

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
July 18, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

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

ADJOURN TIME: 7:17 pm

Agenda

TOPIC #1	State Legislation
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Ed Bartlett: legislative priorities. Local option; pursued many sessions, Billings Chamber will support, MLCT not until 2019. Public incapacitation; tried once, ran out of time, have 2 sponsors for 2017. Minimum property standards; may or may not need state law. Infrastructure funding and development; both Gov. candidates talking about it, legislators too, infrastructure coalition formed and working. Protecting existing programs; may be too narrow because it could include enhancement, don't restrict or devalue TIF, expand the building fund reserve, protect 911 funding. Schedule; will talk with many through the summer and fall, will come back to Council in mid-Sept with more comprehensive list and details and position. Want Council to consider legislative reception in mid-November. Does Council have preference for the way it is structured?
- Clark: firefighter presumptive illness same bill as last time? Yes.
- Sullivan: want a reception post election but how can we get pre election info and contact with candidates? Bartlett: Yes, but informal. Will invite CMs to dinners or other meetings with candidates and legislators as needed.
- Clark: support.
- Yakawich: favor a reception, not a big need for food, want agenda for it. Would like a written schedule and flow-chart next time and also more written description of the items. Recommended strategies/how do we get more traction? Bartlett: a lot happens to pass bills, much easier to kill than to pass bills. Yakawich: How can we help the lobbying effort more? Don't need to answer now....
- Sullivan: any predictions for passage of these priorities? Bartlett: Local option will require a huge effort; infrastructure bill will be introduced and will probably pass;
- Brewster: prior service, councilmembers met with small group of legislators and that works better than large reception with city talking to legislators.
- Clark: heard anything on a statewide sales tax? Bartlett: No. Neither Gov candidate supports it. Initiative might be more likely.
- Public Comment: None

TOPIC #2	Growth Policy
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Candi Millar: electronics aren't going to work. Goes through the proposed changes.
- Brown: page 3, 2nd bullet, "if appropriately located"; what does that mean? Stable neighborhoods, some with already existing accessory structures, Council could determine ones in which accessory units will work and fit-in. "Compatible" may be better term than "appropriately located."
- Hanel: page 2 place making, support 5th bullet point. Millar: intended to address food security concerns.
- Brewster: think changes are reasonable. Consider costs, generally supportive of the policy statements.
- Sullivan: all about flexibility and ability to pursue opportunities without being confined by plan/policy.
- Brewster: consider unintended consequences.
- Clark: anyplace that absolutely states that this is not a strict policy, it's only guidelines? Millar: Yes, on page 1 and throughout.
- Public Comment:
- Emma Kerr-Carpenter, 444 Lewis Avenue, Billings, MT: don't like removing or changing water conservation, preserve ag land, "living wage" statements.
- Sullivan: plan talks about integrated water plan; does that cover the water conservation issue? Brewster: people view conservation differently;
- Brown: saying that we've stated it better or worse? Witness: Saying that we need to leave in "preserve ag land."

TOPIC #3	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Yakawich: lots of calls about weeds, landowners with several acres and not mowing. Fire near Aronson. What can we do about it? Volek: Turn in a complaint, inspect, inform, re-inspect and mow. Charge for that work. Millar: With frequent fliers, we sometimes don't send a second notice and cut the weeds; can also cite the owners each day a violation exists but don't often use that method. Complaint basis and need for documentation. Yakawich: how do we implement the \$100 / day fine? Brent Brooks: need to look at the code before we implement that.
- Hanel: ST V DePaul on Grand has tall weeds.
- Brown: how much of large parcels need to be mowed? Millar: 150' from other properties or R/W.

- Clark: weeds on Central and 34th/35th. Park land in the area? Millar: frequent flyer but in recent past have mowed but that manager may have changed. Parkland west park needs to be mowed.
- Brewster: Aronson land is not platted but has weeds; subject to code? Millar: Yes but complaint based.
- Sullivan: Grand Ave construction – drivers complained about also closing Zimmerman and other nearby streets. Manage multiple closings better?
- Brown: Broadwater and 29th – dust from construction.
- Hanel: urge CMs to attend MLCT conf.
- Yakawich: lots of calls about transients and homeless around parks; recently at the corner of Dehler Park – 10th and 25th. Can we put porta-potty in areas? Can PD volunteers patrol the parks too? Do we have to leave their property in-place instead of removing it? Volek: informed parks, PD and they will address the problems to the limits of their authority. May be able to give notice and then remove the property.
- Clark: please don't put porta-potties out for transients. Used for bedrooms.
- Swanson: first farmers market on Sat; great 1st session, more interest and more vendors.

TOPIC #4	Public Comment
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Dennis Ulvestad, 3040 Central Ave, Billings, MT: Descro park trees and grass, no irrigation but needs better care. Dangerous when dry and hot. Could get water from Stuart Park. Accident waiting to happen (fire).