

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
140 WEST PINE STREET
MISSOULA MONTANA**
MAY 18, 2009 After Council meeting adjourns

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

Members absent:

Others present: Mayor Engen, Marty Rehbein, Ginny Merriam, Jim Nugent, Bruce Bender, Keila Spzaller

I. Administrative Business

The minutes dated [May 11, 2009](#), 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) (Held in committee)

The Mayor said he has good news from the Energy Efficiency Community Development Block grant program. He recently met with Northwestern Energy, and they are interested in partnering with the city's Green Blocks program to remodel three hundred Missoula homes in the next year to make them more energy efficient. They are also talking about a Green Biz Program for one block downtown. The state has some funding for the project, and the city is hoping to secure additional grant funds through the federal stimulus package.

The city plans to use some of the energy conservation funds to complete the projects that are part of the Johnson Controls performance contract to make city buildings more energy efficient.

The Mayor has established a roundtable to look at economic development with a focus on wages and workforce development to develop. The roundtable has been established to develop recommendations that would not involve any costs to the city.

There may be other additional funding available from the federal stimulus package. He noted the administration is meeting to discuss potential projects and ensure Missoula is poised to compete for those funds.

He noted the troubled auto industry is affecting our community. Some local auto dealers are losing franchises to sell certain types of cars due to change at the corporate level. Local auto dealers have been great community partners. They employ local people, support local projects, etc.

He has started a project to encourage kids to get out and move around getting exercise called "Movin' with the Mayor."

He noted Mike Kress, a long time employee of the County, is returning to Missoula. There is a fundraising event planned to help with his medical expenses. He encouraged City Council members to support those efforts in whatever way they are able.

Ms. Marler attended "Movin' with the Mayor" at Franklin Park. Adults should go because it is fun and supports the kids' marathon. She also complimented the Parks Department for their work in the park.

- 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 board**

Ms. Mitchell said the Air Pollution Control Board has postponed their public hearing to June 18th regarding new air quality regulations. The Health board meets this Thursday. She reviewed the agenda for the upcoming meeting.

- **Community Forum**

Mr. Wilkins encouraged City Council members to go on the Community Forum bus tour on June 20th. The tour meets at 9:00 a.m. at the picnic shelter at Playfair Park.

The City is in the process of recruiting a new neighborhood liaison.

The Community Forum has been doing a survey about maintenance districts. He is interested to see how that information comes out.

The neighborhoods will have a new website soon. The next Community Forum meeting is May 28th.

- **TPCC**

Ms. Rye said the TPCC has made changes have been to the Transportation Improvement Plan to spend federal stimulus funds. Construction will start at Higgins Hill Beckwith on June 15th. Other projects this summer include: South Clements and Reserve; Missoula West near DeSmet; Russell from Fairview to 39th is a repaving project, Scott Street Overpass re-decking project , and roadway from Higgins to Orange resurface project. TPCC was able to move some projects up in the schedule including a project to update traffic lights to LED lights, the traffic light synchronization project; purchasing vans for MRTMA and busses for Mountain Line; and the North Higgins streetscape project. The state Department of Transportation has completed a traffic study of North Reserve Street especially the southbound lane to Mullan Road. They modeled traffic at that intersection, and one of things that they've looked at is shortening the red lights and green lights along the corridor so traffic will continue to move rather than be at a standstill, albeit slower. Reserve is so wide it's difficult for pedestrians to cross, so this may not alleviate all of the congestion. One option they are talking about is widening the road at the intersection and installing pedestrian islands.

The Miller Creek Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled for record of decision soon. The initial finding shows the project to be all locally funded despite the fact that the federal government required the EIS and the preferred alternate includes some of the improvements listed in the 93 Corridor Study which is also a federal project. She noted Highway 93 is a federal highway, and there needs to be some federal or state funding in the project.

In other matters, the bids for the Higgins, Hill, Beckwith project came in below budget. The TPCC will be discussing how to reallocate that money. Mr. Sponseller, a member of TPCC, wants to talk about the deicer used by the city.

She noted the state is looking at traffic speeds on Reserve Street in the vicinity to make it safer for kids to cross Reserve. A report will be presented at Public Works Committee.

IV. Held in committee

1. Joint meeting of the Mayor, City Council and County Commission; a facilitated quarterly OPG review as directed in the [Interlocal Agreement \(Agenda 04/29/09\)](#)—Ongoing (Mayor Engen)
2. Develop short and mid-term goals ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 4/23/2007)
3. 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)
4. 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)
5. Examination of Office Planning and Grants ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (John Hendrickson) (Referred to committee: 09/08/08)
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)
7. Outside legal consultation on the legal opinion regarding zoning rewrite ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (John Hendrickson) (Referred to committee: 05/04/09)
8. Referral of support for the Expo-Center ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (John Hendrickson) (Referred to committee: 05/04/09)

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Rehbein
City Clerk