POLSON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1999 7:00 P.M.

Council Present: Tom Vergeront, Mark MacDonald, Clint White, Roberta Thick, Fred Funke, Dan Morrison. **City Attorney Jam s Raymond present. Mayor Mike Lies presiding.**

Others Present: Judi Osborne-The Zoo, Ginny Cutright-The Zoo, Dan Weed-Coast to Coast, Jerry Kurzenbaum-Vital Signs, Otto Klein J., Monte Sipe, Rich Stripp, George Mahoney, Fay Smith, Linda Brownell, Toby Tobias, Don Miller, Evonne O'Neill, Marilyn Frame-J.C.Penney/Hallmark, Ron & Lori Boyce-Driftwood, Tim McGinnis-Rancho, John Tiskus-SSB&T, Rose Magnuson, Denny & Linn Wilson-Antique Emporium, Robby & Bob Ricketts-Three Dog Down, Jessie Clemans, Carolyn Finnell, John Finnell, William R. Ingram, Gil Mangels, Dennis Anderson, Tony Marshall, Todd Erickson-Bear Dance, W. N. Erickson, Griff Davies-The Salish, Tracy Dooley-Farmers Insurance, Donny Dupuis-Main Street Market, Lee Manicke, Cindy St. Clair, Rob St. Clair, Joe Browning, Ken Donovan, Jim Burrowes, Todd Rasmussen, Rob Sloan-1st Citizens Bank, Jeff Smith, Beth Smith, Tom Jones, Bill Pinkney, Matt O'Neill, Chip Kurzenbaum, Arleen Long, Diane Buzzard, Ron Buzzard, John Stromnes.

PUBLIC HEARING - DRAFT SIGN ORDINANCE REGULATIONS: Lies asked that everyone present sign the attendance sheet being circulated. He noted that this is a public hearing and not a debate between good and bad. It is an opportunity for comments to be heard in an orderly manner. He thanked those individuals who gave written comment to the Council on the draft sign ordinance. He noted that the City also received a couple letters which included derogatory remarks aimed at City employees and the Council, which he felt were not necessary. He reminded the audience that this a draft ordinance as was the development code when it was initially proposed several years ago. The process included a public comment period after which the comments were considered and the final draft of the development code turned out very well. The same process has been started for the sign ordinance and he reminded the public that this proposed draft is not set in stone. The purpose of this public hearing is to obtain input from everyone, and not just from a few individuals, in order to come up with something we can be proud of. He asked that each person give their name before speaking and they will be given two minutes to present their testimony, then must yield to the next person.

George Mahoney, asked the names of the committee members who drew up the draft sign ordinance. Lies stated that the revision of the 22 page draft was prepared by a committee formed by the Chamber of Commerce. The committee consisted of John Tiskus, Tony Marshall, Dan Weed, Griff Davies, Jerry Kurzenbaum, Dennis Anderson and Tom Gilmore. The original draft was prepared by Monte Sipe with information compiled from the American Planning Association Advisory Service Reports, the Community Technical Assistance Program Library out of Helena, and other cities in Western Montana. The original draft was reviewed and revised by Roberta Thick, Fred Funke, Tom Vergeront, Dan Morrison, City County Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment. The Chamber's revision followed.

Robert Ricketts, owner of Three Dog Down, stated that he would like to go on record as strongly opposing any further City government ordinances on anything related to businesses because it is hard enough to survive. As some people know they recently closed their Missoula store. One of the considerations was an overly burdensome City government, where if a business person wants to change a toilet paper roll holder they needed to get permission from the City of Missoula. To those that try and dictate to the business people who have a hard enough time surviving as it is, and compare Montana to Vermont, he would ask those people move to Vermont. He thanked Council for their attention.

