



Public Works/Finance Committee

Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

www.ci.moscow.id.us

208.883.7015

**Monday
October 8, 2018**

4:30 PM

**Council Chambers
206 E. Third St.**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM

PRESENT: Kathryn Bonzo Chair, Jim Boland Councilmember, Brandy Sullivan Councilmember

OTHERS: Mayor Lambert, Council Member Gina Taruscio, Council Member Art Bettge; Council Member Anne Zabala

STAFF: Jen Pfiffner, Sarah Banks, Mia Vowels, Leah Carlson, Bill Belknap

1. Approval of Public Works/Finance Committee September 10, 2018 and September 24, 2018 Minutes (ACTION ITEM) – Laurie M. Hopkins

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
AYES:	Kathryn Bonzo, Jim Boland, Brandy Sullivan

2. Disbursement Report for September 2018 (ACTION ITEM) - Sarah Banks

Presentation of the Accounts Payable Report for the month ending September 30, 2018. This was reviewed, signed and recommended for approval by the Public Works/Finance Committee on October 8, 2018.

ACTION: Approve and sign the Disbursements Report for the month of September 2018.

Banks gave details regarding the major expenditures for the month. The Committee recommended approval, signed the report and forwarded to the Council consent agenda.

3. Proposed Lot Division at 209 Rodeo Drive (ACTION ITEM) - Leah Carlson

Cody Merrill is requesting a lot division to divide an existing 4.69 acre parcel into two parcels of approximately 2.11 acres and 2.58 acres in size. The lot division is intended to accommodate a Self-Storage Facility which was approved for a Conditional Use Permit by the Board of Adjustment on August 29th, 2018. The subject property is within the Motor Business (MB) Zoning District which has no minimum lot width or size requirements, therefore all proposed lots meet current requirements. Property owners within 600 feet of the property have been notified of the proposed division and the site was posted seven (7) days prior to the public meeting date. This was reviewed and recommended for approval by the Public Works/Finance Committee on October 8, 2018.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Take public comment if applicable and recommend approval of the lot division request with no conditions; or recommend approval of the lot division request with conditions; or recommend denial of the lot division request; or provide staff further direction.

Carlson introduced the item as written above. There was no public comment and the Committee felt it was straightforward. The Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council consent agenda.

4. Palouse Regional Housing Needs Assessment (ACTION ITEM) - Jen Pfiffner

Communities and employers throughout the Palouse have voiced concerns regarding a lack of affordable housing. As housing impacts the well-being and economic security of every individual and

family on the Palouse, attending to the region's housing challenges provides a significant opportunity for improving the quality of lives and the economy of the region.

The issue of affordable housing is not unique to Idaho, especially on the Palouse, considering the proximity of Idaho and Washington. Given the regional impacts of the issue, coupled with PEP's commitment and foundation in partnership and the severity of the issue as reported by members of PEP and highlighted in the ALICE Report developed by United Way, the organization looks forward to taking the lead in coordinating a Palouse Regional Housing Needs Assessment.

PEP is requesting the City of Moscow participate in the study and provide a financial commitment of \$10,000. The goal of the assessment is to provide a clear understanding of the affordable housing issue and to provide the information needed to begin working head on to address the problem.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of financial participation in the Palouse Regional Housing Needs Assessment in the amount of \$10,000 or provide staff further direction.

Gina Taruscio, Executive Director and Paul Kimmell, Vice President of PEP presented the request. PEP is approaching the lack of affordable housing as a regional approach and commitment. The Asset Limited, Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) report shows 50% of the area workforce is working poor. Housing cost pushes the working poor to rural areas but transportation and energy costs depletes the savings. A report by the National Low Income Housing Coalition looked at the cost of housing and how it impacts a family budget. PEP has been talking with the surrounding cities, universities, hospitals, and service agencies on how to address the approach in a holistic regional collaborative way. There have been studies in the past that have had a narrow focus. This will be an assessment with a sophisticated understanding so that a sophisticated solution can be found with a focus on Latah and Whitman Counties. Many engagement opportunities with the community will take place. Kimmell highlighted the timeline and list of tasks.

Boland agrees affordable housing is a complex issue. He is interested in seeing strategies that have been implemented from other communities to determine the return of investment. Sullivan said benchmarks for comparing is useful, but asked if this assessment will include qualitative descriptive things of what those communities are doing. She feels the assessment appears to be data on the problem and would like to know how much of the assessment will include what we can do. Taruscio explained as the research is reviewed, the solutions will be guided by that qualitative information, such as the focus groups and interviews. Kimmell explained they have a steering committee with good representation such as Bill Belknap, Pullman city officials, Community Action, commercial real estate and county reps as well. More members for the committee are welcome if there is interest. Bonzo broached the subject of funding and if the mission statement of PEP changed. Kimmell explained the larger stakeholders have committed the most with other stakeholders committing less. PEP also has funding. Taruscio and Kimmell explained how affordable housing, transportation, etc. are all facets that fall within economic development.

The Committee recommended forwarding to the full Council for discussion in a month. They would like Kimmell and Taruscio to come back with strategies on how this assessment is leading to solutions; action plans from other communities and how it improved their economy; what will be provided at the end of the assessment.

Adjourn

The meeting was closed at 5:21 PM

