



City Commission Administrative Meeting

February 7, 2024 – 4:00 PM

Zoom Online Meeting; <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87029183007>

City County Building, 316 N. Park Ave., Room 326

YouTube channel link:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/IMxECJo5LNM?si=godRjCZJiVQ3zQB5>

Time & Place

A City Commission Administrative meeting was held Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom Online Meeting ID: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87029183007> and physically in the City County Building, Room 326.

Call to Work Session, Introductions

(00:12:48) The following responded present, either via zoom or in person:

City Attorney Dockter
City Manager Burton
Commissioner Dean
Commissioner Shirtliff
Commissioner Logan
Commissioner Reed
Mayor Collins

Commission Comments, Questions

A. Discussion: City Manager Job Performance Review

(00:13:30) Commissioner Logan introduced the discussion of the City Manager Annual Evaluation.

(00:15:00) Discussion amongst the Commission members was had on the involvement of Staff and outside entities for the evaluation process.

(00:18:48) Direction was given to Staff for next steps in the process.

Recommendations from the Helena Citizens Council

(00:18:53) HCC Representative Patricia Bik thanked Mayor and Commission members for attending the swearing in ceremony.

Report of the City Manager

(00:19:46) City Manager Burton stated he had nothing to report this evening.



Presentations

A. Public Safety Service Level Presentation

- (00:19:50) Public Information Officer Jacob Garcin presented on the Public Safety Service Level previous discussions and updated the Commission on the latest discussions amongst staff and outside counsel regarding a resolution and ballot language, should the Commission choose to proceed. Options for a resolution timeline were provided to the Commission for consideration.
- (00:29:57) Commissioner Dean asked questions regarding an expedited timeline.
- (00:31:33) City Attorney Dockter gave a presentation on the discussions with outside counsel on the crafting of the resolution and ballot language.
- (00:33:08) Commission questions regarding the language and timeline on the levy and use of funding.
- (00:37:28) Commission questions and discussion regarding the infrastructure cost and requirements.
- (00:40:17) City Attorney Dockter gave a brief presentation titled Education vs. Advocacy.
- (00:48:15) Mayor Collins called for public comment on the current topic.
- (00:48:28) Mike McDaniel gave public comment. No other public comment was given.
- (00:52:07) Commissioner Logan stated he was comfortable with the current proposal for both measures and the suggested timeline. Commissioner Shirliff concurred.
- (00:52:23) Commissioner Dean made comments regarding the importance of public education in the process leading up to the June 6th ballot.

B. State-Local Infrastructure Partnership Act Funding Proposal Review

- (00:55:02) Grants Coordinator Amanda Opitz gave a presentation on the SLIPA
- (01:00:34) Commissioner Dean asked a question regarding the ADA ramps funding.
- (01:01:22) Commissioner Logan asked a question regarding the potential for cost savings associated with the bioreactor mixer with a new system. He confirmed he would rank the order of spending priority as 1. bioreactor mixer replacement 2. ADA pedestrian ramps replacement 3. fire suppression for Fire Station 2.
- (01:02:47) Commissioner Reed ranked her spending priority as 1. ADA ramps replacement 2. bioreactor mixer 3. fire suppression and asked if there could be an exploration of methods to cost match through other funding sources to ensure both the ADA ramps and Bioreactor mixer could be done.



- (01:03:45)** Commissioner Dean asked staff which of the proposed projects were also reflected in the CIP and when they were expected to be replaced. Commissioner Dean stated her preferred order of projects were 1. bioreactor mixer 2. fire suppression 3. ADA ramps.
- (01:05:53)** Commissioner Shirtliff asked if there was a possibility of partially funding all three projects.
- (01:07:33)** Commissioner Shirtliff asked for additional information on the non-compliant ramps within the city.
- (01:08:29)** Commissioner Shirtliff listed his preference as 1. ADA 2. fire suppression 3. Mixer.
- (01:08:35)** Mayor Collins listed his priorities as: 1. fire suppression 2. bioreactor mixer 3. ADA.
- (01:09:20)** Manager Burton determined that Staff would tabulate the Commission responses and come back with a recommendation so a decision could occur on February 26, 2024.

Department Reports

A. Discuss Commission Appointment of Task Force to Develop Policy Recommendations Around a Housing Strategy for Helena

- (01:10:23)** Mayor Collins called upon Commissioners Logan and Reed to bring forward the proposal for discussion.
- (01:10:30)** Commissioner Reed gave a brief history of the discussion on a new task force to offer policy recommendations to the Commission in a limited period of 12-18 months.
- (01:11:43)** Commissioner Reed outlined a proposed scope and purpose for the task force.
- (01:13:42)** Commissioner Logan gave comments regarding his preference as to how to proceed should a task force be created.
- (01:15:38)** Manager Burton requested Director Brink respond to the Commission discussion. Director Brink outlined the land use plan the City was required to produce and offered the process as an alternative to the proposed task force.
- (01:18:40)** Commissioner Reed asked for clarification on the process and work to be done.
- (01:19:08)** Mayor Collins asked a question regarding the projected timeline and participants of the land use plan.
- (01:21:33)** Commissioner Shirtliff asked questions regarding the existing working groups that Staff have coordinated with.
- (01:24:50)** Commissioner Dean discussed the potential use of the Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Advisory Council.
- (01:27:40)** Commissioner Logan asked Commissioner Reed if the discussion was providing options for her overarching request of the Commission.



- (01:28:00) Commissioner Reed responded to Commissioner Logan.
- (01:30:00) Commissioner Dean proposed an RFP as a potential solution to Commissioner Reed's request.
- (01:34:17) Commissioner Shirliff made comments.
- (01:36:26) Commissioner Dean made comments.
- (01:37:24) Mayor Collins requested additional information from Director Brink regarding the timeline associated with his work with the consultant.
- (01:38:56) Commissioner Logan and Commissioner Reed made comments.
- (01:40:31) Mayor Collins asked what the status of the Ruth's Place project with Good Samaritan was.
- (01:41:16) Teresa Ortega of Good Samaritan responded to the questions of the Commission.
- (01:44:47) Mayor Collins stated he would prefer to use existing resources and groups already working within the system.
- (01:45:40) City Manager Burton responded to the Commission discussion.
- (01:47:17) Commissioner Dean requested a report from Lewis & Clark Public Health.
- (01:47:25) Commissioner Logan made comments.
- (01:49:53) Mayor Collins asked for Public Comment on this topic.
- (01:50:10) Teresa Ortega made comment.
- (01:51:20) Mary Ann Dunwell made comment.
- (01:55:55) Brian Coplin made comment.

B. Local Government Review 2024

- (01:57:00) Clerk Clayborn presented Item B.
- (02:03:34) Commissioner Logan requested additional information on funding resources.
- (02:04:20) City Manager Burton made recommendations on funding through mill levy, Finance Director Danielson concurred.
- (02:04:44) Commissioner Dean requested information regarding the potential for utilizing mills in addition to self-fund the measure.
- (02:07:14) Mayor Collins stated like Commissioner Dean would prefer to self-fund as opposed to mills.
- (02:07:30) Commissioner Logan and Shirliff agreed with the consensus.
- (02:09:51) Mayor Collins asked for public comment. None were given.
- (02:10:20) Commission gave direction to directly fund the measure and provide language for 5 study commissioners within the resolution.



Public Comment

(02:10:51) Mayor Collins asked for general public comment.

(02:11:00) Les Sickelsteil gave public comment.

Adjournment

(02:16:12) There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:16pm.