

RESOLUTION NO. 11-57

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEFISH, MONTANA, ESTABLISHING THE FUTURE CITY HALL STEERING AD HOC COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, the current City Hall building, located on Block 36, was built in 1917 and renovated in 1958; and

WHEREAS, over time the City Council identified the need for a new City Hall in order for the City to offer services in an effective and efficient manner. By March 1987, the need for a new City Hall was identified as a specific project of the master plan in the City of Whitefish Urban Renewal Plan with findings "that the age and floor plan of the current facility hinders the efficiency of services that the City provides to the public;" and

WHEREAS, in 2003 the City Council established a City Hall Construction Reserve Fund by Resolution No. 03-63 "to be restricted and used at such future time as it becomes necessary to significantly expand City Hall or construct a new City Hall." As directed, the City has deposited annually into the City Hall reserve fund available Tax Increment Funds ("TIF") so that when the time came to expand and/or construct City Hall, the City would have accumulated a significant portion of the necessary revenues; and

WHEREAS, the City conducted a future needs study and space needs analysis for a new City Hall in 2006 which resulted in a 2007 needs assessment calling for a new office space of approximately 18,000 square feet in size to accommodate all departments; and

WHEREAS, because the current City Hall lacked suitable space for all City departments, satellite offices are used for the Parks and Recreation Department and Planning & Building Department. In 2010 the city constructed the new Emergency Services Center for the Police Department, Fire Department; and Municipal Court; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held work sessions on November 1, 2010, and October 17, 2011, to consider projects, including a new City Hall, which could be paid for using TIF monies; and

WHEREAS, the City Council Real Estate Committee has met, researched and identified five locations in town for a possible site for the new City Hall and negotiated options to purchase property for a future City Hall site, which have been considered by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, at a regularly scheduled meeting on September 6, 2011, the City Council held a public hearing and invited public comment concerning the five options identified by the Real Estate Committee, and potential purchase and construction costs for the five options, but were unable to narrow the five proposed options, and as a result delayed making any site decision seeking further public comment; and

WHEREAS, the City sponsored a citizen engagement meeting on October 19, 2011, at the O'Shaughnessy Center, to seek public input and consideration of the need for a new City Hall and polled the participants concerning a suitable location and funding for a new City Hall to be built using TIF monies; and

WHEREAS, at the November 7, 2011 City Council meeting, Councilors discussed the advantages gained from the use of an ad hoc committee to assist the Council in selection of the future site, design, and architect for the new City Hall.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Whitefish, Montana, as follows:

Section 1: There is hereby established a Future City Hall Steering ad hoc Committee (the "Committee").

Section 2: The general purpose of the Committee shall be to study, evaluate and recommend ideas and process for the location, design and architectural selection for the future City Hall to the City Council.

Section 3: The Committee shall consist of thirteen (13) individuals. The Mayor, with the consent and approval of the City Council, shall appoint the Mayor, one (1) City Councilor, four (4) City Hall employees, one (1) representative of the Whitefish Chamber of Commerce, one (1) representative of the Heart of Whitefish, one (1) licensed architect, and four (4) citizens of the City of Whitefish. City staff may be appointed as ex officio members. The Committee members shall select a Chairperson from the members of the Committee. The Committee shall appoint one member as Secretary of the Committee, who shall provide public notice, and keep minutes of all meetings and submit them to the City Clerk. Seven (7) members shall constitute a quorum. The Committee shall meet as often as necessary to accomplish its mission as described herein. The Committee shall cease to exist as provided in Section 4.

Section 4: The Committee shall begin its deliberations as soon as practical after creation of the Committee. The Committee shall formulate and submit to the City Council a written report, which report shall include recommendations and ideas for a new City Hall, identification of the recommended site, design, and architect with an explanation of the Committee's criteria in making its recommendations. The Committee shall be disbanded as of January 31, 2015, or earlier if the City Council completes its consideration of the Committee's report prior to that date.

Section 5: A member of the Committee may be removed by the City Council, after a hearing for misconduct or nonperformance of duty. Absences from three (3) consecutive meetings, including regular and special work sessions, or absences from more than fifty percent (50%) of such meetings held during the calendar year shall constitute grounds for removal. Circumstances of the absences shall be considered by the City Council prior to removal. Any person who knows in advance of his or her inability to attend a specific meeting shall notify the Chairperson of the Committee at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to any scheduled meeting.

Section 6: Any vacancy occurring on the Committee shall be filled in the same manner that the initial position was filled.

Section 7: The Committee shall not have authority to make any expenditure on behalf of the City or disburse any funds provided by the City or to obligate the City for any funds.

Section 8: The Committee shall have no authority to direct City staff with respect to any matter, but may request information and assistance from City staff.

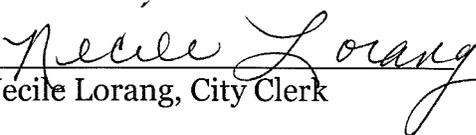
Section 9: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council, and signing by the Mayor thereof.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEFISH, MONTANA, ON THIS 21ST DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2011.



Michael Jenson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Necile Lorang, City Clerk