

**POLSON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2005 6:00 P.M.**

**ATTENDANCE:** Council Present: Lou Marchello, Mark MacDonald, Jules Clavadetscher, Mike Maddy, Tom Corse. Dan Morrison absent. Mayor Randy Ingram presiding. City Attorney James Raymond absent. Others Present: Lee Manicke, Elsa Duford, Tony Porrazzo, Larry Newlin, Karen Sargeant, Doug Chase, John Stevens, Ashley Walker, John Cappaert, Joyce Weaver, Lita Fonda, Bonnie Manicke.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM:** Mayor Ingram noted that this public hearing is being held to solicit ideas for sidewalk related projects using approximately \$45,000 of CTEP funds the City has accumulated. This amount does not include the \$25,000 CTEP funds the City Council committed to the County for the pedestrian walkway project on Hawk Road.

Councilman Marchello proposed that the CTEP funds be used to develop the walkpath that was designed as part of the Salish Point project. He suggested that it could be extended to the Regatta Grounds across the bridge and that the existing sidewalk on the south side of the bridge could be made more productive. Several year's ago there were discussions about constructing a path under the bridge which at that time was estimated at \$170,000.

Councilman Maddy suggested that the sidewalks be improved along the New Life Christian Center leading to the Middle School because of its frequent use by children going to school. Mayor Ingram noted that the projects are for non motorized use and are not for repairing existing sidewalks.

Councilman Maddy suggested that the remaining seawall be constructed in Sacajawea Park and felt that The Salish building and Glacier Bank property owners would be willing to participate in the project.

Councilman Clavadetscher agreed that using the CTEP funds for the walkway designed for the Salish Point plan, would be a plus for the overall project.

Councilman Maddy suggested that the funds be used for the City's sidewalk loan fund to improve the existing sidewalks or build new ones throughout the City.

Elsa Duford asked and Mayor Ingram replied that the walkpaths could be either paved or gravel. She noted that the grass is growing on the gravel path along Shoreline Drive and it is not being used, instead people walk on Shoreline Drive.

Councilman Maddy suggested a walkpath from Highway 35 to the top the Polson Hill to Ready Mix and up Skyline Drive, which he thought could be done as a ten year plan with the County.

Lee Manicke stated that he suggested this project in the past, which is to build sidewalks along the east side of 7<sup>th</sup> Street East and along 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, from from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Super 1 Foods. He noted that the sidewalks are not consistent along that route and he sees a lot of people walking along that route to do their shopping. He also suggested that sidewalks along the north side of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue be constructed so they are consistent from Super 1 to 1<sup>st</sup> Street East, which would connect to the downtown area.

Elsa Duford asked if there is something that could be done to improve the intersection of 7<sup>th</sup> Street East and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue East. Tony Porrazzo replied that the design was the best they could do when they did the sidewalks along 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and now 7<sup>th</sup> Street needs to be fixed to match 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Councilman MacDonald agreed with doing the project for walkpaths across the bridge and to the Regatta Grounds. Mayor Ingram noted that a street light was requested by Doug Chase for that highway intersection. Councilman Marchello asked that the City request that MDOT reduce the speed to 35 mph.

Lita Fonda asked that Council consider placing sidewalks on the south side of Highway 93 from 1<sup>st</sup> Street East because they are not consistent on that side of the highway. Councilman Clavadetscher replied that it might be MDOT's responsibility to construct sidewalks along the highway and the re-design of that part of Highway 93 is pending. He understood that there is more money available from the Federal Highway Bill, which was recently passed and the project might be done sooner than they originally thought.

Mayor Ingram noted that another sidewalk project that was recently mentioned at a City Council Meeting was to place a walkpath on Bayview Drive. He noted that according to CTEP guidelines the walkpath would be restricted to motor vehicle use and it would be hard to keep the golf carts off of that road because of its proximity to the golf course. He clarified that the City Council would vote to do one of the proposed projects or it could allow the funds to build up for future use. Bonnie Manicke noted that there is a website for the MDOT/CTEP program.

Elsa Duford asked and Mayor Ingram confirmed that the City Council previously approved \$25,000 of the City's allocated CTEP funds to be re-allocated to the County for their walkpath project on Hawk Road. It has \$45,000 remaining at this time. No further comments were made.

**Mayor Ingram closed the public hearing at 6:20 p.m.**

**FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 PRELIMINARY BUDGET:** Mayor Ingram noted that this public hearing is being held to hear comments regarding the City's preliminary budget for fiscal year 2005-2006 which will be voted on by Council at the next Council Meeting on Wednesday, September 6, 2005. He asked that comments be made on the respective departments' budgets as he announces them.

