

**CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
CITY HALL – CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2009, 7:00 P.M.**

**Attendance:** City Commissioners Bruce Agrella, Jim Sohm, Jules Clavadetscher, Mike Lies, Elsa Duford. Commissioner Fred Funke absent. Mayor Lou Marchello presiding. City Attorney/City Manager Acting James Raymond absent.

**Mayor Lou Marchello called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA:** Mayor Marchello noted that agenda item number eight should have stated that the proposed rate change is for water and sewer. **Motion made by Commissioner Clavadetscher, seconded by Commissioner Sohm, to approve the agenda with the correction to item number 8 to include water. Motion carried unanimously.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion made by Commissioner Agrella, seconded by Commissioner Lies, to approve the consent agenda items A. through E.; **A. CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES APRIL 20, 2009; B. CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES APRIL 22, 2009; C. APRIL CLAIMS; D. MONTANA MUNICIPAL INSURANCE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT AND PROGRAM DOCUMENTS 09-10 – RESOLUTION #986 – PROPERTY COVERAGE; RESOLUTION #987 – LIABILITY COVERAGE; RESOLUTION #988 – WORKERS’ COMPENSATION COVERAGE; RESOLUTION #989 – INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT; E. JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> FIREWORKS DISPLAY & WAIVE BOND – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:** Commissioner Lies corrected item A. that the minutes to be approved are for April 20<sup>th</sup> not April 4<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Duford asked to include her comment at the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, on page 3 after the motion to approve the Mariner’s lease, that she stated that the Babe Ruth teams do not use the Legion fields but use the Kerr Dam Field. She would also like to add that she received a call from the coach and president of the Babe Ruth League, Alan Anderson. He wanted to clarify that they don’t use the Mariners Field except on one occasion they did use the Mariners Field for a tournament. She noted that she has more information regarding the Flathead Irrigation’s request of irrigation users for Social Security numbers that she spoke about as recorded on page 8 of the minutes. The three page information came from Senator Tester’s office dealing with the Freedom Information Act, the Privacy Act and Debt Collection Act. Mayor Marchello clarified that item D. has to do with MMIA’s name change and the annual approval of these resolutions are a housekeeping matter. **Motion to approve the Consent Agenda items A through E was carried unanimously with the corrections as requested.**

**RESOLUTION #984 – ANNEXATION – 1603 HILLCREST DRIVE – ROBERT AND PAMELA KINZLE:** Motion made by Commissioner Clavadetscher, seconded by Commissioner Lies, to approve Resolution #984, annexation of 1603 Hillcrest Drive as petitioned by Robert and Pamela Kinzle. Motion carried unanimously.

