

**POLSON CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES  
CITY HALL – CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2013, 4:00 PM**

**ATTENDANCE:** City Commissioners: Todd Erickson, John Campbell, Mike Lies, Stephen Turner, Dan Morrison and Mayor Pat DeVries presiding. City Manager Todd Crossett, City Clerk Cindy Dooley, Water and Sewer Superintendent Tony Porrazzo, Streets Superintendent Terry Gembala and Parks Superintendent Karen Sargeant present. City Attorney James Raymond and Commissioner Fred Funke absent. Others present (that signed in): None.

Mayor Pat DeVries called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA:** Commissioner Turner moved to approve the proposed agenda, seconded by Commissioner Campbell. Commission discussion: None. Public discussion: None. Commissioners Campbell, Turner, and Morrison voted aye. Commissioners Erickson, Lies and Morrison absent. Motion carried.

Commissioners Erickson and Lies arrived shortly thereafter and were seated.

**TWO HOUR STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION:** City Manager Crossett recapped the sessions so far which include the development of goals based on the Vision and Mission Statements and creating objectives for each of those goals. He said the sessions developed nine goals which he placed on the whiteboard with their associated objectives. He said the goals include both short-term and long-term objectives and objectives that are ongoing. He said that obviously not all of the objectives can be accomplished at once so it becomes necessary to prioritize the objectives. The Commission should then address their top priorities first. He said today's session would be the development of a ranking of the objectives by the Commission. City Manager Crossett will then meet with the staff to develop a timeline and a draft proposal based on this prioritization. That proposal will then be presented to the Commission for their approval.

Commissioner Campbell asked if the Commission could develop multiple #1 priorities as there may be a general fund priority and then a golf fund and/or water and sewer fund priority. City Manager Crossett said that the priorities need to be weighed against a number of factors with money being one of the largest factors. He gave an example where there may be priorities for fixing the streets, getting a wastewater plant and putting the irrigation system on the old nine and they all come from different funds so they could each be a top priority.

Commissioner Erickson asked Commissioner Campbell if this is a budgetary prioritization. Commissioner Campbell said that if the budgets are independent of each other in the various funds then there could be multiple top priorities. Commissioner Campbell said the General Fund is always the hardest one to prioritize because it involves so many departments and so many necessary demands. Commissioner Campbell said he has looked into the Street Maintenance District that was formed in Belgrade Montana and also commented that he was surprised by the overwhelming support for the local school district roof bond and felt this may be the time to look at a Street Maintenance District or Gas Tax. City Manager Crossett said that there has been a lot of discussion recently about fixing the streets and if the Commission is serious about setting up a funding mechanism for it then this should be a priority. Commissioner Campbell said the resort tax failed but there are other possibilities.

Commissioner Turner asked Street Superintendent Gembala to explain the local option gas tax. Street Superintendent Gembala said this has to be passed at the County level as it would involve all of the fuel distributors in Lake County. The tax is a maximum of 2 cents on gasoline and is added at the distributor level. The money is split 50% to the County and 50% to the incorporated cities which are Polson, Ronan and St. Ignatius based on population (Clerks note – Upon further research MCA 7-14-303 allows for this distribution or it can be based on the proportion of road miles outside municipalities and street miles within the municipalities using mileage reported by the department of transportation or it can be distributed in any manner agreed to by the municipalities and county as determined by an interlocal agreement. Also, the tax is remitted directly to the County Treasurer by the retailer as provided for in MCA 7-14-301. The County Treasurer rebates the retailer 1% for administration purposes and the remaining amount is allocated as agreed.) Street Superintendent Gembala estimates that the City of Polson would receive between \$75,000 and \$100,000 per year. Mayor DeVries said this is attractive because it generates money from nonresidents as-well-as residents. Commissioner Campbell asked if this has to go before the voters. Street Superintendent Gembala said it does have to be voted on by residents of the County which would then automatically include the residents of the cities. Commissioner Turner asked what it costs to do a City block. Street Superintendent Gembala said the last time he prepared estimates it was well over \$100,000 per block. He said a city block is about 300 – 350 feet. He said the price could be adjusted if it was decided, for example, to only put sidewalks on one side of the street. City Manager Crossett said the width of the street could also be adjusted. He further commented that most of the streets in Polson do not have an adequate base which raises the cost significantly, but there are new technologies that can cut costs. Commissioner Turner asked what effect the chemicals put on the streets in the winter have on asphalt. Street Superintendent Gembala said they are not as harmful to asphalt as they are to concrete. The chemicals are still caustic to the streets and to vehicles, according to Street Superintendent Gembala. Street Superintendent Gembala said he would like to go to a solution that is almost all salt or a combination of salt and sand but the City does not have a place to store it. He said there may be some opportunities for cost sharing with other entities that would make it more affordable.

Mayor DeVries asked how the City can go about setting up a meeting with the County about getting this on the June or November ballot. City Manager Crossett said that if this objective is the most important and it seems that the timing is right, then it would be discussed with the staff and a timeline would be established to get a ballot measure as-soon-as possible.

During the next portion of the workshop, the Commissioners were provided colored sticky notes to place by the objectives on the whiteboard to establish the objectives that they viewed as high priority, medium-high priority, medium priority and medium-low priority. City Manager Crossett said that he would then rank the objectives based on the sticky notes and then compare those with the staff against their objectives and priorities.

At the conclusion of the session, fixing the streets was clearly the highest priority. More discussion was held on the solutions for funding this priority. Commissioner Campbell said that the 2 cent fuel tax could be used as matching funds for a Street Special Improvement District. He said that fixing streets could be prioritized any number of ways but for cost savings it should be coordinated with work being done by the water/sewer department.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON SIGNIFICANT MATTERS TO THE PUBLIC NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

Mayor DeVries commented that car show committee members were very happy with the meeting held between the City staff and themselves and they are looking forward to a great event.

**The workshop adjourned at 5:00 p.m.**

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**Mayor Pat DeVries**

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**Attest: Cindy Dooley, City Clerk**