Rose Magnuson, representing Citizens for Scenic Lake County and Residents for Responsible Development, read a prepared statement from the members of these organizations. We support the City of Polson's effort to adopt a sign code. Many of our members do not live in the City limits but are very much affected by the visual environment created by signage that does not compliment the character and safety of the City. In fact, as users of highways through and into Polson, they may be more affected than persons living and traveling short distances in town. The following are suggestions concerning off-premise advertising for your consideration. Please consider beginning your code with the same policy statement as used in Montana's Outdoor Advertising Act as follows. The City of Polson finds that the erection and maintenance of outdoor advertising signs, displays, and devices along highways and roads within its jurisdiction should be controlled in order to protect the public investment in such roads, to promote the safety and recreational value of public travel, and to preserve natural beauty. Another suggestion in place of banning off premise signage is included in the written statement which she will provide to Council. They feel that safety and protection of the beauty of the area and development needs to be balanced. Jerry Kurzenbaum asked who are the "we" she is referring to. Magnuson replied their organization has forty members, some of whose names are listed on the written statement.

John Tiskus, said he is a City resident and president of the Chamber of Commerce, also is a member of the task force that wrote the counter draft of the draft sign ordinance. They have written to the City strongly opposing the sign ordinance. He noted that some of the signs that would be non-conforming signs are some of the better looking signs we have in town, such as Two Bobbins Full, The First Resort which would not be conforming signs under the new ordinance. They figured that for the last several years without any real sign ordinance they have had pretty good luck in the community, using common sense and good taste in the signs that are up already. In their revision they tried to make a new sign proposal which would fit most of the existing signs and make them conforming, especially the ones that are on the buildings that people seem to like. The controversial signs seem to be free standing signs and people seem to like the lower monument signs like the Security State sign at the new bank. They tried to encourage that by allowing more square footage for those types of signs and the higher the sign it decreases the square footage. The height seems to be what the people get upset about. The current ordinance prohibits apron signs and lower overhanging signs like the first block of Main Street. They should be made legal because they like them, and make a lot of sense for our community to give it character. He asked that Council please remember that the reason for this sign ordinance is not to create a brand new look to Polson, but to make our sign ordinance less arbitrary. Some of the language in the City's draft ordinance is arbitrary.

Tim McGinnis, owner of Rio Cafe, and Rancho, stated that it is fairly obvious that he has the worst location in town for people trying to find his business. He is very concerned about section five number three relating to making repairs to his non conforming signs which he is sure his are. It seems to him that if he has to re-roof the Rancho building he can no longer put Rancho on the roof of his building. He believes that the name has been on the building for many years. The neon "R" sign is probably a free standing sign and if something should happen to that sign he could not replace it. It is not unlikely that someone would drive into it with a car because in the past a car has even driven into the bar. It does happen. He is very concerned about these issues, because without those signs his business would be economically devastated. The business is hard enough to find as it is, and that is his main concern. He thanked Council for their attention.

Joe Browning, said he and his wife are the owners of Terrace Flowers & Gifts, amd their main concern is to allow the banner and

sandwich board signs and seasonal signs they hang up to advertise sales or stand up signs to advertise specials of the day. As a small business on downtown Main Street, they depend a lot on walk in traffic. Often people walk in and comment on the nice display window but that does not always tell them what is inside and if they don't come in they don't get that sale. They are having a hard time along with the other businesses on Main Street with th competition of Wal Mart and Safeway who also sell similar items. They try to advertise tastefully, and make sure the sign is bright and cheery and has a downtown flavor. They use the vinyl banners for local events and activities such as the Rodeo, which works very nice. They are very concerned that these types of signs would be prohibited and people do not complain but comment that they have very nice signs.

Ken Donovan, said he is the owner of several businesses on the east end of town, and in looking through this revised proposal by the Chamber of Commerce he would really encourage the City Council to seriously look at it because it looks like it is a very good situation. One of the keys is that it is created by people who have a vested interest in living and prospering in this town. They certainly have the right to voice their opinion and have a lot at stake and have put a lot of time into their revised proposal. He feels the City should take a hard look at it.

