

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
November 20, 2017

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.

CM excused:

ADJOURN TIME: 8:50 pm

Agenda

TOPIC #1	Complete Streets Project Report
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Wyeth Friday, Planning Director: presentation on report sent to Council on Monday afternoon and presented. Partners supplied data.
- Cromley: period of time these graphs represent? Most reflect daily traffic.
- Wyeth: continues presentation.
- Sullivan: sharing this with others? Would like to see this in comparison to miles traveled, population, # of vehicles, etc. Will share with partners, take it to Planning Board, etc.
- Clark: data from Billings only? Yes.
- Brown: pedestrian accidents coincide with intersection/street data so we can tell where the accidents happened?
- Wyeth: continues.
- Friedel: more current data available? Should soon be able to get 15-16.
- Wyeth continues.
- Brown: like the map that shows trails, paths, etc. It's a future improvements map (w/in 5 years).
- Cromley: how does 2016 ride share compare with prior years? Top 3 things accomplished by complete streets policy? Don't know, but don't think share has changed much. City depts. collectively looking at who uses corridors as well as mode of travel; education and outreach (outside recognitions) among intra-community institutions; competitive edge for the community in life style amenities compared to other cities.
- Yakawich: car traffic on Montana Ave. doesn't stop for people in the crosswalks. Education needed? Education would help but street configuration as a through street leads to lots of high speed traffic. MDT considering remedies
- Sullivan: when does staff do the next report? What would be a "win" at the next report? What does success look like? Report about every 3 years. Data capture and reporting are getting better.
- **Public comments:**
- Mayor acknowledges people in the audience who works on complete streets.

- Connie Wardell, P.O. 21432, Billings, Montana: biggest concern is that the plan was implemented without considering costs. Many cities abandoned it after nearly bankrupting themselves trying to implement it. Definition of complete streets should eliminate reference to “national organization.” Definition of street and implementing complete streets needs to change. Traffic being diverted and unfamiliar drivers will crash. Don’t tie hands of PW Director. Focusing only on complete streets and not anything else is not right; for example, need more police. Handed out document to Council. (Attached to work session notes.)
- Kristy Drake, 2416 Avalon Road, Billings, Montana: representing 3 organizations and invite everyone to Nov. 28, 12:00 – 4:00 at Chamber of Commerce planning meeting.
- Melissa Henderson, 525 Parkhill Drive, Billings, Montana: appreciate City’s comprehensive reporting. Great conversation and transportation. People on streets increasing.

TOPIC #2	Prostitution/Trafficking
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Yakawich: working with CM Sullivan, FBI, Interim City Administrator, City staff, looking at regulating - spa ordinance. Preliminary stages of looking into business licenses, etc. Could look at a future spa ordinance.
- Chief St. John: staying engaged with topic, outreach, treating victims with respect, work with County Attorney, Attorney General has a good program. Want to get offenders into the federal system where punishment is significant.
- Hanel: ages impacted? Tumbleweeds has identified about 70 youth in past few years. Adults of all ages. 2017 – 2 prostitution arrests. Need to engage community to help awareness.
- Brandon Walter, FBI: brief thumbnail of trafficking in Billings. Females trafficked into MT from other cities, 2-10 young girls available for sex every day. Massage parlors are significant problem areas. Youth recruitment. Recruitment happens here too. 6 major prostitution websites, 19,800 ads posted in Billings, sometimes multiple times/day. Over 50% posted by massage parlors.
- Hanel: leery to check websites to confirm info. Why is Billings higher than others? Billings has many more illicit massage parlors, 15 vs 1-2. There are legitimate massage therapists too. Brent Brooks, City Attorney: checking with other cities.
- Cromley: what ordinance are you speaking about? 2 CMs are working on one.
- Cimmino: Tumbleweeds reports coincide with SD2 stats? Trying to educate. Correlation with Bakken oil development? Yes.
- Brooks: hands out copies of prostitution and human trafficking laws; will email them too. Need holistic approach. Need to talk with MT Department of Labor about licensing. Will ask IMLA for guidance, Denver may be a model. MT AG program; all law enforcement agencies need to work together.
- Sullivan: conclusion; in the work plan, looked only at boundaries. Will propose an initiative at next Council meeting.

- Cromley: any City ordinances? Only land use law on sexually oriented businesses. Some city codes on topic, but mostly in State law.
- Sullivan: have worked on an ordinance, rough draft and will send it to CMs.
- Cromley: any way to punish business or property owners for violations? Property forfeitures?
- Brooks: State has forfeiture law with human trafficking, so don't know if it will allow City to act on the same topic.
- Cimmino: how do these businesses renew their business licenses? Have to prove illegal activity in order to deny business license.
- Brewster: long term stay hotels also host this and would like to include them in enforcement and punishment.
- Yakawich: limited on what City employees can do with business tax/license when they apply and reapply.
- **Public comments:**
- Tiffany Russell, 2526 Grand Avenue, Suite 2, Billings, Montana: College of massage owner for 4 years. Men solicit sex from massage students. Safety issue for massage therapists. Illicit spas put legit massage therapists in danger. 300 licensed massage therapists in Billings; want an ordinance to help protect massage therapists.
- Cimmino: how do therapists safeguard when they go to a home? Teach how to be assertive, 40 hours' ethics training, check in with others before and after home visits.
- Cromley: therapists need to be licensed? Yes, by the State. Many people practice without a license and state doesn't do much to regulate. Lots of spas opened before 2010 regulations and they're grandfathered.
- Sullivan: do therapists need insurance and what kind? Massage associations provide coverage.
- Connie Wardell, P.O. Box 21432, Billings, Montana: City talking about activity and needs to focus on person. Church tried to help woman operating nearby. Someone packed her up before congregation could help. Need to pay attention to person in addition to the activity.
- Charlie Broussard, 4576 Hill Road, Billings, Montana: licensed therapist. Not a prostitute. Illicit operations endanger her and her business. Outraged if spas are promoting trafficking. Want more regulation.
- Penny Ronning, 3014 Glacier Drive, Billings, Montana: co-founder of Task Force. Thanks Chief St. John. Excited that City is concerned about the issue.
- Sullivan: point out that 2 males brought up the topic with City. If City adopts ordinance to regulate spas, does that push problem elsewhere? Ronning: have to start somewhere, and important that all levels discuss and address it.

