

# City Council Work Session

5:30 PM  
Council Chambers  
July 2, 2018

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Mayor/Council** (please check)  Cole,  Cromley,  Yakawich,  Brewster,  Ewalt,  Joy,  Friedel,  Gibbs,  Ronning,  Clark,  Brown.  
**CM excused:** Cole. **Brewster announces fireworks illegal in the city.**

**ADJOURN TIME:** 7:00

## Agenda

TOPIC #1	Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Ed Gulick: chair of the committee. Reviews the presentation.
- Cromley: Skyline trail map, estimated cost \$3.5M. Why so much and where does it run? Gulick: rimrocks to highway, don't know why cost is so high.
- Cromley: any single fund raising method being promoted? Gulick: know about conversations among Trail Net and city staff about water bills donation. Proposal still being discussed. Council may see it in couple months.
- Cromley: how many bikes can attach to the new stands? New stands hold 2.
- Gibbs: TIGER grant? McCandless: can't do it this year, but will prepare for next year.
- Yakawich: why cost \$350k/mile? Methods to reduce costs? Gulick: consider unpaved but that limits users.
- Yakawich: gas tax use for trails – how? McCandless: new gas tax (4.5 cents) being used for current projects. Old gas tax being saved for inner belt loop in 2-3 phases. Legislature wants new gas tax money spent quickly to create jobs, etc. Council could request gas tax money to be spent for bike/pedestrian facilities.
- Brown: boulevards discussed but actually used? Not yet.
- Brown: Public Works (PW) planning the boulevard paths? Don't know but will find out and report
- Brown: don't see how new bike racks save space.
- Joy: how do we get public bought into donating money for trails through utility bills? Gulick: haven't seen how it would work, yet.
- Ewalt: what are bikers doing to fund the facilities? State law to put tax on bike purchases?
- Friedel: survey questions – how were they asked? Gulick: Don't know, think it was PRPL survey.
- Wyeth Friday: PW has plan to build path on 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. North. Skyline Trail is expensive because of length, slope, stormwater challenges. Utility bill idea will come to council in couple months. Will provide the PRPL survey to Council.

- Brown: thought that bike boulevard would get bikers off major streets and parallel them. Mostly striping and signing? Friday: yes. Routes are identified in master plan, need more specific engineering.
- Yakawich: Marathon trail to host marathons, cost \$7.5M. can trail be unpaved in some areas and reduce cost? Friday: daily use and marathons, including qualifying marathons, so surfacing is important.
- Yakawich: securing \$2M for Centennial park, took lots of years. Concerned that trails will not be funded because the cost is so high.
- Ronning: Big Sky State Games have a marathon or ½ marathon? Lots of people attend and could be good for economy. Friday: ½ only at this time, whole marathon could be on the new trails.
- Brewster: paving is important for long term maintainability.
- **Public Comment:**
- Kathy Aragon, 645 O'Malley Drive, Billings, Montana: appreciate that Council is talking about these items. Want Council's help to determine what is possible and best ideas for funding.

TOPIC #2	2019 Legislature and Lobbying:
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Bruce McCandless, City Administrator: overview, history and presentation. Review different options for 2019 Legislative session.
- Cromley: Ed Bartlett recommended anyone? Yes, he has contacted them to let them know of interest.
- Ewalt: beneficial impacts of lobbyist? Success can be measured by what did not happen. Have defeated bills that would have been harmful for City.
- Ronning: how engaged is City in legislative session? Not enough, could do more. How can Council get information on results? Select issues of importance and can develop information. May look for assistance from outside City staff.
- Brown: City staff time spent in Helena? McCandless: 5-10 hours per week for myself, department heads engaged but only go when needed. Without lobbyist, time spent would dramatically increase.
- Cromley: would be nearly impossible for City staff to sort through and comprehend bills. Need lobbyist to do it.
- Brewster: need professional lobbyist. Would like more staff and Council involvement.
- Joy: in favor of lobbyist.
- Brown: full time or part time? Opinions vary.
- Ronning: government runs very differently than small town/rural areas. Not many cities hire lobbyists.
- Cromley: Council is not full time like County Commissioners.
- Brewster: consensus: get RFP done and make changes on draft.
- **Public Comment:**
- none

TOPIC #3	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Friedel: thanks for water meter issue work.
- Ronning: thanks from a friend who lives on Mountain View – impressed with City staff.
- Clark: attended Coalition meeting last week. Lots of talk about sales tax. Infrastructure too.
- Ewalt: short microphone batteries? McCandless: Clerk Bohlman researched and mics must be turned off with switch on the bottom of the mic base.
- Yakawich: thanks for splash pad and street lights repair.
- **Public Comment:**
- none

TOPIC #4	Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- none