

Public Works / Finance Committee



Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

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Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

208.883.7015

Monday, January 13, 2025

4:00 PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Sandra Kelly, Hailey Lewis, Julia Parker

OTHERS: Mayor Art Bettge, Council Member Bryce Blankenship, Council Member Drew Davis

STAFF: Bill Belknap, Cody Riddle, Mia Bautista, Sarah Banks, Megan Cherry, Amanda Argona, Laurie M. Hopkins

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Selection of Committee Chair and Vice Chair (ACTION ITEM)

The Committee selected Lewis as chair and Kelly as vice-chair.

**2. Approval of Public Works/Finance Committee December 9, 2024 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)
- Laurie M. Hopkins**

The minutes were approved as presented.

3. Disbursement Report December 2024 (ACTION ITEM) - Sarah Decker

Presentation of the Accounts Payable Report for the month ending December 2024.

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

Decker went through major expenditures including payroll and purchasing of fire department radios, a street sweeper, and a new training van. The federal grant application for radios was denied. Belknap said Moscow wasn't rated with a high enough need and some criteria that Moscow is not able to meet. The Committee accepted the Disbursements Report for the month of December 2024.

4. First Quarter Financial Report October 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 for FY2025 (ACTION ITEM) - Sarah Decker

Presentation of the financial report for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2025 (October 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024).

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the FY2025 First Quarter Financial Report, or provide staff with further direction.

Decker explained typically expenditures should be approximately 25% at the end of first quarter. IS and Fleet transfers are already at 100% as their larger purchases are completed at the beginning of the fiscal year, which in turn means IS and Fleet expenditures are running high this quarter. Capital Outlay and General Fund are higher as HVAC replacement was completed early. The Committee approved the FY2025 First Quarter Financial Report.

5. Moscow Winterfest Alcohol Use Request in Entertainment District (ACTION ITEM) - 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 has been prepared for Public Works / Finance Committee for Council's consideration.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of 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; or provide staff further direction.

Argona introduced the item as written above. The application has been reviewed and approved by the pertinent departments. In answer to questions, the City doesn't set a limit on quantity of vendors although the sponsor certainly could. Some concerns have been received in the past depending on time of year. Argona said she provides an event update at a monthly business association meeting. No complaints have been received regarding this event. Parker brought up the issue of pedestrian safety and need for barricades at cross streets. Argona said this past fall she, Tyler Palmer and Steve Schulte received a demo about feasibility of barricades. Alisa Anderson is looking for grants but so far not encouraging. No additional safety measures are used but all events are routed for approval, including the police department. Belknap added a quote was received by staff for typical 3rd to 6th St footprint at \$150,000 and will bring forward during the FY2026 budget preparation. Parker asked if city vehicles could be parked at the locations and Belknap said he could assess that idea. The use of large bollards was discussed.

Alys Lease, Moscow Chamber, said event check-in is done by sponsors. This year some of the sponsors are Latah Credit Union, Inland North West, Alpha Kappa Lambda and a couple other businesses. Staff fills in where needed.

The Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council consent agenda.

6. Idaho Commission on the Arts Grant Application: Public Programs in the Arts (ACTION ITEM) - 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 FY25, and would be deferred for use in FY26.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of the Public Programs in the Arts (PPA) grant application for the current cycle, or provide staff further direction.

Cherry said this is an annual request and standard program. Applications come before Council now for FY2026. A FY2025 report will come before the Council in July. The final report for the grant doesn't require an itemized print out, rather the arts division budget is provided. The Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council consent agenda.

7. 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.

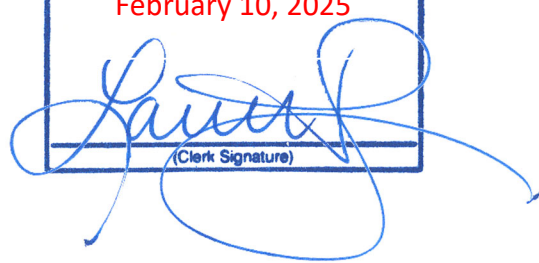
PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of the Resolution or provide staff further direction.

Bautista introduced the item as written above. In 2005, numerous merchants filed claims against Visa, MC and their issuing banks for alleging violations of the anti-trust law. At this point there is no way of knowing the potential of what the city could receive. Moscow is an eligible merchant as we were charged during this claim period at somewhere over \$75,000. It could be years before the City hears anything. Once all the claims are filed, the settlement class administrator puts together a proposal of the distribution and the court would have to approve. In doing so, the City agrees to not go after Visa or Mastercard separately. If opt in to the suit, legal will work with finance and the class administrator to research the maximum amount we can include.

The Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council regular agenda.

ADJOURN

It was mutually agreed upon to adjourn at 4:27 p.m.

Minutes Approved On
February 10, 2025

(Clerk Signature)