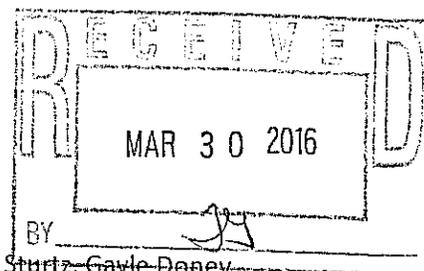


City of Lewistown Study Commission
February 29, 2016
Lewistown City Complex



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

Call to Order: Dunnington called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Members Present

Dunnington would like to add the approval of the November 2014 minutes to the agenda under the approval of the February minutes. McKenzie made a motion to add the approval of the November 24, 2014 minutes to the agenda. Sturtz seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes for February 12, 2016: Dunnington requested that the name DJ in the February 12 minutes be changed to Jeannie Rickert. Doney requested a that the word contanuity be corrected to contingency in Tom Wojtowick's statement. She also noted that Craig Flentie's name was spelled incorrectly and Tim Robertson's name was missing the letter T. Dunnington made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Krillenberger seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes for November 24, 2014: Dunnington made a motion to approve the November 24, 2014 minutes. Krillenberger seconded. The motion passed.

Budget-Paid Expenses and Current Balance: Scott reported that there was \$1,463.25 spent and \$6,568.75 available.

Correspondence: Doney asked if the study commission members had seen Walter Vanoy's written correspondence from the last meeting. She requested that one of the members talk to Vanoy about property tax assistance.

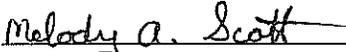
Dan Clark – Government Forms and Information: Dan Clark began his presentation by explaining the reason for his attendance at the meeting and giving an explanation of how the study commission process works. A member of the public requested to know the attendance record of the study commission members has been. Dunnington will find out those numbers. A member of the public asked Clark what the responsibilities of the liason are. Clark read the section from the montana annotated code that refers to this postion. The liason serves as a conduit between the study commission and the city government. This person can help provide information for the study commission. Jack Behl asked about the qualifications and responsibilities of being a study commission member. Clark explained that a member cannot be an elected official and must be over eighteen. Clark gave an detailed explanation on the difference between general governing powers and self governing powers. He also covered the various forms of city government, which included commission-executive, commission-manager, commission, and town meeting. Clark covered what the role of the charter is and how to determine the plan of government. Clark pointed out that Lewistown is a charter form of government that operates under a commission-manager leadership. He challenged the study commission to consider two questions. Does the study commission wish to present an alternative form of government? If so, will that form improve services and how they are delivered? Clint Loomis asked how the study commission will educate the public in a timely manner if an alternative form is sent to ballot. Clark deferred to the study commission on the question but did mention that the timeline would include adoping a tenative report, having hearings on the report, and adopting the report. A member of the public asked if the manager is accountable to the city commission. Clark said the answer was yes and compared the form to operating similar to a school board and superintendant. A member of the public asked if there is a term limit on a manager. Clark replied every election

since new city commission are elected each time and they have the ability to change the city manager. Dan Clark encouraged people to consider whether they are pleased with the current form. If it were to change, would the new system make the improvements and changes the public would want. The idea of a C.A.O. (chief administrative officer) was discussed. Clark explained that someone in this role would operate under the mayor and handle the day to day responsibilities. Clark mentioned that a city charter can be attached to a variety of government forms. Democracy depends on information and dialogue. Clark urged the public to focus on the issue, not on people they be displeased with. Clark pointed out that Montana is unique in the fact that they are the only ones to have a voter review process. Ed Butcher brought up some issues he sees such as city commissioner elections not being held in general or primary elections, thus possibly less voter turnout. He also mentioned the problem in the past of lack of compensation for mayors. A member of the public asked which form of city government is best successful in promoting business growth. Clark answered that this would have to be determined whether a role of the local government would be helping promote business growth. This depends on people, how they interpret their roles, what their motivations are and how engaged the citizens are. Every community is different. Clark recommended the public visit the msulocalgov.org website and go to the resource section to view all the charters from within Montana. Clark reminded the public that the study commission does not advocate for any proposal they might make. Instead they are to educate and give justification as to why the proposed government would be better than the current. It is an option to have a minority report in the final report if there was a split vote when making the proposal. Clark reviewed Lewistown's history of study commissions and the end result of each one. A member of the public asked the process would happen if a proposal passed on the ballot. Clark explained that the study commission would create a transition plan to go with their final report. The study commission's term would extend to help implement the transition plan if the proposal passed. Otherwise, their term would end when the proposal failed to pass in the election. Suzanne Westhoff asked about the duties of the city liaison. Clark explained that the liaison does not have a vote in study commission matters but can participate in the discussion. The city commission cannot overturn or overrule the study commission's proposal.

Open Public Participation: Held as part of the discussion with Dan Clark.

Committee Member Comments: Held as part of the discussion with Dan Clark.

Adjournment: Dunnington moved to adjourn at 8:57 pm. McKenzie seconded.



Melody A. Scott, Recording Secretary



Alexandra Dunnington, Chairman