Jerry Kurzenbaum, owner of Gull Printing, said he was on the Chamber of Commerce committee and he was really impressed with how they worked on the draft ordinance. If there was a restriction to the size of the sign that was 30', they considered the size of a sheet of plywood which is 32 square feet and realized that it would have to be cut by six inches. They felt that was not necessary. The committee looked at things of this nature in a very rational, practical and efficient fashion. One of the biggest concerns they had was for businesses such as Sister's Soup & Stuff, which is situated back on the end of the lot and if they were to see the Ordinance enacted in the original form of the draft, they would have a very serious problem. How do they reach out over that big expanse of an empty lot and attract attention to their business. The committee looked at the intent, which was that they did not want to see a big garish sign on the building, four to five stories higher. But in fairness to that business the City needs to allow them to grab the public's attention as they go by on Highway 93. He really hopes they will enact the Chamber's revised draft.

Jessie Clemens asked if the two faced signs on the sidewalk creates an insurance problem for the City, in case someone would fall on them. James Raymond, City Attorney, said he presumed that the signs would create a problem for whoever put the signs up but he is not sure if it is a liability problem for the City. Jessie Clemens asked if the business owners are aware of that when they put those types of signs up. Jerry Kurzenbaum said that would be no more a liability than someone falling off a curb. Lies said he assumed it would be the business owner's liability, or whoever put it up, because they are blocking the right of way on the sidewalks, that is his assumption, but said he could be wrong. Ron Boyce said he talked with the State regarding liability for his sign which is three feet into the State Highway right of way. He was told it was permitted by a grandfather clause but it is his liability, not the State's.

William Ingram read a portion of a letter written to him by th City Building/Planning Official which stated that if the non conforming signs are not removed by a certain date, he will have no other choice but to confiscate the signs and implement the maximum penalty of law. Ingram noted that this letter was delivered to him by a policeman and not in person, and felt that a little diplomacy should have been used.

Sharon Procopio, Glacier Bank, said she agrees with Jerry Kurzenbaum and Ken Donovan's statements. She said she likes the

signs. When she is in a strange area the signs are helpful in finding businesses that people are looking for and is better than having to drive all over town to try and find the business.

Denny Wilson, owner of the Antique Emporium, which is his livelihood said the purpose of his signs are to invite people and are well maintained, but without the signs his business would be history.

Tony Marshall, said he was part of the committee that helped re-draft the original draft sign ordinance into something that reflects the six hundred or so businesses with the 59860 zip code. They are friends of the community and not people that need to be looked over, or governed more, or whatever the original sign ordinance was designed to do. Another thing they felt was important and tried to put forward in their revisions was the fact that in this area most signage is additive to the character and nature of the community, not detracting. That needs to be the principle upon which any sign ordinance is implemented. Signage reflects the character of the community. The committee also felt it needed to bring parity between zoning districts with regard to sign regulations. It makes no sense to have different kinds of signs along Highway 93 because the two sides of the Highway are different zones.

Gil Mangels, owner of Miracle of America Museum, said their visitor's survey at the museum shows that they greet a lot of visitors year round. However, many of the visitors stop in and say the area needs more signs, they appreciate signs and a lot of them look at signs as an art form. If we looked at signs, not only as an art form but a first amendment right, they would have a little more balanced idea. They would have different shapes, sizes, letters, heights, colors, there are some real beautiful signs out there. Many say we should have more signs and many stop in just asking for directions, wondering where something is. For those on the anti-sign committee with 40 signatures, he feels if the 40 people were to spend one hour a weekend, it would do much towards helping the sign owners who are burdened having to go to meetings to defend their right. If they cleaned those up and help paint them, then they could rightfully classify themselves as being on a beautification committee.