**ORDINANCE #645 FIRST READING – AMENDING ORDINANCE #523 TO INCLUDE ALL UTILITIES:** Motion made by Commissioner Lies, seconded by Commissioner Clavadetscher, to approve the first reading of Ordinance #645 amending Ordinance #523 to include all utilities as eligible for the privately financed utility extensions payback option when other users hook into those utility lines. Commissioner Duford questioned if we can require payment after the project has been completed. Mayor Lies replied that it is being done the same as before and was used quite often after the utilities were constructed.. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**LIBRARY BOARD STATUTORY ANNUAL REPORT:** Bruce Harrop, member of the Library Board presented an information packet to the City Commission. He noted that this is new information and a new procedure for them. It was brought up and they thought it was a great idea to keep the City informed. They want to carry on good positive conversations and keep all information moving to the City, because it's important for all of us. He distributed a brochure to the commission and those present stating that it is a summary of the stuff that's happened in the last year. He explained that it includes the financials that they were asked to give to the City. It gives the summary of the same thing as everybody is going thru with their budgets and it isn't good for the Library this year, which he feels they understand. This is kind of new for them and is for information only. He wanted to thank the commissioners for letting them do this presentation. We all feel we have a great library and want to keep a great library here in Polson. Some of the things they are working on is going to come up. They want to do a building expansion because they are running out of room and are desperate for space. Books, and all that, need room to be organized and distributed, so they decided to close down the art gallery and take a little space. They decided to bring in some professional help, to have an architect and a library consultant come in and say what they can do with this space, how they can better use this space to better facilitate our public. So they put the project together, raised all the funds and it's all been officially put on a draft and they do have blueprints for it. It's just preliminary right now, they would like to raise funds, and would like to see it happen, but in its current state they don't know when that's going to happen, and they still need to raise funds. In light of that they also would like to go into a library district. The Commission has heard information about that and they put it out to vote. The information was probably not all correct since they heard from a lot of people in the community that they thought we wanted to build a whole new library. There was a lot of misinformation, and that's what they were up against, and missed passing the vote by 121 votes, which was pretty close. They would like to go back and do it again and they are thinking the timeline is 2010. They would like to see this happen so they can stabilize funding and create a bigger and better library. They feel we have a good one now but we would like to make it even better for the citizens of Polson. So that is a big focus right now also for them.. They have a steering committee that is in charge of that, whose members are working really hard and they're doing a great job. It's separate from the Library Board, they are local citizens of Polson who are doing this organizing and are working very hard. As things happen with that we will try to keep you updated because we know you guys will support that and we all would like to see that but we have to take it one step at a time. The information on the loss of investments is included in the brochure, we did lose quite a bit last year in private monies that are bequeathed to them through the library for library use. So they are trying to tighten their belts too and on the budget reductions the commissioners asked for, they have done what they can on those. Some of the more positive things, to try and keep things out of the negative, is the summer reading program. It is a big thing for the Library, and is offered to kids of all ages through to adults, anybody can participate and it is a big program. They were able to raise \$4,500 for that program through fund raising activities and private donations. It went great this year and it grows and they have more and more participation each year. It is well organized and is a big deal in the summer. They have been trying to find money in all different places, the Library Foundation sort of manages them but they have also been looking everywhere they can for additional funds and have received some really nice donations. Centurytel and Flathead have given annually for the summer reading program. They have received a lot of large donations and wanted the commission to know that there are businesses that have also helped them out. They do have an outreach van, for outreach into the community. It basically goes out to local day care centers that do not bring their kids to the library for reasons of liability. So they are using that as a vehicle to get out into the community and take books out and bring programs to them, something they started doing this year. They're trying to do the best they can and realize they can't serve all. Also something new they are going to do is Friday Flicks. And something else they are going to do, with the honor given by Carol

Sherrick Memorial, which she wanted something fun done with the funds donated, is a game afternoon. It sounds funny to have a game afternoon at the library, but their outlook on that is to get as many people into the library right now especially with people having limited funds right now and if they can't afford to do those activities, it will keep some kids off the street and out of mischief. They think this is a good thing. Other libraries have done that with great success. Another thing they plan to do is Heritage Quest and Montana To Go, which are two new programs that came out this year. Heritage Quest is a genealogy program that you can research on a database and it's all free. Montana To Go is a system we use for listening to electronic books on tape. They have four tape players available to be checked out to patrons. They have a system in place and patrons can bring in their own players. Not everybody has those so that's why they offer four players, to make it more equal for all. The Library has a new State Library Commissioner that's local and newly elected for this area and she is based out of Rollins, she has been down to visit our library and works at the state level for them. It's nice to have someone close to have someone close being a contact for them. Her name is Joyce Funda. One of their jobs as library board members is to update policy, they have been pretty diligent about doing that and have done four big chunks this year. It's not just the board that has done that, it's the director and the director's assistant that put a lot of time into that typing and re-fixing things. Everything from a disaster plan to a circulation policy, because things change every year they are constantly up against new challenges especially with computer systems and that sort of thing, so they have done three or four of those this year and they were pretty sizeable information packets that anyone can review but its information that has to be there. Another thing that they created was "Wednesdays Work Days" in the wintertime the library would shut down for one day a month. They don't like to shut down but they had to in order to get this stuff done because there wasn't enough time to take care of the nit picky things that they can't do while they are serving patrons but in the summer they will not do that. As is normal with City personnel they try to do continuing education which is important with everything changing they offer it especially to new staff to let them network with others to see they aren't alone in situations. They try to keep everybody in the continuing education program. At a recent meeting they realized that the City staff was not aware that the Library opened up public access to the meeting room, which was available since last July. It was closed down temporarily for this reorganization but is now opened back up and is back to normal. One of the other things they did was a Resource Management Policy that has to do with in-sorting information and books that come through, they have redone that policy and it was a major one. They want to thank the Friends of the Library who have given the library close to \$5,000 a year for books and resources, which they stipulate where they want it spent on. They have the adopt a book fundraiser every year and try to get as many books adopted as they can. The rest of the brochure includes things they have in place. The EnvisionWare software frees up the staff having people sign up for using the computers. Marilyn was also a guest speaker at the Lake County Women's Professional Club, so the outreach is not handled by just one person getting out to the community. Marilyn is trying to get out as much as she can and as the Library District comes on the ballot they will all be trying to do more of that, which is partly why we are here tonight. Commissioner Clavadetcher asked how many people are using the library and what percentage are Lake County residents, that is a gross number in the most common category. Marilyn Trosper replied that they prepared a report to the State of Montana, which shows that there is an average of 1,000 borrowers per week and 61% of the registered borrowers reside outside the city limits. That's why they are pursuing the creation of a Library District, to make it more equitable. Bruce Harrop commented that is why they drew the district lines based on the school district boundaries. Given that we are a rural town people take care of their shopping and other needs when they come to town. Not all kids are doing research on the internet, the schools are now forcing them to use books for their research so that's why they are there to serve those needs. They talked to James Raymond about this at a meeting the other day and they didn't realize that reporting to the Council was something that was missing and they are willing

