

**WHITEFISH COMMUNITY
HOUSING COMMITTEE AGENDA**

Thursday, July 6, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.

City Hall – Whitefish Conference Room

Present: Cameron Blake, Rhonda Fitzgerald, Carolyn Pitman, Daniel Sidder, Leanette Galaz,

Staff: Dana Smith, City Manager; Wendy Compton-Ring, Senior Planner; Luke Sponable, Housing Coordinator/Long-Range Planner,

Others: Two members of the public

1. Call to order
 - a. Meeting was called to order by Daniel at 3:38

2. Communications from the public.
 - a. None

3. Review and possible approval of the draft of financial plan for resort tax re-allocation
Dana - reviewed latest draft.
 - Resort tax committee feedback recommended it be presented as a reallocation of 1% so doesn't affect original allocation of 2% to streets.
 - 2021 vote – council talked about housing being added but we didn't have the plan we have now.
 - Removed Trail View as mostly complete, calculated financial gap, took out
 - Resort Tax Committee recommended to Council and this Committee.
 - July 17th Work session with Council
 - August 7th Public HearingCarolyn – what would cause this to go to voters with future changes.
Dana – Council makes the decision – could relook at in 10 years if new issues/crisis. Last vote secured funding for 20 years.
Leanette – Could we reduce (tax refund) to 15%, put 10% towards housing.
Carolyn, owners are seeing taxes increased, this was part of the original part and how sold to voters.
Dana – likely 10% increase in property taxes
Rhonda – we could give relief to permanent residents.
Daniel - what is average kickback.
Dana - is about a couple hundred per \$500,000.
Cameron – some landlords pass on to tenants - so are getting the benefit.
Daniel – could we have an option to donate rebate to community housing?
Dana – County bills and collects, so could pay what owe to County and write check to give back to City. Doesn't see a way except via a public campaign to donated to Housing Whitefish.
Dakota (public) – politics and status quo got us here and would keep it here.
Leanette – talking about protecting 25% - is status quo.
Cameron – in my case renters are benefiting.

Leanette – that’s not the norm

Rhonda – don’t want resort tax to fail.

Leanette – let’s be creative. Not give to non-residents.

Dana – don’t have way to do that. Of 10% 2% could be put to residents but would require a full-time person. State laws says 5% minimum goes back to property owners. Over collection in future could go back to all categories, right now over collection only goes to property tax relief.

Leanette – would vote for but want to fight against 25% going to property tax relief for non-renters.

Daniel – this would be money that is not there today. If success in a couple of years maybe property tax relief reduction is more palatable.

Carolyn – makes a motion to approve draft,

Rhonda seconds and adds: lets continue to explore rebate going to non-residents.

Carolyn - Negative publicity could revert back to nothing for housing.

Dana – Part of 10% would go to renter support.

Vote all in favor, except Leanette 4-1

Leanette – this is the time to reallocate and not have workers suffering and kickback to out of state.

4. Next committee meeting.
Monday, July 24th at 4:00 p.m.
Adjourn 4:25 pm