Pat Kirwan, said he operates a sign repair shop in town and is obviously a little prejudiced about this issue. It seems to him that he has been a reasonable type of person and when the City gets into legislating the economy of the town dealing with retailers and telling them what they can and cannot do to try and survive here when it is already tough enough, it seems a little extreme. He asked that Council consider the revision presented by Jerry Kurzenbaum and other Chamber members involved. It seems to him that with the limited resources we have and the tax base, that there are streets and sidewalks that probably need a lot more attention than a twenty two page sign ordinance. He stated that on the outside to him it looks ridiculous and that's how he feels.

Rob Sloan, said he works at First Citizens Bank, and is also a homeowner in the area. He appreciates the City Council holding this public hearing regarding this ordinance. He also appreciates the comments of the Mayor and agrees very strongly with John Tiskus and Tony Marshall and the other business owners who voiced their concerns about the sign ordinance. He believes that in dealing with the financial aspect of the businesses, the Polson community businessmen do a very good job of representing themselves with their signs. If the City wants a good sign ordinance they should consider the input of the business community because they are very good at policing themselves. In his experience over the last twenty years, it has been very positive in that respect, in achieving the communication in the community with his business affiliations. Although he has not seen the revised draft, he feels the City has a good resource through the Chamber and one of the best for

developing a sign ordinance. That is not to take anything away from the City government or the City employees, but why not us the people that are affected the most. He feels that is what this public hearing is for.

Dennis Anderson said he represents Kerr/KQRK, and also served on the Chamber board committee that prepared the revised draft sign ordinance. He has been in the advertising and marketing business for 24 years and always considered it a public service and public duty to be responsive to the needs of people in business as they affect those among us. He referred to what Tony Marshall stated earlier, that people who are in business have to remain viable and are desperate to retain what they have and attract more business from the many people travelling on the highway who are not doing business locally. If there is anything we can do as citizens, business people, that is to accommodate people who rely on business people. Their kids are in school and try to keep every service active that we have here with wage earners. We owe it to those people to do the best we can. We also owe it to everybody to appreciate a City Council who can speak for all of us, to acquire the most information they can get, in order to do the most good for the most people. He feels the Council has been doing that by holding this meeting tonight, and also by allowing a very thoughtful Chamber group to have input through this process.

Don Williamson, said he is in favor of the Chamber's revised sign ordinance. We need signs, but he does not want signs that are so grotesque and everyone outdoing everyone else's to see how high they can go. Let's have signs, let's advertise, and bring business to Polson, but keep it on an even keel, so that length, breadth and height are regulated. It is that simple.

Jeff Smith, KERR news radio, asked what made Council enact an emergency sign ordinance in the first place, knowing that the City was working on a permanent draft. What was it that compelled the Council to enact or implement an emergency sign ordinance. He asked if there was an emergency that led to that. Lies said the City did not have a sign ordinance and needed to have one in place. Smith asked if it was a lack of a sign ordinance after years and years without anything that was significant or outlined. Lies said when the Polson Development Code was adopted it eliminated the existing sign ordinance. Vergeront said a lot of it was thrown out when the City adopted the Development Code, without the City realizing it. When issues regarding signs for developments came before the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment they had to arbitrarily decide what type of signs would be allowed. The reason the emergency sign ordinance was imposed was because the two boards asked Council to adopt some sign standards so the sign issues could be decided in a more consistent manner. Since the Council asked Monte Sipe to prepare a draft sign ordinance there have been quite a number of sign proposals requesting approval. He assumed that was because the business owners were afraid the new ordinance would be more restrictive. The Council expected a rush of people asking for sign approvals and their review and approval is keeping the signs in check until the final sign ordinance is adopted. That was the reason for the emergency ordinance. Thick noted that when they started working on the draft ordinance they did invite the Chamber to their meetings.

Carol Donaldson, said she is a homeowner, and also works at Security State Bank, which will soon be First Interstate Bank and will require new signs. She supports the revisions made by the Chamber for many of the same reasons that were stated earlier.

