

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
April 17, 2017

ATTENDANCE:

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

ADJOURN TIME:

Agenda

TOPIC #1	Legislative Update
PRESENTER	Ed Bartlett, City Lobbyist
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Ed Bartlett: session winding down. Still have to pass a budget. HB 473 passed Senate, returned to House. On House floor on Wed. or Thurs. Lowered tax increase and phases them in. Bonding and infrastructure – no action on either.
- Tina Volek, City: present to Council on May 1? Yes.
- Yakawich: HB134 status? Another study bill being presented. Juneteenth bill passed? On the agenda last week, not sure of status.
- Mayor: HB133 details? Brent Brooks, City Attorney, decriminalizing and eliminating jail time for disorderly conduct. Made some amendments to restore some portions.
- Brewster: 473 raise vehicle registration fees? Yes.
- Bruce McCandless, Assistant City Administrator: HB158 (Juneteenth) passed both houses.
- **Public Comment:**
None

TOPIC #2	Billings Area Bikeway and Trail Master Plan
PRESENTER	Joe Gilpan, Alta Planning and Design
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Lora Mattox: introduction
- Joe Gilpan: will brief the introductory parts; existing conditions; public involvement; implementation strategies; programs and policies for construction and maintenance.
- Cromley: Lewis Ave residents don't like the bike lane, any provisions to move it to less busy street? Mumford: elks club to 24th section – residents asked how to reduce speed. Riders wanted to feel safer.

- Brewster: regulatory document? Mattox: not regulatory, use for grants when reviewing building plans. Bike access on 4th and 6th? 10' trail programmed in FY 18.
- Friedel: Lewis residents don't like route. Dangerous; statement, not a question.
- Swanson: law requiring helmets? Only below certain age.
- Yakawich: can this plan address practicality? Think it does and provides options.
- Yakawich: lane markings will need to be painted, costs unknown.
- Friedel: licensing and education important.
- McFadden: \$20k/mile; considered too expensive
- Hanel: thanks, good report and plan.
- Yakawich: question to Mumford about expense to maintain bike lanes. Paint arterials every year, more obscure areas not as often.
- **Public Comment:**
None

TOPIC #3	City Facilities Master Plan
PRESENTER	Bob LaPerle, CTA
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Volek: introduction
- McCandless: intent for Council to adopt/approve the plan and allow staff to pursue recommendations.
- LaPerle: brief history giving overview and recommendations of report.
- Yakawich: Depot building owned by City? No, Depot owns it and City leases it. City owns everything else.
- LaPerle:
- Volek: staff will ask council to make decisions about couple things near-term. Evidence building design and 9-1-1 center. Fire station location study. Private building that's available.
- Yakawich: took tour of the former Battin building, owner working on it, would like to talk more about that option.
- Hanel: don't overlook PW needs on west end.
- Hanel: any objections to staff bringing this plan back to Council for adoption?
None
- **Public Comment:**
None

TOPIC #4	Council Chambers Technology
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PRESENTER	Denise Bohlman, City Clerk
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Bohlman: discuss upgrading audio and video in this building. Shows and talks about old and outdated equipment. Brief overview of new equipment options. What does council want to change/improve?
- Swanson: good presentation, bottom line? \$112,000 estimate. Asking for \$115,000 for audio only.
- Cromley: audio only? Audio at this point, visual a possibility at a later date.
- Brown: review the components and costs. Entertaining other vendors? Yes.
- Friedel: want indicator of which CMs want to speak – refers to the Legislature.
- Brewster: want to proceed with RFP, get solid prices and features.
- McFadden: ceiling speakers still working? Need to be checked.
- Brewster: new technology would be improvement.
- Hanel: want to see pricing for each component including video and Council can select.
- **Public Comment:**
None

TOPIC #5	CDBG / HOME Funding Recommendations
PRESENTER	Brenda Beckett, Community Development Manager
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Beckett: reviews presentation.
- Yakawich: appreciate work. Eliminate programs if Fed \$ cut? Yes.
- Brewster: important programs could be cut; need to contact delegation about importance of these programs.
- **Public Comment:**
None
Mayor calls for a break at 8:15 pm. Work Session resumes at 8:30 pm.

