

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
January 2, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor/Council (please check) X Cole, X Cromley, Yakawich, Ewalt, Brewster, Joy, Friedel, Sullivan, Ronning, Clark, Brown.
CM excused: All Councilmembers present and Mayor

ADJOURN TIME: 8:47

Agenda

TOPIC #1	Oaths of Office – Swearing In Ceremony
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Mayor Hanel opened meeting. Judge Kolar administered Oaths of Office to Mayor Cole and Councilmembers Ronning, Joy, Brown, Ewalt and Yakawich. Family and friends introduced.

TOPIC #2	A/V Council Chambers / Municipal Court
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Denise Bohlman, City Clerk: reviews the 3 proposals for audio/video equipment.
- Mark Hunt, AVI Systems: brief overview and responds to questions.
- Sullivan: how much is in the current budget? Bohlman: \$115,000.
- Yakawich: working with Community 7 TV?
- McCandless: Council has ability to amend budget if they choose, comes out of general fund. Could do part in FY18, remaining in FY19.
- Mayor Cole: price break for doing all at one time? Bohlman: Mr. Hunt can answer.
- Sullivan: discuss expenses shared with Charter? McCandless: can ask, uncertain about possibility. Brent Brooks, City Attorney: provision in draft franchise renewal for additional funding for equipment.
- Brewster: sometimes better to do everything you want at one time. Prefer to do this with some minor deductions. Proposal #2 cost, reduce some items from the audio and get most of the video.
- Ewalt: run cable for video for future use? Hunt: Yes. A good option. Work with facilities to keep costs down? Yes, will work closely.
- **Public Comment:**
- None
- Sullivan: stick with budget and go with proposal #1. Audio most pressing issue.
- Brown: favor the audio proposal and include wiring for video.

- Brewster: other ideas were not implemented during last upgrade. Easier to do things at one time. Support budget amendment for proposal #2.
- Friedel: court needs improved audio and video. Can Council contingency be used to fund the cost difference? Yes.
- Consensus: January 22 Council meeting - staff will prepare staff report and proposed contract with necessary audio and as much video as can be accomplished within the proposal #2 budget.

TOPIC #3	Bresnan Communications Franchise Contract
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Brent Brooks, City Attorney: will do another work session presentation before bringing the ordinance to Council. Can still make changes at that point.
- Brown: Sullivan thoughts about what to ask Charter for its assistance with the Council audio and video?
- Sullivan: Future programming capabilities, mainly for Community 7 channel.
- Clark: question about PEG and franchise fee, most goes to Channel 7? Yes, would like Channel 7 and Charter representative to attend work session to answer questions.
- Cromley: work session before regular meeting? Brooks: Yes, able to look at in advance.
- **Public Comment:**
- None
- Sullivan: Charter has been buying other systems, forgotten about northwest states. Not happy with service. Want to see them invest more in Billings.
- Brewster: agree. Better service elsewhere and at half the cost. Need more investment.
- Brent Brooks, City Attorney: use Joe Van Eaton, attorney, for telecommunications. Have more robust franchise agreement than other MT cities, will send agreements when this comes back to Council work session.

TOPIC #4	Integrated Water Plan
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Dave Mumford – introduces Lewis Engle for the presentation. Amanda McGinnis and Craig Habben from HDR, Stacy Robinson, Land Design, Inc., PW Board chairs, 3 managers from water plant. Starting the 2019 CIP, so need feedback from Council.
- McGinnis: first integrated plan in MT, considers wastewater, water and stormwater. Last 10 years, state regulating stormwater discharges. Still be some more storage requests on the west end. Water reclamation (wastewater): DEQ regulating nitrogen and phosphorus discharges to the river. Looked at reclamation options. Want to stay in the river and want to use BBWA irrigation system to reuse water. New sampling shows that additional reductions in N may not be effective.

- Brewster: talked with BBWA?
- Mumford: yes, open to the idea and so is DEQ.
- Clark: regulations apply in late summer? Yes. City discharge would have very little impact on BBWA flow or quality.
- Sullivan: does city reclaimed water increase the P and N in the ditch? No.
- Ewalt: what happens to discharge during the off-season months? Discharge to the river. Looked at INL technology? No, but will investigate.
- Clark: measure River nutrients above and below city? Yes. Regulating only point-source dischargers.
- Lewis Engle: water quality and water borne illnesses. Shows winter and summer water use. Advantages of off-stream storage. Video to show a storage reservoir fed by the BBWA, and build a new treatment plant.
- Mumford: presented challenges and some long term solutions. Continue pursuing the plan elements?
- Friedel: how long would these improvements last the city? Decades up to 100 years possible.
- Sullivan: fee from BBWA to transport the water? Probably, but unknown amount.
- Yakawich: Joel's pond and Dover pond visited. Any partnerships with them? Will probably reach out to others, such as what City has done with Shiloh conservation area.
- Ewalt: why some gravel mine land left out of the deal? Knife River will keep concrete plant where it is and would like to reserve higher elevation land for commercial development.
- Ronning: appreciate work that PW is doing to preserve the river.
- Joy: how does removing P from water and producing fertilizer work? Being done in Canada.
- Brown: know the cost to discharge to the BBWA for 3 months? Not yet.
- Clark: have the money to start buying the KR land? Have cost estimate for it, without the reclamation cost credit. Want to know if City wants the land and approx. costs. Know the improvement costs? Don't know that yet. Use the swampy land at Cottonwood Park to build a new plant.
- **Public Comment:**
- Tom Llewellyn, 1925 Grand Avenue, Billings, Montana: chair of Public Works Board, have been informed about this as study progressed. Think leapfrog development is bad.
- Richard Blain, no address given: great ideas
- Rod Wilson, past Board Chair: good project
- Clark: rural subdivisions with high nitrates. Need our treated water? Yes, west end may be out of well water in 20 years.

TOPIC #5	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Sullivan resigns effective January 16, 2018. Will work on January 20 work plan outline if CMs send ideas to him.
- Cole: Brooks outline the Councilmember replacement process and will send out a written report. Brooks: 30 days for Mayor to appoint with Council consent, otherwise a special election required. Will research past process.
- Yakawich: thanks Sullivan
- Ronning: as a citizen, appreciated service.
- Cole: City Administrator (CA) search.
- McCandless: will provide report with options and ongoing obligations that Mercer has with City.
- Yakawich: thanks for CA update. Positive comments from constituents on local street plowing.
- Cole: plow gates being used?
- Mumford: gates are being used but amount of snow overwhelmed them. Local street plowing in Heights tonight. Used Facebook well. 14 hours per area. Took longer in first area but learned from it.
- Clark: clarify not going to pick up snow on local streets. Mumford: only snow pick up on arterial streets, cannot do residential streets.
- Ronning: missed streets will be plowed? Yes.
- Clark: private street plowing? Won't plow private streets, some off 17th and 32nd St. West.
- Brewster: would have sponsored an initiative but will hold it for the January 20 work plan meeting.

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

- Amaya Garcia Costas, 206 Avenue E, Billings, Montana: member of Human Relations Commission. Need 3 appointments. 2 approved and 1 was not. Asks Council to reconsider appointing Ken Crouch to the HRC.
- Cole: will discuss process and how to go forward.
- Sullivan: what is a quorum? 5 people present.