

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
May 21, 2018 BUDGET ONLY

ATTENDANCE:

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

CM excused:

ADJOURN TIME: 9:05 pm

Agenda

TOPIC #1	Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID)
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Ron Spence, chair of the TBID board: shows YouTube video about Billings. Overview of upcoming events.
- Alex Tyson, Chamber of Commerce: 12.2 million visitors in 2017, \$305 million for Billings from out of state visitors. Overview of highlights and upcoming plans.
- Cromley: underground tunnels investigated? No, but recognize that we need to do more with them. Involvement with the art exhibits at airport? Some, but not all.
- Ronning: community diversity important and TBID needs to portray it better.
- Joy: talk about the competition that we face. Have to be strategic with how spending is done. Adjusting constantly to adapt to changes.
- Cole: fees from the State and hotel tax, nothing from City. Correct.
- Clark: how did we do on the American Dallas flight? Others know more but good summer, shaky winter, still money left in the grant. American considering expanding service.
- Yakawich: how can City promote more public exposure by the TBID? Always available to speak to groups.
- Gibbs: number of cars rented at airport? Uncertain of that answer. Kevin Ploehn could answer.
- **Public Comment:**
- none

TOPIC #2	Downtown Business Improvement District (BID)
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Randy Hafer, chair of the BID board: activist organization.

- Katy Easton, DBA CEO: formed in 2005, 10-year life, recreated in 2015, 57 City blocks in the district. Will bump up the public art component of strategic plan.
- Cromley: 2nd ROC? Still want to do it, but it would be citywide.
- Brown: time limit on the ROC funding?
- Ronning: work with Continuum of Care program? Invited them to the table to talk about their programs.
- Joy: what is “overhead” in the budget and why has it gone up? Trash, snow, that are provided in wide area.
- Cromley: people concerned about the vagrant problem are meeting? Community Innovations. Powerful meeting.
- Clark: website page is dated. Agree that it needs updating and upgrading. Community Innovations meeting on 5/23/18 at 3:30 at the Library.
- **Public Comment:**
- none

TOPIC #3	Administrative Services
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Larry Deschene, Motor Vehicle Maintenance Manager: presentation.
- Ronning: amazing that only 18 people can work on that many vehicles.
- Dave Watterson, IT Manager: presentation.
- Cole: website may not guide people to right destination or how to contact someone when they don't know what is wrong but emergent. Can contact departments through email, some people do not know which department is needed.
- Joy: design for easier use.
- Clark: GPS on vehicles? Police, Fire, Met, Solid Waste. Most department manage their own.
- Ronning: cyber training for Councilmembers? Highly encourage it.
- Saree Couture, Facilities Manager: presentation.
- Yakawich: how much does City pay for leases? Could gather that info.
- Cromley: interaction with lease property? Have helped with Miller Building.
- Joy: water and energy conservation efforts or status? Large air conditioning replaced recently which helps.
- Tracy Scott, Parking Manager: presentation.
- Yakawich: challenges for each division.
- Friedel: increased usage in smart meters? Most still using coins. Planning on upgraded features.
- Cromley: Consider Park II, Empire free parking after 5PM? Hotel uses them, guests like evening parking attendant, get info etc.
- McCandless: free parking would reduce revenue, would need to come up with lost revenue somewhere else.
- Clark: monthly parking permit users using hourly parking? Enforcement patrols.
- Cole: more 10-minute parking? Parking Board reviews requests. Working on maps and policy review.

- **Public Comment:**
- none

TOPIC #4	Aviation and Transit
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Kevin Ploehn, Aviation and Transit Director: presentation
- Yakawich: why not use more small buses? May use some more but need large buses for several routes
- Ronning: Billings Clinic employees might use the airport bus because parking around the hospital is in short supply.
- Ronning: art improvements at new airport terminal? Current one doesn't accommodate it but expansion might give some room for it.
- Ewalt: rates? Low \$20's for monthly pass.
- Cole: which bus will go to the airport? Take a bus that had a dead time during route.
- Yakawich: challenges? Fuel prices, RFP for refurbished buses.
- **Public Comment:**
- none

TOPIC #5	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Clark: will sponsor an initiative to move business meetings to 5:30 pm.
- Mayor: isn't that a code? Brent Brooks, City Attorney: yes, but Council can amend.
- Ewalt: some concern for people that work.
- Brewster: people that want to attend can arrive a little late. Wait until the item they're interested in.
- Gibbs: streamline meetings to shorten the time.
- Joy: Allentown PA meets 1+ hour but multiple times/week. (up to 3 times per week)
- Ronning: does the City own property on the south side of Rimrock at about Wisconsin? McCandless: can research.
- Yakawich: create an ad-hoc advisory committee on USS Billings Commissioning? Advisable to create one if public money will be spent.
- Cole: necessary if only 2 Councilmembers attend? Still advisable, with committee agendas, advertise meetings, public comments.
- **Public Comment**
- none

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

- none