Tom Jones, said he would like the City Council to know that they had better be very careful on what they are looking at for sign regulations. The Council should make sure they know the full implications of the ordinance before they give final approval in order to cover the City for liability in case lawsuits are filed. He feels it is a very important consideration.

Vergeront asked the Chamber Committee where they came up with the 30' height instead of 20' or 15' or 16' or 14'. George Mahoney said the 30' height was part of the original sign ordinance. Tony Marshall said they came up with a formula that allowed different heights for signs, using some averages and highway frontage criteria and some building area criteria. The 30' height came from the old sign ordinance. Their feeling was that any sign ordinance that they develop needs to anticipate that someone will come along that truly needs a 30' high sign because of where the building is or some other reason. There is a severe penalty for having a 30' sign as you can see from the document. If you have a 20' sign a certain number of square feet is allowed, if you have a 30' sign there is 40% fewer square feet is allowed under their formula. They figured that for some reason if a building is positioned oddly or some other reason they would need a taller sign which they allowed for. They felt it made good sense to anticipate that they will not come up with something that will fit everyone but they ought to come up with something that is reasonable that will fit most everyone, so there is not a preponderance of variance requests.

Vergeront asked about how the committee came up with 210 days for a location that has gone out of business. Tony Marshall said the area of non conforming signs in section 5.01(c), says that if a business is inactive for 210 days the sign can be non-conforming and therefore requested to be removed. The 210 days is derived from the period of time from May, June, July, August thru September. The remainder of the calendar days for seasonal businesses is approximately 210 days, and gives them a 210 day clock of latitude to open his business in the spring and run it again for four to five months and shut it down for 210 days or so. Dennis Anderson said that 210 days is one of four situations mentioned under 5.01(c) which reads that non conforming signs shall be brought into compliance in 90 calendar days of notice from the City if: 1) The use advertised is suspended for 210 calendar days or 2)The use changes, or 3) The sign is altered in any way except for ordinary maintenance, or 4) The sign is relocated. Sipe said the City's draft ordinance addresses the issue as seasonal signage for businesses that are on a seasonal schedule. There are quite a few businesses in that category and they would be required to submit a notice to the City stating that they are seasonal which would be recorded and allowed under seasonal business. He said under the Chamber revision, that would also allow a business to display their sign for 210 days when they have gone out of business, with the City's draft it would be 90 days and under a different classification. Tony Marshall said that would be a change of use under the Chamber's revision.

Matt O'Neill asked what is broke, and if it's not broke why fix it. Lies said there is no sign ordinance and there needs to be one. O'Neill asked if there is something wrong with the signs that are out there now. He heard Vergeront's explanation which was that the bureaucrats want to have some teeth and create some guidelines they can bureaucrat around. It would just give teeth to bureaucrats to run around and cause hardship to poor people who are trying to make a living to pay the taxes and pay for the services we have. There is nothing wrong with the signs that are up there now so what is broke and why do we need to make more laws. We are not enforcing the ones we have and why do we have to make more laws. He asked if there are some signs out there that are objectionable to everyone here. Lies replied that they are not objectionable, the City is just trying to get some regulations that we can rely on so the sign issues do not have to go before the Board of Adjustment every time a new sign proposal is presented for approval. If the City has guidelines and sign specifications the guidelines will be followed. Matt O'Neill said that just leads to the sign police and everyone making comparisons to everyone else's sign. There is nothing wrong with the way Polson has lived for as many years as it has. There is no sign problem out there now. Monte Sipe said not having a

