

For immediate release: June 29, 2012



CONTACT: Marty Rehbein, City Clerk

PHONE: 552-6078

E-MAIL: mrehbein@ci.missoula.mt.us

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS GO HIGH-TECH

New SIRE Technologies System Debuts Monday Night

Missoula City Council meetings are going high-tech Monday night, as the City of Missoula rolls out a new system that will allow anyone to call up a Council meeting online and watch it any time from a one-stop web page. The archived video of Council meetings and Council committee meetings will also be searchable from the rollout forward.

“I’m so excited for people to be able to not only watch a meeting live, but, if they miss it, to be able to call it up, any time, anywhere,” said City Clerk Marty Rehbein, who is the project manager.

The portal page will give easy access at www.ci.missoula.mt.us/webcasts, available on the City website home page. It offers one-stop access to live and on-demand video, agendas, minutes and attachments for City Council meetings as well as Planning Board and Community Forum. Other boards and commissions meetings that are broadcast on MCAT will be added in future phases. The SIRE Technologies system allows a staff member to index and link the video with agendas and minutes, to record votes and motions and to take notes during meetings.

It also gives access to legislative history, allowing citizens and news reporters to track an issue, bringing the entire story of the agenda item together with one click. Video is also available in mp3 and mp4 files that are downloadable to watch later on mobile devices when an internet connection isn’t available.

A City committee chose SIRE after issuing a Request for Proposals and hearing detailed presentations from three companies. The project cost \$83,155, which includes hardware, software installation, configuration and training, as well as a five-year service agreement for

software updates, hosting services and technical support. The project was paid for using fees paid by Bresnan Communications under the city's franchise agreement with the company.

During the weekend of June 29 through July 1, the agenda for next Monday's meeting is available on the new system, and video is available of meetings dating from June 18.

#

Ginny Merriam, Public Information/Communications Director, 552-6007; 546-7692