

**WHITEFISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ken Williams called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Members present were Turner Askew and Rebecca Norton, Vanice Woodbeck the recording secretary. Judy Hessland was in the audience.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy asked why the petition to move City Hall was denied. Rebecca explained to Judy that the Local Government Study does not deal with this. Judy said she feels that the council does not listen to the public.

DISCUSS THE PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ken said the first public hearing was well attended and they received a lot of positive comments. They did have some personal complaints against the City and enjoyed listening to the people.

Rebecca said the Chamber has concerns about parking and finding good workers that can afford to live here. Dylan, Whitefish Visitor Center said the City is going gangbuster. Linn Akey, Glacier Bank said we continue to grow and to watch what goes on north of the boarder. Rhonda Fitzgerald said to clean up our politics. Rebecca said there was also the comment about how the ice den is being run. Ken said they have not heard of any other complaints on the other city property so maybe the city should have the user groups run the ice den.

Turner said a lot was said about making it through the recession but we are still having growing pains, affordable housing and the council not listening.

START THE DISCUSSION OF HAVING SOMETHING ON THE BALLOT FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTION

Ken made a motion, seconded by Turner, to remain with the current form of government. The motion passed by acclamation.

Ken made a motion, seconded by Rebecca, to provide benefits for the Mayor and Council.

Rebecca feels that this would invite people who are not wealthy or the younger people to run for council.

The motion failed. Rebecca voted in favor and Ken and Turner voting in opposition.

Ken made a motion, seconded by Turner, to revert back to precincts or wards for representation.

Ken said he has seen wards and it is very hard to find people to run and it does not serve the precincts well if nobody runs. He feels the wards should be left alone and leaves it as is with 6 council and mayor being elected and representing the whole city.

The motion passed with a two to one vote with Ken voting in opposition.

Ken made a motion, to adopt City Manager's Stearns recommendations for some changes in the Charter. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Ken made a motion, seconded by Turner, to have Vanice talk to Dan Clark at the Local Government Center on wards and ombudsman. The motion passed by acclamation.

Rebecca made a motion, to add to the ballot about creating neighborhood councils. The motion died for lack of a second.

PUBLIC COMMENT-None.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was continued until August 14, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.