**COURT:** Police Chief Doug Chase asked Council to consider increasing the City Judge position to full time or at least three quarter time because he knows that Doug Olson has to spend more than half time on the job and he is doing an excellent job. Councilman MacDonald agreed that the number of tickets going through the court system has increased and thereby increasing the work load. Mayor Ingram noted that last year's revenue from court fines was down from \$69,769 to \$55,178.

**FACILITIES:** No comments were made.

**POLICE:** Elsa Duford asked if the Police Department has any other sources of revenue besides the tax revenue from the general fund. Mayor Ingram replied that the majority of the Police Department's budget, comes from the general fund revenues which include tax revenue and other general revenues. Police Chief Chase replied that the grants they used in previous years for equipment and some wages have all dried up this year.

**FIRE:** No comments were made.

**LAND USE ZONING:** City Planning and Zoning Official Joyce Weaver noted that the City's workload has quadrupled because of the growth in the area. She asked that her department be considered for increases in wages as other departments have had. She urged them to bring the wages up to be competitive with other cities and the wages that are paid at the County level.

**STREETS:** No comments were made.

**ANIMAL CONTROL:** No comments were made.

**LIBRARY:** Jackie Gran asked if the Library budget includes the nine additional hours for Mary O'Brien that was requested. Mayor Ingram replied that the Library budget includes all that was requested except for Mary O'Brien's additional hours.

**PARKS:** Elsa Duford asked why the grass in some of the parks are looking like they are drying up, especially O'Malley Park and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and the soccer field at the Sports Complex on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue West. Park Superintendent Karen Sargeant replied that the soil in those parks is alkaline and they are looking into what it would take to improve those fields. It would require revamping the field and putting in a new base of sand for drainage and adding topsoil.

**GOLF:** No comments were made.

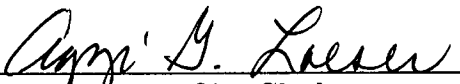
**WATER AND SEWER:** No comments were made.

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT:** Lita Fonda, Building and Planning Assistant, expressed concerns about her current wage. She explained that she prepared three job descriptions, one detailing the position she was hired for, another describing what her current job requires and another describing what she is actually paid for. She asked that her wages be brought to a level that is equitable to others' which would be more than the 2% increase that is being proposed. Mayor Ingram replied that they do the best they can for raises but the general fund has limited revenue through tax dollars and for the first time in a number of years there may be some reserve funds in the General Fund. Lita Fonda replied that all of her wages are out of the Building Fund, which is an enterprise fund and generates its own revenue and therefore has no effect on the general fund. She noted that her job descriptions indicate a responsibility level, which would put her at a starting wage of \$9.20 per hour and she is currently getting \$8.70 after three years of service. She asked when and with whom she could discuss her concerns. Mayor Ingram replied that he would be glad to discuss her wage issues with her in his office unless she wishes to discuss it in public. Lita Fonda agreed that she would do so. Elsa Duford asked and Mayor Ingram replied that the benefits of a full time employee are approximately 35% in addition to the per hour rate.

**GENERAL FUND:** Lee Manicke asked what the expenditure budget line 1000 470310 300 for \$2,500 is budgeted for. He asked to remove that budget line if it is for the Urban Renewal Board because the organization hasn't done anything to benefit the City of Polson. He asked the Polson Redevelopment Agency for minutes and financial information, which he hasn't received and he doesn't know what is going on. Mayor Ingram replied that the Department of Revenue informed them that there is no increase in the tax increment and that there has been a decrease since the year 2000. Councilman Marchello noted that the old First Interstate Bank building on Main Street was taken off of the tax roles and previously yielded \$15,000 annual tax revenue for the City. Councilman Clavadetscher clarified that the reason the PRA hasn't proceeded with projects is because there is zero increase in the tax revenue for the district. Lee Manicke asked what the City is getting for \$2,500. He stated that Council should rescind their approval creating the Urban Renewal Board and the tax increment district, which will take tax dollars away from the City, the schools and the County. In his opinion it is a poor program and any money the City has paid out should be refunded. Mayor Ingram replied that the City has made a commitment to the program and they are hopeful that someday soon there will be an increase in the taxable value of the district. He noted that the Tribe does contribute to the City General Fund and makes a payment in lieu of taxes. No further comments were made.

Mayor Ingram adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Aggi G. Loeser, City Clerk

  
Randolph B. Ingram, Mayor