permitted burns. Burning restrictions are entered into the system so that users are informed automatically whether or not they can burn that day.

Bob Jaffe asked for clarification on the total cost of the system.

Jim Carlson replied that the cost is approximately \$32,000. \$2.00 of the \$5.00 permit fee is used to operate the program. \$3.00 of the permit fee is used to pay down the initial costs of the program. Once the initial costs are paid, the full \$5.00 will be used for operating the program.

Dick Haines moved to approve the Missoula County outdoor burning inter-local agreement.

Motion passed unanimously.

Bob Jaffe asked why the burning permit system was not consolidated with the Office of Planning and Grants' Accela permitting system.

Jim Carlson replied that the Accela system was designed for a development permit system. The outdoor permitting system being used in Missoula has been implemented in other Montana counties, thus reducing the cost to Missoula County. Jim estimates that it would have cost about \$100,000 to have the burn permitting system integrated into the Accela system. It was the most economical option.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEM

V. HELD AND ON-GOING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Police Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Mark Muir)
2. Fire Department Update – Ongoing in Committee (Jason Diehl)
3. Health Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Ellen Leahy)
4. Eat Smart Coalition information. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jason Wiener) (Referred to committee: 07/11/11)
5. Consider Discuss revisiting cell phone restrictions. ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 10/17/11)
6. Discuss air quality issues related to railroad operations in and through Missoula. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 10/24/11)
7. Authorize Discussion with Crime Victim Advocate Office. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jon Wilkins) (Referred to committee: 02/06/12)

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 A.M. Submitted by Gregg Schonbachler.