

**CITY OF POLSON
COMMISSION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

5e.

Commission Chambers

July 20, 2016

6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Knutson, Commissioners Coutts, Donovan, Southerland and Turner, City Manager Mark Shrives, and City Clerk Cora Pritt

ABSENT: Commissioner Erickson, Siler

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: Gerry Brown, Paul Briney, Cindy Dooley, Becky DuPuis, and Carlisa London

OTHERS PRESENT (who voluntarily signed in): Bill & Tali Barron, Dave Brown, Elsa Duford, and Eric & Carolyn Hall

CALL TO ORDER: (00:09) Commissioner Turner called the workshop to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. *Note-Mayor Knutson arrived late.

WORKSHOP WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (EDC) REGARDING EDC PROPOSAL FOR RESORT TAX AND STREET LEVY BALLOT MEASURES (01:10)-City Manager Shrives began the discussion by commenting that the heart of this discussion is the list of luxury items that was provided by the Economic Development Council. The EDC commented that the list is a composite of items that the other nine cities/towns that have the Resort Tax use. The State of Montana defines a few of the items to be taxed under the Resort Tax; i.e.-hotels, motels, bars, restaurants, fast food.

There is also the option that the Commission will approve putting the Street Levy on the ballot. Both the Resort Tax and the Street Levy will require a Resolution of Intent. There will also be a draft ballot provided to show the ballot language.

The Commission requested that the City Attorney be present at the August 1, 2016 meeting to answer any potential questions.

Mayor Knutson then opened the workshop to include comments from the Public.

David Brown-Brown's Jewelry Store Main St commented that his concern is losing customers. There are too many questions that the businesses don't know.

Tali Barron-119 Main St. commented that there will be no Cherry Festival next year if the Resort Tax passes. There is also a concern about asking for Tribal I.D.

Bill Barron-commented that his wife's business will close if the Resort Tax is voted in. Mr. Barron suggested a mil levy so that 100% of the levy could go directly to repairing the roads. It will be difficult to see businesses downtown close. This is an emotional issue.

Carolyn Hall, Ward II, Lake County School Superintendent commented that there is concern about the information that is coming out. It is hard to compare Polson with Whitefish. There is a lot of poverty and the tax will be difficult to pay.

Commissioner Coutts thanked everyone for attending and sharing their comments. Mayor Knutson commented that accurate information needs to get out to the public.

(01:45:09) Mayor Knutson asked if the Commission wanted full minutes or action minutes. The Commission determined that action minutes would suffice.

Adjourn. (01:45:28) Commissioner Donovan motion to adjourn. Commissioner Southerland second. Commission discussion: none Public Comment: none **VOTE: Unanimous Motion carried.**

ADJOURN: 7:45 p.m.

ATTEST: _____

Mayor Heather Knutson

Cora E. Pritt, City Clerk