TOPIC #3	Electronic Citations
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Chief St. John introduces Becky Shay, Support Services Manager: benefits, shows the current site, handwrite all information on it. 3 cites may require three

handwritten tickets. Want to buy initial equipment and software with drug forfeiture funds for 4 cars. City Council implement a \$5/cite surcharge for Municipal traffic infractions to pay for additional cars' equipment and software. Will equip 8-12 cars/year.

- Friedel: can we see the operation? Yes, when staff returns with surcharge ordinance.
- Sullivan: Parking enforcement uses an e-cite, can technology be used for Police too? No, it is incompatible with the current records software.
- Cimmino: what is total cost if we did all at one time? Does the department still issue warnings? \$110,000 but want to do it slowly. Yes, but warning entry is low priority, so warnings aren't very effective
- Cromley: time and money savings, so budget request should be only for the cost over savings. How does Council justify the surcharge if there are real money savings that could be used to purchase additional equip/software? Shay – will need to calculate and get that info to you.
- Friedel: what is average hourly rate and therefore savings? \$40/hr and 800 hrs saving from 4 officers = \$33,000 savings, so have to agree with Cromley, may not need a surcharge.
- Brewster: e-cites generate efficiency/personnel time savings, not cash that offsets the cost of new equipment and software.
- McFadden: benefits violators because they have to stop a shorter time.
- Hanel: support, one of the best ideas presented. Do some more homework on the surcharge amount.
- Sullivan: may improve safety.
- McFadden: update personal information using this tool? Question for Department of Motor Vehicles.
- **Public Comments:**
- None
- Cromley: support and want to see all surcharges. Shay: surcharges attached to citations currently are for court administration or payment processes.
- Consensus from Council: move forward with the program, but want to see cost comparison of purchasing equipment and expanding software licenses over time vs purchasing for all cars now.

TOPIC #4	Augmented Police Service with Billings Clinic
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Chief St. John: simple request to move forward with bi-lateral agreement with Billings Clinic (BC) to hire additional officers assigned to the BC campus. BC wants 24/7 coverage, which requires 7 officers, but should probably start with 2.
- Hanel: some officers already working there? Yes, but it is extra duty, mostly in ER and BC wants more coverage.
- Brown: is BC going to pay 100%? Yes. May use mid-career officer wage and benefits and will need cars and equipment.

- Clark: would 2 officers be working with private security? Full police services for campus. Evidence collection, etc. Handle transient activity, patrol parking lots.
- Cimmino: \$100k / year / officer? So this is a \$200k contract? Yes, and probably a 3-year term.
- Cimmino: would we offer the same to other hospital? Yes.
- Friedel: 2 additional or part of the current rotation? 2 additional.
- Yakawich: compliment the new Parks Officer. Officer Lam introduced as new Parks Officer.
- McCandless: staff will negotiate contract but Council will be asked to review and approve it.
- **Public Comments:**
- Connie Wardell, P.O. Box 21432, Billings, Montana: supported as soon as she heard about it. In larger city, some areas will need extra police. May be others that will request.

TOPIC #5	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Brewster: list of questions for City Administrator candidates on Council desks. There may be more than we can ask, but can take them out of order if there are especially important ones to CMs. Most events at the Northern Hotel, lunch at Petroleum Club.
- Brewster: Email from BIRD, Inc. – want to form a Council committee to work with TIF boards. Don't want to form a committee, think the issues are simple and easily handled, but agreed to bring it to the Councilmembers to consider.
- Brown: agree, don't want a new committee.
- Sullivan: agree. Legislature will go after TIF again and it would be a mistake to allow TIF advisors to influence the policies.
- Yakawich: should share the policy with TIF advisors for their study and comments.
- Hanel: think there are 2 or 3 Administrator questions that we don't need. #9 – sued a former employer? Sullivan – agree.
- Brooks: entitled to ask question, but can remove be removed.
- Swanson: if you're not being sued in business, you're not working hard enough.
- Brent: will Higginbotham's background check uncover an employment lawsuit?
- Strike question #8 also.
- Combine questions #1 and #17.
- Sullivan: notes suggested changes to 3-4 questions, sent by email. Tighten up question about prior work to change or reorganize organizations.
- Yakawich: will introduce initiatives on permanent quarterly reports on CE, spa ordinance and nuisance ordinance.

TOPIC #6	Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Bill Cole, Chamber Board of Directors: Chamber of Commerce will conduct tours, he'll be out of town and won't be able to attend any of the interview procedures.