to do that when the time comes. It's just that the Library Board members are only volunteers and have full time jobs and are trying to do the best they can. He thanked them for their time. The Commission expressed their appreciation for his presentation.

**BJA FY09 RECOVERY ACT – EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM – APPLICATION \$23,954 POLICE EQUIPMENT:** Police Chief Doug Chase explained that a requirement of the BJA FY09 Recovery Act Grant is that the application be made public and an opportunity to comment was provided to citizens and neighborhood or community organizations. The application is for \$23,954 for equipment that is needed by the Police Department. The list includes rifles, radio repeater, shotguns, handguns, tasers, cartridges, power magazines, radar unit and video cameras. Pat Devries commented after reviewing the list, that the items on the list appear to be reasonable. Commissioner Duford asked and Police Chief Chase replied that some of these items have worn out and some are items that were never purchased because of fiscal constraints and now they are able to get them thru the stimulus package. He received a notice that they were eligible to receive \$23,954 and then they need to apply listing the items to purchase. Commissioner Clavadetscher asked if he will reduce the Police Department's budget by this grant amount. Police Chief Chase replied he didn't think so. The Commissioners expressed their support of his grant application. No further comment was made.

**AUTHORIZE CITY STAFF TO PUBLISH NOTICE, ETC. FOR PROPOSED WATER AND SEWER RATE CHANGE AND SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2009 AT 6:00 P.M.:** Motion made by Commissioner Lies, seconded by Commissioner Agrella, to authorize the city staff to publish notice, etc. for the proposed water and sewer rate change and schedule a public hearing on Monday, June 15, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried **unanimously**. Mayor Marchello noted that there is a consultant who will present a cost analysis report at this public hearing.

**90 DAY APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CITY MANAGER EXPIRES 5/7/2009;APPOINT CITY MANAGER, ACTING, FROM MAY 8, 2009:** Mayor Marchello clarified that James Raymond agreed to serve until a city manager is hired. **Motion made by Commissioner Lies, seconded by Commissioner Sohm, to approve James Raymond's appointment as Acting City Manager for sixty days or until a new city manager is hired and on the job, with no change to his rate of pay. Motion carried unanimously.**

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:** James Raymond was absent

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST TO THE PUBLIC NOT ON THE AGENDA :** No public comments were made.

**Mayor Marchello adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.**

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Lou Marchello, Mayor

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Aggi G. Loeser, City Clerk