TOPIC #6	Water / Wastewater Rate Study
PRESENTER	Jennifer Duray, PW Finance Manager
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Duray: brief presentation. Explains increases.
- Brewster: complaints from heights residents about conservation rates. City could increase base amount and reduce the highest tiers.
- Mumford: smaller user pays higher rate so higher user could pay lower rate.
- Brown: \$5 charge to call customers to let them know their payment is late? Approximately 16 hours per week dedicated to managing collections.
- Yakawich: support increase without residential included.
- Volek: consultant recommended increase. Billings is in the middle of cities rates.

- **Public Comment:**
- Walt Donges, 941 Constitution, Billings, MT: pressure problems since January.

TOPIC #7	Ordinance Review
PRESENTER	Brent Brooks, City Attorney
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Brooks: Muni Code Corp. do review for under \$10,000. Using our contract instead of theirs. Keeping list of ordinances that need to repealed or edited. Staff will divide ordinances to review. Muni Code will suggest changes review and staff will bring back proposed changes to Council. Will take several months to complete.
- Council consensus: contract with Mr. Sweeny and report to Council.
- **Public Comment:**
None

TOPIC #8	Quarterly Updates (BIRD, Downtown Billings Partnership, SBURA, Budget, Health Fund, Initiatives, Strategic / Work Plan, City-Wide Park District 1 Projects)
PRESENTER	Various
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Tim Goodridge: answer questions and invite Council members to annual meeting on Wed. April 19 at 11:30 am. Notify media.
- Greg Krueger, Downtown Billings Alliance: presentation. Upcoming projects that Council will see – pocket park, MT Ave lighting, strategic plan, battle of the plans and CLDI bldg. improvements. Strategic plan developed in 1997: \$84,516 contract with Thomas Miller. Pocket park – 34 years old, plans drawn, ready to bid, up to \$200,000, need new agreement with the church.
- Cromley: pocket park up to \$200,000, who has approved? DBP Board, will come before Council. OBSC questions –
- Yakawich: like the pocket park, who will maintain? BID will maintain.
- Steve Zier, South Billings Urban Renewal: Tom Ruschkewicz died Tuesday, Shawn Hanser, stroke, in hospital, will remain on board for now. Optimist Park plan and SBURD wants to develop a north parking lot. Midland Rd at 30% design and will come to Council. Ponderosa School will ask for \$ for a south property fence/security.
- Yakawich: Tom Ruschkewicz asset to south side. Hallowell improvements being planned? Board has discussed Hallowell but no funding yet.
- Budget and health plan, no questions.
- Initiatives report, complete ones removed? OK
- Strategic/work plan; most elements related to the plan are either in the work session schedule.

- PMD 1 – Mark Jarvis: Hawthorne playground equipment replacement received grant, approval to proceed. Veterans Park automation system in works.
- **Public Comment:**
None

TOPIC #9	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Yakawich: calls about patching/paving, repair is temporary, permanent repairs after weather warms and asphalt plants open.
- Hanel: Broadwater and 13th St. West potholes are terrible.
- Hanel: parking around Senior High, complaint letter. Volek: will respond soon.

TOPIC #10	Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Dennis Ulvestad, 3040 Central Avenue, Billings, MT: urge Council to look at Priority Based Budgeting. Volek: working on it.
- Hanel: May 31, 9:00 DEQ update on nutrient standards.
- Walt Donges, 941 Constitution, Billings, MT, South East Montana Prime Timers: Started organization of gay men over 50. Building membership. Big Sky Pride hosted in Billings this year, June 16-18. Want Mayor to issue a Pride proclamation. Many guests this summer, make them feel safe here. Most events at North Park.
- Kathleen (no last name given), 520 5th Street, Billings, MT: Pride committee. Events: Pub Station meet and greet, parade, festival in park, stage in park for music and comedy. Interfaith service.
- Shawna (no last name or address given): member Pride committee. Faith leaders will conduct a mass marriage ceremony at North Park. Encourages Mayor to support.

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 11:10pm into a Closed Executive Session to discuss litigation strategy not involving another public entity.