

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
January 19, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor/Council (please check) x Hanel, x Cromley, x Yakawich, x Cimmino, x Brewster, x McFadden, x Friedel, x Swanson, x Sullivan, x Clark, x Brown.

ADJOURN TIME: 7:25 p.m.

Agenda

TOPIC #1	Pre-Budget
PRESENTER	Tina Volek, City Administrator
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Tina Volek: starts the budget process presentation.
- Clark: clarifies that purpose of public safety district is to reduce PS and GF mills.
- Yakawich: question and point out that new wastewater treatment plant is not an option. Question about ACA reinsurance fee. Have to pay for all self-insured plans.
- McFadden: continue considering purchasing the downtown post office for law enforcement needs.
- Cimmino: questions downtown redevelopment and parking. New developer and other parking is full.
- Sullivan: evidence building expansion – any compensation from county or state for storing felony evidence? No.
- Hanel: recommend CMs tour the dispatch center.
- Clark: amount saved or dispatch?
- Sullivan: can Council look at details of budget rather than budget in whole? Split the budget up so that GF and PSF and others have extra scrutiny. Yes. Line item budget is also available. Pat: thinks that staff will be able to give Council what is being requested.
- Yakawich: ask Mumford about water and sewer line replacement projects.
- Clark: how long do our new water and sewer lines last? Salesmen tell us 100 years.
- Brown: looking at new plant west of city? Not at this time.
- Clark: remodeling of court? Jail courtroom arraignment to avoid having to build a 2nd courtroom here? Night court? Not cost effective.
- Friedel: support night court and not expand current courtroom.
- Weber: budget calendar discussion.
- Sullivan: going to have a primer on Priority Based Budget? Feb 16
- Brewster: outer belt loop a county project or city? Dave – all MDT project. Project previously approved by city and county (PCC vote).

- **Public comments:**
- Tom Zurbuchen: 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT – can’t hire more than 1 extra officer due to academy slots being unavailable. Council should direct staff to get academy slots in April and later ones.
- Hanel: working with others who have slots to get theirs. Discussion about how academy works.
- Kevin Nelson: 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, MT - at the end of CM Pitman’s term, staff reported the amount of enterprise fund transfers to the GF. Thinks that there are voter approved mills that are captured in TIDs and not being used for what voters thought (Library, transit, PS).

Council discussion:

- Hanel: suggest future presentation on TIDs and how they work.
- Yakawich: treatment plant shouldn’t be on the “possible” list. Stay on top of water quality.
- Cimmino: projects slide – are projects prioritized? No. Several are already in the CIP.
- Brown: funding for community innovations projects – future discussion? Yes.

TOPIC #2	City of Billings Growth Policy Update
PRESENTER	Candi Millar, Planning Director
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Candi Millar: presentation.
- Brown: realistic that development probably happens in north and west, what are impacts then? Millar: infill scenario shows development pattern closest to that, but don’t have a model that is exactly that. Won’t tell council where to grow, but should tell us the costs of developing at densities and locations – relative impacts.
- Yakawich: who is on steering committee? Planners, engineers, realtors, general public.
- McFadden: school locations look uniform. Looked at which properties would be low, high, carrying capacity? No. This isn’t predictive but should answer questions about costs at different development patterns.
- Sullivan: any info from citizen survey that might inform the growth plan? No. agree that word cloud is interesting but not instructive.
- Brewster: indicators could change development patterns dramatically? Possible but try to standardize as much as possible.

Public comments:

- Tom Zurbuchen: 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT - toolbox is missing something. How far is city willing to extend services? City has extended long distance in past and not much development in between.
- Kevin Nelson: 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, MT - handouts for Council. Last Monday interim committee on school funding and population. Statistical data on growth – state grow 11% in next 10 years. All data are public. Consider having presentation on Billings/Y County.

TOPIC #3	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Hanel: thanks Mumford for staying. Controversy on landfill expansion.
- McFadden: your perspective on the presentation? Mumford: Elysian School extension is for development that will fill in over next few years. Inner belt loop land is cheap and if city said its willing to allow development there, developers would build the infrastructure.
- Sullivan: will bring forward four initiatives at the next meeting. Ped safety, snow removal and budget or it, separate GF from other funds at budget time, examine all laws for outdated, etc.

TOPIC #4	Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Kevin Nelson: 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, MT - gave Council a handout. Public hearing notice for the Orchard Lane light district. Different depths considered between residential and commercial and zoning. Why not on straight square footage. Planned method is inequitable. Why was this method chosen?
- Dennis Ulvestad: 3040 Central Avenue, Billings, MT - SR 935 that will be coming to Council. Concern about traffic. Located behind Starbucks. Concern as a citizen, not as representative on Zoning Commission. Will generate a lot of traffic. Recommend that council visit the site. Support 2 minute public comment.
- Brent Brooks: remind council to not discuss land use applications among yourselves or anyone else. Ex-parte communication warning.