

Moscow City Council



Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

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Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

208.883.7015

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

7:00 PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Art Bettge, Bryce Blankenship, Drew Davis, Sandra Kelly, Hailey Lewis, Julia Parker, Gina Taruscio

STAFF: Mia Bautista, Cody Riddle, Amanda Argona, Laurie M. Hopkins

CONSENT AGENDA

1. All Consent Items (ACTION ITEM)

A. Approval of Moscow City Council January 6, 2025 Minutes - Laurie M. Hopkins

B. Approval of Claims - Sarah Decker

C. Disbursement Report December 2024 - Sarah Decker

Staff presented the December 2024 Accounts Payable Report to the Public Works / Finance Committee on January 13th, 2025. The Committee received the report and recommended approval of the disbursement report.

ACTION: Accept the Disbursements Report for the month of December 2024.

D. First Quarter Financial Report October 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 for FY2025 - Sarah Decker

Staff presented the financial report for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2025 (October 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024) to the Public Works/Finance Committee on January 13th, 2025. The Committee received the financial report and recommended approval as presented.

ACTION: Accept the FY2025 First Quarter Financial Report.

E. Idaho Commission on the Arts Grant Application: Public Programs in the Arts - Megan Cherry

The Arts Department seeks approval to apply for an annual grant administered by the Idaho Commission on the Arts (ICA). The Public Programs in the Arts (PPA) grant program is intended to provide general operating support for arts organizations in Idaho. These funds will represent off-setting revenue in the production of Artwalk. If the application is successful, funds are typically available at the end of the City of Moscow's FY2025, and would be deferred for use in FY2026.

ACTION: Approve the Public Programs in the Arts (PPA) grant application for the current cycle.

F. Moscow Winterfest Alcohol Use Request in Entertainment District - Amanda Argona

The Moscow Chamber of Commerce + Visitor Center is hosting its annual Moscow Winterfest on Saturday, February 1, from 12 pm to 4 pm on Main Street between 3rd and 6th Streets. The applicant anticipates nine licensed beer and/or wine vendors and ten non-alcoholic and/or food vendors, along

with a variety of outdoor games and activities for all ages. Warming fires may be provided at the event at the determination of the Moscow Volunteer Fire Department. The event has been reviewed and approved as of December 12, 2024. Following standard operating procedures for events with alcohol that are within the Entertainment District boundaries, Moscow Winterfest is requesting a temporary suspension of the open container law by resolution. Per Moscow City Code, Title 10, Chapter 1, Section 1-12; a draft resolution was reviewed by the Public Works/Finance Committee on January 13, 2025 and recommended for approval.

ACTION: Approve the resolution allowing for the temporary suspension of the open container law within the event footprint of the Entertainment District for Moscow Winterfest for the duration of the event.

Kelly moved and Lewis seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Public Comment and Mayor's Response Period (limit 15 minutes)

William, (Moscow) spoke on his experiences of anti-Semitism here in Moscow. This harassment is why he wants the City Council to adopt the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism. He would like the Council to take a firm stance to help protect the Jewish community in Moscow.

Tim Thompson (Moscow, president of Rotary Club) said the Rotary is celebrating its 150th anniversary this next week. They have been part of the Farmers Market the last ten years and have met sales totaling \$50,000 the last two years. They came to recognize Amanda Argona as they couldn't have done it without the great partnership with the Farmers Market.

Tim Park (Moscow) said the yard waste transfer station is not a safe facility. He requested council's support on changing how it is operated. Until it is moved elsewhere, he has ideas on how it can be improved.

3. Resolution Authorizing City Attorney to Submit a claim on behalf of the City of Moscow for the Payment Card Interchange Fee Settlement (ACTION ITEM) - Mia Bautista

A class action suit was filed against Visa and Mastercard and their issuing banks alleging that they violated the law by wrongfully inflating Interchange Fees. A \$5.5 billion Settlement was reached. The City is one of the merchants with Visa and/or Mastercard Interchange Fees paid from January 1, 2004, to January 25, 2019, and is eligible to submit a claim in this Settlement. If the City does not submit a claim for a Settlement Payment, it will not be entitled to receive funds under the terms of the Settlement. This was reviewed by the Public Works/Finance Committee on January 13, 2025 and recommended for approval.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the Resolution or take other action deemed appropriate.

Bautista introduced the item as written above. competing banks came together and set a fee amount which is a violation. Feb 4th is the last date to file and once closed, the settlement class administrator puts together a proposal of the distribution and the court would have to approve. There is no way of knowing how much the city could receive. Staff should only put in a couple hours of time. Taruscio moved to approve the resolution. Kelly seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

REPORTS

City Council

SMART Transit – Lewis said the new office manager is bringing ideas for policies. The Paseo App will roll out in March and they are hoping someone can come to town for in-person training.

Transportation Commission – Taruscio said the Commission had an update from ITD; updating the multimodal transit plan.

Moscow Volunteer Fire Department – Kelly said they had a lot of calls over the holidays. Meeting was short and led into training.

Moscow Urban Renewal Agency – Davis said they had a joint workshop with the City Council. Blankenship and Parker also spoke on the workshop.

Moscow Arts Commission – Blankenship said they discussed the city shop and how to incorporate public art, possibly on the fencing.

Sustainable Environment Commission – Blankenship reported they discussed a climate action plan questionnaire and had a water conservation plan update.

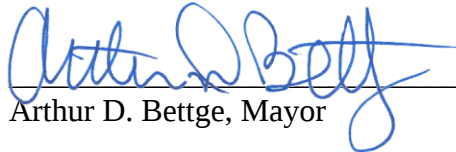
Human Rights Commission – Parker said they discussed various opportunities for supporting events. Lewis spoke on the AIC board discussions about the legislative session.

Mayor

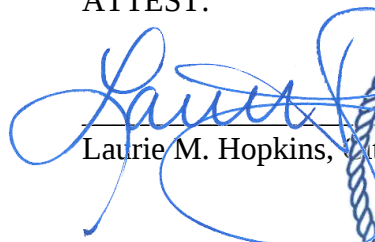
No report.

ADJOURN

It was mutually agreed upon to adjourn at 7:28 p.m.


Arthur D. Bettge, Mayor

ATTEST:


Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk

