

**POLSON CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY HALL – CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
MONDAY OCTOBER 1, 2012, 7:00 PM**

ATTENDANCE: City Commissioners: Todd Erickson, Stephen Turner, Mike Lies, Fred Funke and Mayor Pat DeVries presiding. City Manager Todd Crossett, City Treasurer Bonnie Manicke, City Clerk Cindy Dooley, Water & Sewer Superintendent Tony Porrazzo and Building and Planning Official Joyce Weaver present. Others present (that signed in): Rory Horning, Chuck Jarecki, Janna Taylor, Diane Speer, Andrew Speer, Paul London, Steve Jensen, Elsa Duford and Liz Marchi. Commissioner John Campbell, Commissioner Dan Morrison and City Attorney James Raymond absent.

Mayor Pat DeVries called the meeting to order. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Mayor DeVries said that Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Morrison were excused from the meeting.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. SEPTEMBER 14-28 CLAIMS

Commissioner Lies moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Funke. Commission discussion: None. Public discussion: None. Commissioners Funke, Lies, Turner and Erickson voted aye. Commissioners Campbell and Morrison absent. Motion carried.

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 17, 2012: Commissioner Erickson moved to approve the City Commission meeting minutes of September 17, 2012, seconded by Commissioner Lies. Commission discussion: None. Public discussion: Diane Speer commented that she disagreed with the word “claimed” in the minutes as it pertained to her comments at the previous meeting as it implies that her statements may not have been fact, which she asserts they were. She also asked what the source of the parenthetical note was that read: the Orton Foundation denies that it receives funding from the Knight Foundation. City Manager Crossett said that it came from Orton. Diane Speer said the Knight Foundation is listed as a contributor to the Orton Foundation on its 2011 Tax Return. She asked that the word claim be amended and the note be removed. City Manager Crossett said that Ms. Speer has a right to her research, but that was the information from Orton. He feels that it is a slippery-slope when we try to decide who is right and who is wrong about comments made during the public comment period. The public comment period is an opportunity for people to speak about their concerns. Diane Speer disagreed. Elsa Duford asked about the DEQ test hole project and if there is a map showing where the holes will be drilled. City Manager Crossett said he would discuss this further during his comments. Commissioners Funke, Lies, Turner and Erickson voted aye. Commissioners Campbell and Morrison absent. Motion carried.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

City Manager Crossett said the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) test hole project that will test for fuel leakage will probably start the week of October 1st. He, Street Superintendent Terry Gembala and City Engineer Shari Johnson held a meeting with the contractor and requested that there be no drilling or equipment on the Main Street sidewalks. The contractor said they will work with the City on this issue and drill in the parking area along Main Street. If it becomes necessary to drill on the sidewalk they will notify the City first. The main area of drilling will be Main Street, Sacajawea Park, and Highway 93 at the corner of 1st Street. City Manager Crossett said the impact should be minimal because the tests are being done at the time the hole is drilled and then the hole will be closed and repaired at that time. Parking areas will be blocked off in small sections for approximately 3 hours at a time so it should not disrupt traffic flow too much. Commissioner Erickson asked if DEQ supplied a time schedule and map of where the drilling will be done. City Manager Crossett said they did not supply any maps or schedules but possibly those will be forthcoming as the project starts. He said he would talk to DEQ about speaking with shop owners before starting to drill in front of their business. Mayor DeVries asked when we would be notified of the results of the test holes. City Manager Crossett said that was not discussed at the meeting but he suspected that it would be several weeks before the testing was processed and the information available and he would request that the results be sent to the City.

City Manager Crossett met with the Contractor for the Streetscape project and did a walk-through on warranty work that needs to be done. It was determined that the worst cracks will require sidewalk replacement. Smaller cracks will be sealed and hairline cracks that have not spread will be left as-is. There has not been a date set for the meeting with the main street businesses. One of the sidewalk colored panels is being replaced in front of the Travel Agency and every effort will be made to match it up with the existing panel. There have been a number of trees lost to vandalism, but it is his opinion that they should be replaced because eventually people will realize that this is something that is wanted and the vandalism will stop. He said this is a pattern in many towns with new things and eventually people get used to it. The Streetscape fundraising committee is working on a plan for people to adopt a tree. He is working with Jocelyn Shackelford and the fundraising committee to get the trees replaced this fall as it is the best time to plant. There are some additional trash cans that have been put in place as a result of fundraising activities and the Parks department will probably be able to take over maintenance of all of the trash cans now.

City Manager Crossett said discussions are ongoing with the County and the Fairgrounds group about increasing the City's boat launching capacity on the north side of the river. County Commissioner Bill Barron would like to schedule a public forum to discuss the options. City Manager Crossett said that they have identified options and hopes that they can reach a decision that is amenable to everyone.

City Manager Crossett discussed the handout on the 2013 golf season passes. As was previously discussed at the Budget Workshop, the FY13 budget includes a 5% increase in the season golf pass rates. City Manager Crossett pointed out the comparison that was done with other courses in the area and he commented that the Polson rates will still be lower in 2013 than the 2012 rates for those courses so the rate is very competitive. Mayor DeVries asked if the Commission needs to approve the rates. City Manager Crossett said the rate increase was approved as part of the Budget approval process.

City Manager Crossett was asked to announce several upcoming candidate forums. The Lake County Community Development Corporation is sponsoring a forum and BBQ dinner on October 11th in Ronan at 6:00 pm. This requires an RSVP to Lisa Bagaioisan at 406-676-5901. On October 9th the Chamber is having a candidate forum at the Big Sky Bistro restaurant on Main Street from 7 – 9 pm.

Mission Valley Aquatics is now selling season passes for the pool. There is a 5% discount until November 15th and there is a \$25 discount for single and couple passes and a \$50 discount for family passes for residents in the recreation district. The cost for a family pass in the district is \$500 for 2 adults and 3 children.

City Manager Crossett said the Montana Policy Institute (MPI) did a study on the top 25 business-friendly Montana cities and Polson was ranked #1. MPI is a nonprofit think tank that advocates for limited government and support for businesses. The study was done by population tiers and Polson was #1 in its population tier and had the overall highest score of all population tiers. The study was based 40% on economic vitality, 40% on business tax burden and 20% on community allure and cost of living. Polson ranked high in most of the categories.

Commissioner Funke asked when the City Attorney would be attending Commission meetings again and expressed his wish that he attend with more regularity as he has been frequently absent. City Manager Crossett said that he was not needed tonight. Mayor DeVries said that she thought it was in his contract to attend meetings. City Manager Crossett said that it is in his purview to excuse him but noted that commissioners would like his presence more frequently.

NEW BUSINESS

CITY COMMISSION APPROVAL OF A 3 YEAR TIME EXTENSION UNDER HB0522 FOR STEVE JENSEN'S PRELIMINARY PHASE II SKYVIEW SUBDIVISION: Building and Planning Official Joyce Weaver presented the request from developer Steve Jensen for the Commission to grant a three year time extension until October 20, 2015 for his Skyview Subdivision, Phase II which is a 24 lot, single family subdivision located off of Skyline Drive and Mission View Drive. HB0522 gives the authority for granting this extension. Building and Planning Official Weaver said there is a form to be signed by the Commissioners, Mayor and Subdivider if the extension is granted and an example of the form is in the packet. A letter from developer Steve Jensen asking for the extension was also included in the packet. Building and Planning Official Weaver also provided history on the subdivision including the original staff report dated January 10, 2006. **Commissioner Lies moved to approve a three year time extension for Skyview Subdivision Phase II, seconded by Commissioner Funke.** Commission discussion: Commissioner Lies said that the staff report appeared to have information for another subdivision starting on page 2 of the report. Building and Planning Official Weaver said she would get that corrected and post the correct staff report. Public discussion: Steve Jensen thanked the Commission for the time that they put in attending meetings and volunteer work that they do. He said that he has put in the sewer and roughed in the roads on this phase, but the economy will dictate how fast the rest of the subdivision is finished. **Commissioners Erickson, Turner, Lies and Funke voted aye. Commissioners Campbell and Morrison absent. Motion carried.**

APPROVE DONATION OF TWO 2013 SEASON GOLF PASSES TO MISSION VALLEY ELKS LODGE FUNDRAISERS: City Manager Crossett said that periodically the Golf Board will approve requests to donate golf passes to nonprofit organizations for their fundraisers. Commissioner Erickson asked if they would be auctioned off. Commissioner Lies said that the Mission Valley Elks usually has a fundraising event to raise money for their scholarship program and they would sell chances on the golf passes. Mayor DeVries said she had previously bought a chance one year on a single golf pass but did not win and she knows that last year there were two golf passes to be raffled. **Commissioner Lies moved to approve the donation of two 2013 season golf passes to Mission Valley Elks Lodge, seconded by Commissioner Turner.** Commission discussion: None. Public discussion: Rory Horning said that with

the number of different kinds of golf passes available it would be good to state what passes are being donated. Mayor DeVries clarified that this donation would be for two adult season golf passes; it would not be two couple's passes. If the winner is not a Polson resident they would be allowed to get a non-resident pass. Elsa Duford asked if any nonprofit organization can apply for the passes for their events. Mayor DeVries said that she thought any organization could apply. City Manager Crossett said it is not guaranteed that an organization will receive the donation; it is the recommendation of the Golf Board and then the approval of the Commission. Commissioner Lies said the organization must be a 501(c) organization (which is a nonprofit) and the Golf Board limits the donation to six passes per year. **Commissioners Funke, Lies, Turner and Erickson voted aye. Commissioners Morrison and Campbell absent. Motion carried.**

REPORT ON POLSON FLY-IN AND AIRPORT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY: Chuck Jarecki said that he came to Polson in 1961 and had a commercial pilot's license at that time. He became involved with the airport first as an airplane renter and now as an airplane owner and supporter of the facility. He commented that the airport is a world class facility for a small town. There are 48 aircraft hangers in use and three vacant lots available for construction and those have already been spoken for. The airport owns one hanger that has recently been leased to a firm from North Dakota to manufacture aircraft parts for agricultural spray planes through the winter months. There are three courtesy cars at the airport and it does attract people to fly-in to Polson as they have a way to get to town; many small airports do not offer this service. Mr. Jarecki said that as of September 15th the vehicles have been borrowed 126 times by pilots from 18 states, Washington DC, British Columbia, Australia (flying planes owned in the US) and England (also own planes in the US). Comments left by visitors include "great service", "great airport", "first rate facility", "thanks, we'll be back". Particularly there are many comments on the use of the Ford Crown Victoria (former Polson police vehicle) including "lots of respect around town" and "the car keeps stopping at the donut shop!" The Polson Fly-in has been a big success. This year's Fly-in was on September 8th and approximately 400 people were served breakfast. A lot of families continued to come after the breakfast to view the 65 aircraft that came for the event so there was close to 500 people in attendance. Mr. Jarecki said it is great to see the smiles on the youngsters' faces when they are allowed to sit in the aircraft and move the controls. The airport also serves as the local base for the Young Eagles program sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association that offers free plane rides to kids. On June 9th thirty-nine kids received free rides. At the Fly-in 28 more were signed up to receive rides in October. Chuck Jarecki stated his concerns about the airport: 1) The airport has the only full-service seaplane facility between Minnesota and Washington where seaplanes can be removed from the water and trailered to a maintenance shop and where planes can be fueled from a truck. If a boat launching facility is put on that side of the river, the seaplane facility will be in jeopardy. The seaplanes are not easy to maneuver in the water and a jetty in the water would create currents that would make it even more difficult to control the plane and the increased boat traffic could be a problem. 2) The south 1,200 feet of the airport sits on Tribal land and lease negotiations have been ongoing for eight years and there has yet to be a good signed lease. The FAA (Federal Aviation Association) and BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) lawyers cannot seem to agree on the terms of the lease regarding criteria that the FAA demands in order for the airport to continue receiving federal funds for maintenance such as chip sealing. Presently 90% of the chip sealing and painting at the airport is paid by federal funds that come from user fees such as gas tax revenue. If a lease agreement cannot be reached the airport will lose this federal funding and will not be able to keep up the airport with local funds alone. Mr. Jarecki said that Bruce Agrella, a former Commissioner, is on the Airport Board and he urged the Commissioners to talk with him about this issue. Mr. Jarecki said he is very proud of the Polson Airport and the residents can be thankful that we have it. Mayor DeVries thanked Mr. Jarecki for his presentation and Mr. Jarecki noted that it was important for the Commission to hear some positive comments. City Manager Crossett