sign ordinance does create problems for him because he gets a lot of calls with all the sign requests coming to his office. People ask what the City's sign ordinance is and ask to see the regulations regarding height, size and what is allowed. In the past we had to say there is no ordinance and that was why the emergency ordinance was drafted which required sign proposals to be submitted to the City Council on a case by case basis. People want to know what is and is not allowed regarding signs, so they have an idea what to submit for their sign proposal. Without the ordinance they have to guess what would be acceptable and approved by Council and the Council's approvals would not be consistent from one sign proposal to the next. Matt O'Neill said that is the point, why should they have to ask you to use their property, because that is the beauty of this country, that we have the constitution and the fifth amendment so people have the right to use their property as they want. John Tiskus said the real problem with the City's draft sign ordinance is that so many of the signs that are in existence would be non-conforming signs, close to one third of them in the downtown area, and they are not objectionable. We should try and find some incentive for people to put up more signs, not make them illegal to put up. It is way too restrictive. Lies replied that is why we are having a public hearing so we can come up with something that is useable by everyone, not one person or two people but the whole City.

Pat Kirwan, asked if the City has tribal businesses in the City limits of Polson. Lies replied we do. Kirwan asked what the City will do about them, and will the City restrict their signs. Lies replied that he believes they will conform.

Griff Davies, owner of The Salish, said people in business will not over sign their business. First of all it is very expensive and if they do not need it they will not buy it. He believes that most of the signs downtown are what tourists look for. They want to come to Polson and spend their money and would not want a plain bare sidewalk on the streets or plain store fronts. He believes the Chamber's revised sign ordinance is a good draft and is good for all the businesses.

Bill Ingram, read part of the 5th Amendment, which states that private property will not be taken for public use without just compensation. He said our founding fathers knew what they were doing and tried to create a constitution to protect the people from the government. What it is saying is that if the City does these things and these people are damaged they can sue the City and get compensation for their losses.

Rose Magnuson, on behalf of Citizens for Scenic Lake County and Residents for Responsible Development, said in their opinion, off premise signs should not be banned but could include more directional signs. She presented a display showing examples of how other cities handle their signage. She noted that they are not against signs.

Mayor Lies closed the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.. He thanked those who attended, and the excellent ideas that were expressed. He also thanked the Chamber committee who worked so hard on the revision of the sign ordinance. He noted that the City will contact them in the near future regarding the sign ordinance.

POLSON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - FEBRUARY 16, 1999: White said he read the City Council Meeting Minutes of February 16, 1999 and found no errors. **Motion White, second MacDonald, to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of Monday, February 16, 1999 as printed. Motion carried unanimously.**

TEMPORARY SIGN PROPOSAL - ROCKY MOUNTAIN EYE CARE - 1201 MAIN STREET: Sipe said he gave Council his staff report with their

