

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
140 WEST PINE STREET
MISSOULA MONTANA
JANUARY 26, 2011, 2:40 – 3:35 PM**

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

Members absent:

Others present: Mayor Engen, Bruce Bender, Brent Ramharter, John Hendrickson,

I. Administrative Business

Minutes dated [January 12, 2010](#) and [January 19, 2010](#) were approved as submitted.

II. Public Comment on items not listed on the agenda—None

III. Regular Agenda

A. Review referrals to Committee of the Whole to see if any items can be removed. ([memo](#)) Regular Agenda (Ed Childers) (Referred to committee: 01/03/2011)

Ed Childers reviewed with the committee the held in the committee items. These items will be removed with the consent of the sponsor of each item:

3. Develop short and mid-term goals ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 4/23/07)
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. Attend the UM/City luncheon hosted by The University of Montana on October 27, 2010 at 12:00 noon at the University Center, rooms #326-327. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Mayor Engen)

B. Update on the quarterly budget report ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Lyn Hellegaard) (Referred to committee: 04/26/10) **REMOVE FROM AGENDA**

C. Discuss the quarterly budget report. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Lyn Hellegaard) ([Mayor's Quarterly Financial Report 01/24/2011](#)) (Referred to committee: 11/08/10) **HELD IN COMMITTEE**

Lyn Hellegaard stated she would like an explanation or information on Steve King's statement from last Wednesday where he suggested there more budget issues. She also would like some more clarification from the Monday night discussion. In [Mr. Strohmaier's budget proposal](#), he proposed the council direct \$100,000 of the \$410,745 growth tax revenue to the general fund with the remaining \$310,745 to the city's year end fund balance. In FY11, allocate \$60,000 of the annual assessment to mitigate costs associated with owner-occupied residential sidewalk, curb, and gutter installation and/or repair when such improvements are ordered in by the City. So to follow-up, Mr. Bender's comment on the budget that Steve King gave the council on the snow and ice control budget was erroneous because he listed the \$300,000 from the road district here when actually it only has \$240,000. The total amount over budget is not 130,000 but its 190,000. Would like some clarification on where the \$60,000 is?

She would like to see the hard data instead of the useless pie charts. It appears the charts are including salaries and benefits in the debt service. They can not use them to finance the debt so the debt service number is low. She stated he has heard the property tax delinquencies is up 26 percent and would like to see what effect that is having on the budget. Also, the courts have 6 million dollars in uncollectible fines. She wants to know in the fines and surcharges, how much of that is uncollectible and delinquent? On the bar charts they have a reference in the FY 11 budget but on other categories they do not have that item as

they dropped off. And thank you for the cross references. She did not get to the impact fees or the sewer fees yet.

Mayor Engen stated he would like to address Ms. Hellegaard's questions she asked on Monday evening. He also asked her to email her questions so he can get answers to the above questions. The mayor asked the council if they would like to see a certain format on the charts they are welcome to submit their ideas and he will see what they can do to make them useful.

1. First regarding the delinquencies on Tuesday January 25, 2011 at 4:29 PM Andrew Czorny from the County Finance Department sent an [email](#) to the mayor regarding the status of the taxes where 95% of the Real Property Taxes, 94% of the Personal Property Taxes, 79% of the Mobile Home Taxes and 99.96% of other taxes have been collected.

2. Impact Fees FY 05-11 under the Financial Reports. The mayor showed the committee how to navigate to the [Financial Reports](#) on the website. The expenditures from the Impact Fees are approved by council and their have been very little spent out of the fees.

Lyn Hellegaard asked why there are more categories on the FY 10 Impact Fee Report page but not that many on the FY 11 page. Mr. Ramharter stated the manual processes to pull the reports are based on the building permit program. At the end of the year more reports will become available. If the committee is interested in finding out the updated expenditures of the 2321 fund, Impact Fee Fund, they can navigate to the Financial Reports>[FY11 Budget Reports](#) and choose the month they would like viewed.

3. Fund Balance and Health Insurance. The city is experiencing bad months in FY 11. In FY 12, the city will be looking at adjusting the premium to manage the bad months.

Ms. Hellegaard asked for clarification on a "few bad months". Is it due to extraordinary claims? Has the city had an experience with the Autism rule that went into effect? The mayor stated the city reviewed the plan through the federal health care legislation and there seems to be no effect on the city until 2014 then the changes will be minimal. The claims experience is high due to significant surgeries. No, the autism rule does not seem to be affecting the plan. The city has been in contact with Allegiance Benefit Plan Management about some proposed changes to the plan and autism will help save premium.

Ms. Hellegaard followed up by asking if the administration has seen a lot of the employees putting the older children on the plan up to the age of 26. The Mayor does not know the answer to that question and Allegiance has not indicated that has been an issue but can find out if need be.

Pam Walzer stated the Employee Benefit Committee has been working with Allegiance for quite awhile. Allegiance does not feel this is not a unique situation as the city has good years and now is having a bad year.

Mr. Bender stated one of the concerns in this fiscal year is retaining the 3 month reserve. The administration has to monitor this and will have to make it up if the 3 month reserve is not met.

The Mayor asked if Ms. Hellegaard will send him an email on what questions she would like to have answers on for the next meeting.

Mr. Childers asked if there is an online index to the adjusted

D. Administration and Council discuss legislative matters. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Ed Childers) (Referred to committee: 01/24/11) (**HELD IN COMMITTEE**)

Pam Walzer stated she has emailed the group city council email about a constitution referendum to change state constitution from a "clean and healthful environment" to "clean, healthful and economically productive environment". Mayor Engen stated he emailed the lobbyist to follow this item but was not sure if he had time.

Jason Wiener asked about the city entitlement and how that is fairing. Mayor Engen stated all he has been hearing is "buzz" and hallway conversation. Coal tax money allocation will go to infrastructure programs which are more important in smaller communities instead of ours.

Marilyn Marler asked about the changes to Greenhouse Gas Energy and Conservation recommendations, if they have been uploaded to the Missoula In Session. She also asked if in the future if the Greenhouse team sends any updates if she can forward them on to the Mayor's office to be forwarded on to the lobbyist. Mayor Engen stated the recommendations have been uploaded to the site

Pam Walzer asked about the Big Sky Trust and asked if that fund was in danger. Mayor Engen stated yeah according to the Governor's budget the Big Sky Trust Fund is in danger.

IV. Held in committee

1. Mayor's Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Mayor Engen)
2. Updates from Council representatives on the Health Board, Community Forum, Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee, other boards and commissions as necessary. – (Ongoing in Committee)
3. Develop short and mid-term goals ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 4/23/07) **REMOVE FROM AGENDA**
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 (Lyn Hellegaard) (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) **REMOVE FROM AGENDA**
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V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikki Rogers

Deputy City Clerk