

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
May 15, 2018 Tuesday (Budget Only)

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor/Council (please check) x Cromley, x Yakawich, x Brewster, x Ewalt, x Joy, x Friedel, x Gibbs, x Ronning, x Clark, x Brown.

CM excused:

ADJOURN TIME: 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

TOPIC #1	Human Resources
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Mayor Cole: staff will keep presentations short, and ask Councilmembers to hold questions until presentation is done.
- Karla Stanton, Human Resources Director: presentation on HR, health fund, property and liability, challenges/projects, recruiting and retention, training and development.
- Friedel: 7% increase compared to 3 years ago? Yes, 8-10% annual increase is normal.
- Ewalt: \$6M in health fund restricted to that? Yes.
- Gibbs: current TPA? EBMS and preparing the RFP now for issuance later in year.
- Cole: applicant shortage? Technical, Fire consortium.
- **Public Comment:**
- None

TOPIC #2	Library
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Gavin Woltjer, Library Director: presentation, reports use statistics.
- Friedel: difference between Sunday business vs. Friday extra open hours?
- Cole: slides 7-8 revenues – 82% from tax. Slide 7 says taxes increase \$80k, but overall revenue is up \$200k.
- Brown: how much security is being added? 4 hours on Monday and put a 3rd guard in evening in winter.

- Yakawich: sounds unreasonable to bring repairmen from Denver, etc. Have to use certified mechanics. Haven't had to fly people here yet. Sophisticated equipment may require it in the future.
- Friedel: bike library? Will go to outlying locations for outreach, literacy, etc...
- Cole: occasional problems with transients... is it getting better or worse or other? Guests got more aggressive this winter, more staff training,
- Friedel: biggest transient issue? Treatment and support resources are exhausted, partnerships important, would be good to get more services at the library. Churches able to help? Have requested collaboration.
- Brown: library is safe. Agree, trying to be proactive.
- Ronning: library is wonderful. Work that Lisa Harmon does at First Church, human trafficking meetings at the library.
- **Public Comment:**
- None

TOPIC #3	Municipal Court
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Judge Sheila Kolar: presentation.... 25% of all protective orders in MT are issued by the Billings Municipal Court.
- Cole: fees and surcharges of \$1.6M, how much could extra traffic patrol increase revenues? a lot of traffic infractions but police can't be everywhere.
- Joy: how does the new sound system work? yes, have to get used to echo.
- Friedel: dealing with theft in department? Are there measures in place to prevent theft? Can't comment on it while its being investigated. Yes, we have adopted measures to prevent.
- Ronning: comment on drug courts since State reduced support? Legislature thought that Municipal Courts shouldn't be funded and pushed the money to the State District Courts. Will take referrals that District Court won't accept.
- Cole: how does facility work for you? Working well.
- **Public Comment:**
- None

TOPIC #4	Administration
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Andy Zoeller, Finance Manager: presentation.
- Cole: transfer out from non-department? Transfer to the Public Safety (PS) fund.
- Brown: how much increase in the PS fund transfer due to additional public safety personnel. Look at PS deficit and use General Fund to make up. Portion of increase is small relative to the total.

- Ronning: projected timeline for Babcock? Heard end of May possibly. McCandless: transfer around May 31st.
- Zoeller: question for Council. Last few years put the budget in 4 resolutions vs. previously did it with 1. What do you want next year? Brewster: some acrimony 2-3 years ago, split them up for separate votes and want to do it again this year.
- Friedel and Brown: want to continue with 4 resolutions, split into smaller pieces.
- Brewster: better opportunities to add to budget if desired.
- Cole: staff look at the categories from last year.
- Clark: break down the Mayor and Council and administrative personal services, would be wages and benefits? O&M would be memberships and tuitions, payments to the MLCT, infrastructure coalition, travel and training.
- Brewster: need to spend time talking about revenues – raising levy cap. Talk about it right after adopting FY19 budget.
- **Public Comment:**
- None

TOPIC #5	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- None

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

- Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, Montana: policy that there cannot be joint ventures. Fund outside services (only from BID?)
- Ewalt: public dollars being used so property acquisition number should be revealed.