agenda packet regarding this temporary sign proposal for Rocky Mountain Eye Care. There has been a correction from the original site plan given to Council. The owners are now requesting two free standing signs, one would be located on the corner of 12th Avenue East and Main Street and the other sign would be located on the southern portion of their property line. They are proposing two four by eight signs seven feet in height, which advertise two businesses located on the premisses, having a total of 64 square feet. The staff report includes comments on how this proposal is addressed in the draft ordinance. He noted that this business was permitted through a variance, allowing a commercial business in a Medium Density Zoning District, which is not a permitted use without a variance. The sections in the draft ordinance which pertain to special use permits for churches, synagogues, schools, nursing homes and hospitals are allowed one free standing sign. Free standing signs are not be permitted for home occupations. The Chambers revision to the draft did not make any adjustments to this section of the City's draft sign ordinance. The two free standing signs would not meet either of the draft documents' criteria. Sipe noted that one double faced free standing sign with a height of four to five feet would seem appropriate. A 32 foot square area for each sign could be incorporated into one double faced sign and still allow the applicant to maintain the 64 square feet they are proposing. Thick asked if this is in a residential area. Sipe replied that it is located at the corner of 12th Avenue East and Main Street just below the hospital and a variance was granted to allow the business use of the building. MacDonald said he has no problem with the two signs as the owner requested. **Motion MacDonald, second White, to approve the temporary sign proposal for two free standing signs as requested for Rocky Mountain Eye Car .** Lies clarified that this is a motion to approve two free standing signs with advertisement for two businesses on both. Vergeront asked if the sign on the corner meets the setback requirements. Sipe replied that the Polson Development Code's setback on the intersection of two public streets is a 30' vision triangle which requires a 30' setback in each direction. The scale drawing is a rough drawing so the actual location would have to meet the requirements. Vergeront asked if they could meet that requirement and asked if Council is approving a sign that cannot fit. Sipe replied that he believes there is room to locate the signs on the premises and comply with the setback requirements. The draft sign ordinance stipulates that signs in residential areas be set back 15' from the property line. He also noted that the parking area for the entire site is located on City right of way. Vergeront asked if there is no on premise parking provided. Sipe replied that the parking is within their property line but there is an extensive 80' right of way on Main Street and the paved surface is roughly 44' so there is 16' on each side. Vergeront said the Polson Development Code requires off premise parking for home occupations. Sipe said that was part of the variance approval and the issue was addressed at the variance hearing that they are limited with a fairly small lot and it was approved that they be allowed to use on street parking. Funke asked if the motion is to approve two signs seven feet high. MacDonald clarified that there would be one sign on each corner of the property. Sipe asked that Council consider that the City's draft and the Chamber's revision of the sign ordinance, was the same pertaining to the section on signage in Medium Density Zoning District, as it was originally printed. Thick questioned the need for two signs. Sipe said if Council approves this request that section of the sign ordinance will have to be changed. By approving this the Council is stating that they would allow more signage than both the City draft and the Chamber's revision would be allowing for any home occupation's free standing sign in a residential zone. Thick said she is concerned about protecting the residential area. Funke said he can see one but he is opposed to two signs. **White and MacDonald in favor. Vergeront, Thick, Funke and Morrison opposed. Motion deni d. Motion Funke, second Thick, to approve one double sided 7' high sign and conform with the City's zoning requirements which are applicabl . White and MacDonald opposed. Vergeront, Thick, Funke**

and Morrison in favor. Motion carried.

POLICE TRAINING - 3 DAY RADAR SCHOOL - COLUMBIA FALLS - MILLER/NASH/LOBDELL: Buzzard said the three police officers will be driving a City police car to Columbia Falls because it is so close and will be a low budget training for them. **Motion Funke, second MacDonald, to allow Police Officers Miller, Nash and Lobdell, to attend the three day radar school held in Columbia Falls, as requested. Motion carried unanimously.**

POLICE OFFICER BASIC TRAINING - HELENA - POLICE ACADEMY - WADE NASH: Lies said this is a request for the City's newest police officer, Wade Nash, to attend his basic training in Helena. Buzzard said by law, when the City hires a police officer who has not been to the basic academy, we have to send them within the first year of employment. He made application for Nash to attend and he has been accepted. He noted that he was happy to get him in before summer so he can be back to work the first part of June. The training is about two and one half months long. **Motion Thick, second Funke, to approve Police Officer Wade Nash to attend basic training at the Police Academy in Helena as requested. Motion carried unanimously.**

URBAN RENEWAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER APPOINTMENTS - 5 RESIDENTS: Lies noted that he has some names but we have not received any letters of interest from those individuals. This item will be deferred until letters are received from individuals who are interested in serving on the Urban Renewal Planning Commission.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Lies said there are several vacancies on the Community Development Board, they have proposed two names, Cindy Willis and Pat Rowley, to be appointed. **Motion MacDonald, second White, to approve the appointments of Cindy Willis and Pat Rowley to the Community Development Board. Motion carried unanimously.**

