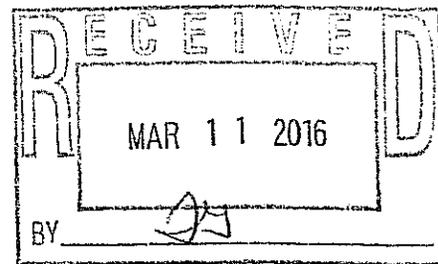


City of Lewistown Study Commission
January 25, 2016
Lewistown City Complex



Attendees included Dick Krillenberger, Darryl McKenzie, Alexandra Dunnington, Dick Ellestad, Butch Sturtz, Gayle Doney. Melody Scott performed the duties of recording secretary.

Call to Order: Dunnington called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Roll Call of Members Present

Disposition of Previous Meeting Minutes: Krillenberger questioned the comment about unneeded expense to the city. Doney commented that he would have to query the member of the public who made the comment. Dunnington mentioned that the date on the minutes needed to be changed to January 8th. Krillenberger made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. McKenzie seconded.

Budget-Paid Expenses and Current Balance: Scott reported that there was \$1,194.03 spent and \$6,837.97 available.

Gayle Doney requested to speak. She gave out a letter, which she read aloud. The letter thanked Krillenberger for his service, and addressed issues of improper protocol including election of the chair not appearing on the agenda and use of walking quorum, which is illegal. Discussion followed on whether Krillenberger was still chairman and on following protocol.

Open Public Participation: Doney read aloud correspondence, in support of the current form of government, written by Patse Hansen and Robin Fleming. Frank Westhoff recommended that if the public is in favor of the current form, they should vote that way if a motion goes to ballot. Karen Kuhlmann asked if the previously made motion for ballot and the vote for the new chairman would be revisited. Dunnington replied yes to both. Charlie Pfau asked about the effect a change in government would have on the city budget and spoke in support of the current form of government. He feels there would be a loss in continuity every time the person in office changed. Dunnington shared government statistics gathered from other Montana cities. Patty Turk asked about benefits for a mayor position. Dunnington replied that it would depend on how the charter was written. Krillenberger would like to go to ballot and let people decide. Pfau feels that leaving the hiring and firing power to one person's hands is a poor decision. Dave Byerly spoke not as a city commissioner but as a public citizen. He explained that the study commission is not charged to give alternative form. They may choose to if they feel it is the best. Byerly expressed concern that the study commission's path was clear from the beginning. That they are targeted at an individual, not a better form of government. The study commission members were elected because no one else chose to run. Byerly said that running a survey in the newspaper usually attracts disgruntled public but the first survey brought a positive response. He feels that the study commission is searching for public opinion that supports what they want. He also mentioned that the study commission chairman at the time attended an anti-annexation meeting but never attended any other community meetings. Byerly feels if not for the annexation, there might not even be any public at the study commission meetings. He also referred to a mock city charter shared at an earlier meeting, saying that it arrived out of nowhere with no notice as to who wrote it. Byerly repeated that the study commission has the option to propose change or no change. Byerly expressed his apology to Michael Chapman, who at the last meeting had said a walking quorum was wrong. Byerly was wrong to disagree with that fact. He explained that we have a great manager who greatly benefits Lewistown. He encouraged the study commission not to throw a motion on the ballot simply because of dislike for Myhre, but because you think the proposed change is better than the current form. Krillenberger explained that the study commission members are grassroots people, who have learned a lot from the process of being on this commission. Frank Westhoff feels that now that the study commission has been operating for a year, everyone shows up with an opinion. He also replied to Byerly's comment about study commission trying to remove Myhre, saying Myhre could be elected as city

mayor if the form of government changed. Turk mentioned that people come to meetings when they have an issue. Back with the past form, the office assistant mainly ran the city but did not have to answer to anyone. Tom St. John mentioned that everyone has an opinion. He feels the best survey was the Chokecherry survey, which to him, is more important than any individual voice here. Greg Clark asked about the Chokecherry booth, the signage involved and how the public was solicited. Dunnington explained that a big banner was bought and placed on the front of the booth and two members manned the booth at all times. The members at the booth asked the public to give their opinion by filling out a survey. Kuhlmann asked if there were differences between the surveys. Byerly asked if the surveys were signed. Dunnington responded that only one was. Dunnington shared the questions that appeared on the survey that ran in the newspaper. Donna Byerly asked how many people filled out the Chokecherry survey and asked how that survey could have greater impact. Dunnington replied that the surveys seemed to have equal weight in her mind. Clark recommended that the study commission consider the option of doing an online survey since the past surveys used different methods and questions. Frank Westhoff responded that no matter the survey, someone will always disagree with the results. Clark agreed. F. Westhoff encouraged letting the public decide by voting on a ballot proposal. Kuhlmann suggested using the statistic center of the University of Montana to help customize questions for an online survey. Doney encouraged the study commission to work together and make decisions. Marie Anderson asked if the possibility of another survey will be on the next agenda. Dunnington replied yes. Clint Loomis recommended that if doing an online survey, to inform the public through various ways. F. Westhoff asked if those in attendance expected the study commission to throw out a years worth of work and start over. Byerly said that the surveys were a good direction but study commission needs to decide what they feel will be the better form of government. Doney discussed that a motion by the study commission has to have a preliminary report, explain their backing for their decision, and have complete transparency. F. Westhoff thought the study commission was going to discuss the charter. He feels the study commission is being advised now by the public to go back to square one, then rush to prepare a measure for the ballot. He feels the study commission should clean up their vote, then move forward. Chris Cooler reviewed details of past surveys. She does not see how the public can want change when the two results null n void each other. She would agree with doing another survey. Suzanne Westhoff asked if those in attendance are saying the study commission scrap their progress and start over or simple not make a proposal on the ballot. Cooler does not feel there is a clear cut mandate. The tentative report was discussed, including whether the report had to be done before a motion was made. Doney suggested the possibility of having more meetings, which would mean re-publishing the time line. Kuhlmann encouraged taking the time to do the process properly since there is no need to rush. She felt that if a change is not necessary, putting a proposal on the ballot would make the public struggle to learn all the about the system in order to make an informed vote. Dunnington mentioned that she had been in contact with Dan Clark and that he would be willing to come speak at the February 29th meeting and go over the forms of government again. Cooler asked if the chairman would be selected at the next meeting. Dunnington said yes. Doney requested that correspondence be added permanently to the agenda. Dunnington suggested the study commission consider having a committee of the whole, like the city commission does, prior to the meetings. Doney suggested making a list of items the study commission wanted on the February 12 agenda. Items include voting for the chairman and vice chair, discussing another survey, reviewing the process of a tentative report, and voting on whether to have Dan Clark come speak.

Committee Member Comments: Doney and Krillenberger discussed the Hamilton study commission.

Adjournment: Dunnington moved to adjourn at 8:23pm. Sturtz seconded.

Melody A. Scott

Melody A. Scott, Recording Secretary

Alexandra Dunnington

Alexandra Dunnington, Chairman