

**WHITEFISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER CONFERENCE ROOM
JANUARY 22, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

Ken Williams called the meeting to order. Members present were Turner Askew, Rebecca Norton and Vanice Woodbeck as the recorder. Charlie Abell and Marcia Sheffels were in the audience.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 16, 2014 MINUTES:

Turner made a motion, seconded by Rebecca, to approve the December 16, 2014 minutes. The motion passed by acclamation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marcia Sheffels said she is not on any boards anymore and thought she would come and see what the Study Commission was about.

Charlie Abell said he is very interested in this process as he had attended a lot of the previous meetings. Charlie would like to see wards reestablished. Charlie said before when they had wards each Councilor would have a department they would work with to make sure everything was running smoothly and sufficient and he would like to see that again.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion of timetable within ninety (90) days of December 3rd meeting pursuant to 7-3-186 MCA.:** Ken said they have set up meeting dates for the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. and will also have the 4th Thursday for public hearings. He would like to see them invest in 2 months of public outreach. He would like for them to visit with staff Department Heads, the City Manager, the Council and the City Attorney.
- B. Brief discussion regarding Montana Statutes regarding Local Government Study Commissions (LGSC).:** None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. A list of potential contacts in the community to reach out to.:** Ken said some of the local organizations would be Rotary, Lions, Chamber, Sorporpist, Food Bank Board, Stumptown Historical, Downtown Merchants & Heart of Whitefish, etc.

Rebecca also mentioned Flathead Businesses, MLS-Realtor's Association, Affordable housing and some of the boards.

Turner mentioned putting a postcard in the water bills with some questions about the city government that the citizens could return. Some other suggestions for them to think about would be a phone poll and sending out a questionnaire to the citizens.

Ken said he has talked to Derek Schultz about talking to the government class at the high school. He will also check into talking to the college. Turner will talk to the Rotary and Chamber. Rebecca will talk to the Lions, Golden Agers, American Legion and some citizens.

Rebecca said she will work on doing a one page fact sheet on the Charter and Turner thought if they could come up with 3 or 4 questions to send out in the water bills and do it for 3 months with different questions each month.

- B. Read the Municipal Charter for discussion. Identify areas for consideration.** The Study Commissioners started going through the current Charter. The commissioners started from the beginning of the Charter and got through to Article III. They went through each paragraph with some questions on some with possibly some changes. They would like to have Mary VanBuskirk, City Attorney attend the next meeting to have her input on how they would go about adding or deleting anything if it were to come to that. They will finish going through the Charter at the February 12, 2015 meeting.

COMMENTS

- A. Public Comment:** Charlie Abell said he would like to see more of a line by line item for the budget and also paying the Council some kind of salary. He also felt that a survey would be a good idea.
- B. Commission Comment:** Rebecca said she feels they are on the right track. Ken would like for them to finish going through the Charter before the next meeting and to have met with some of the organizations.

ADJOURNMENT

Turner made a motion, seconded by Rebecca, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.