GOLF DEPARTMENT - JOB DESCRIPTIONS UPDATED: White said Larry Newlin has updated the job descriptions for the Golf Course Maintenance. He reviewed them and feels they are well done and they are important to have. **Motion White, second Morrison, to approve the Golf Course Maintenance job descriptions as present d.** Funke stated the job descriptions should include a requirement for a current valid driver's license. White agreed that should be included. Lies said he does not understand the foreman's position since there are already two golf superintendents and asked why they need another foreman. White replied that position is not filled at this time and this update was prepared to make the Golf Course run more efficiently so the people know what their duties are. Don Williamson, said he is a member of the Golf Board and represents the Polson Golf Association, asked if they have enough people to take care of the new nine holes. White replied they have it under control. Williamson asked if there are job descriptions for everyone working at the Golf course. Thick said these are job descriptions for everyone that comes under the Golf Course Superintendent. She suggested that job descriptions be prepared for those under the PGA like the Assistant Golf Pro and the Range Marshall, who are hired by the Golf Pro. Don Williamson asked if the Range Marshall is a City employee, and if so, he should have a job description. He felt it is important to have it in writing, to have a level of expectation of what the City wants him to do so he knows what to do and his supervisor knows what he needs to do and so he can have recourse to reward him. It is simple. White said he will have Roger Wallace prepare a job description for the Range Marshall. Thick said another issue to discuss and clarify is the Golf Board's function. If we are re-doing the job descriptions we should follow through with describing the golf board's functions. White said the Golf Board does not make actual decisions but makes suggestions to Council for approval. Thick said she is aware that the Golf Board is an advisory committee but they need to know how much advice they can give. Lies said they will work on the other

descriptions and asked that the job descriptions presented be voted on. Vergeront asked if the pay grade for the job descriptions is also being approved as presented. White said that is not part of the approval. **Motion carried unanimously.**

FEBRUARY 1999 CLAIMS: Lies asked if Council has any questions regarding their claims. White said he had no problem with his. Council agreed. **Motion White, second MacDonald, to approve the F bruary 1999 claims #70554 to #70738 for $68,509.08 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

AWWA TELECONFERENCE - MISSOULA: Lies said Campbell asked that Tony Porrazzo's attendance at the annual AWWA Teleconference being held in Missoula on March 11, 1999 from 10 to 1:30 p.m. be approved. He noted that there is quite an extensive amount of material they will cover and he feels it would be a good idea to send him. Campbell said this is a satellite link across the country and gives Porrazzo an opportunity to get some education that he normally would not be able to get. **Motion White, second Thick, to approve Tony Porrazzo's attendance at the AWWA Teleconference in Missoula on March 11, 1999 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. as requested. Motion carried unanimously.**

WATER APPLICATION - DAVID STUBBE, SUSAN MOORE, LOT 5 DEMERS HEIGHTS: Lies asked that Council consider approval for a water application for Lot 5 DeMers Heights, requested by owners David Stubbe and Susan Moore. Campbell recommended approval. **Motion White, second Vergeront, to approve the water application for Lot 5 DeMers Heights owned by David Stubbe and Susan Moore as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

Thick said she would be out of town for three weeks and will not be able to attend the next council meeting on March 15th.

SIGN COMMITTEE: Sipe asked for two councilmen to volunteer to be on the sign committee to meet with the Chamber sign committee for further review and revision of the sign ordinance. John Tiskus asked to have more than two councilmen involved. Clint White, Mark MacDonald, Fred Funke and Tom Vergeront agreed to be part of the committee.

Campbell said he will proceed with the sewer improvement project which will require several public hearings which will be advertised. Council agreed.

White noted that a pre-construction meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the airport.

Rose Magnuson asked about the current status of the Water Moratorium. Lies replied that it is still in effect because we have not put the new well on line yet. We will have to drill another well in order to meet the 1,000 gallons per minute. Campbell said the engineer is working on the design which had to be changed because of the sand in the area. An environmental engineer who has a hydrologist on staff has been hired to proceed with the Wal Mart well. Magnuson asked about the water application approval tonight. Lies replied that water applications for property which is adjacent to a water main and does not require an extension to the water main, are generally being approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m..

Michael Lies, Mayor

ATTEST:

Aggi G. Lo s r, City Clerk