addressed the lease agreement issue by saying that talks are ongoing and the Airport Board and FAA are now looking at purchasing an easement instead of leasing the 1,200 feet. He has been working directly with the CSKT Lands Department, the Airport Board and Stelling Engineering on this. The Tribes are presently working on a draft of that purchase agreement. Mayor DeVries asked Commissioner Turner for his comments about the airport as he is continually saying how important it is to the economy of Polson. Commissioner Turner said he has been involved in commercial aviation for 21 years and he would often judge the growth of a city by what airplanes were sitting at the airport. If there were just a few planes and the airport was rundown you knew there was not much growth, but when there was a lot of jet traffic and turbo props you knew there was growth and vitality. Commissioner Turner said that Polson has the jet and turbo prop traffic and it is important to maintain this.

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

Liz Marchi said she has the honor of being the chairperson of the Envision Polson! group this year. The group offered a winter lecture series that was cut short by one speaker, Greg Gianforte that could not be there. Mr. Gianforte was working on the sale of his company, RightNow Technologies, to Oracle for \$1.5 billion. Mr. Gianforte will be coming to Polson on October 11th to speak to the Polson High School students about building a world-class technology enterprise and then in the evening he will speak to the public at the Salish Kootenai College Theater at 7:00 pm. He will stay over in Polson and then travel to Missoula the next day to receive the Pioneer & Industry award from the University of Montana. Liz Marchi said she is very excited to have him come to Polson and share his story of building his business in Bozeman. She said that in her business it has been incredible to see the talent and capital that has been unleashed by this sale in our state.

Bonnie Manicke reported on the activities of the Streetscape Fundraising Committee. The committee is in the process of establishing a maintenance fund to maintain the most beautiful small town on a big lake. The committee is very happy with its logo; it has few words but is a very strong statement. There is a coupon in the current Valley Journal issue asking citizens to adopt a bump out, adopt a tree with a permanent nameplate or make a contribution to the general fund designated for streetscape maintenance. She said there are also benches with a recognition plaque, corner plantings with a recognition rock and waste receptacles that can be purchased. The committee would also like to do some Native American art in the corridor along Third and Main. Two benches have recently been purchased and will be added soon. One bench will be placed in front of the Country Store in memory of a lady that worked there for many years. She reminded everyone that the donations are tax deductible. Bonnie Manicke said that it is a joy to work with the committee and they get a lot of things accomplished.

Mayor DeVries closed the public meeting at 7:46 pm.

Executive Session on litigation: Mayor DeVries brought the executive session to order. The City Manager discussed litigation issues with the Commission. **Mayor DeVries re-opened the meeting and adjourned.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Mayor Pat DeVries

Attest: Cindy Dooley, City Clerk