

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BILLINGS CITY COUNCIL

July 8, 2019

The Billings City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers located on the second floor of the Police Facility, 220 North 27th Street, Billings, Montana. Mayor Cole called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and served as the meeting's presiding officer. Councilmember Ewalt gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL: Councilmembers present on roll call were: Cromley, Yakawich, Neese, Ewalt, Joy, Friedel, Gibbs, Ronning, Clark and Brown.

MINUTES: June 10, 2019 - Councilmember Clark moved for approval, seconded by Councilmember Neese. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

June 24, 2019 - Pending

COURTESIES:

- Councilmember Yakawich stated there would be an auction on July 13th to raise funds for the USS Billings commissioning at American Legion Post 4, at 1540 Broadwater Avenue.
- Councilmember Neese thanked Harvest Church for putting on a great 4th of July event.
- Mayor Cole stated Rimrock Mall also had a fireworks show at Stewart Park.
- Councilmember Ronning thanked the constituents that did not light fireworks within the City limits.
- Kevin Ploehn, Aviation and Transit Director, gave a 3D Airport Terminal Expansion Fly Through presentation.

PROCLAMATIONS:

- There were no proclamations.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS - CHRIS KUKULSKI

- Mr. Kukulski informed Council that there were no items in the ex-parte notebook.
- Mr. Kukulski stated the Planning Department had received a few written public comments regarding Item 2, South Billings Boulevard Urban Renewal Plan (SBURRD) and that they had been forwarded to the Mayor and Council.
- Mr. Kukulski advised that the Council Noise Ordinance Subcommittee would have its first meeting on Thursday, July 11th, 4:00 PM-5:00 PM, in the City Hall Conference Room.

PUBLIC COMMENT on “NON-PUBLIC HEARING” Agenda Items: 1 ONLY. Speaker sign-in required. (Comments are limited to three (3) minutes. Please sign the roster at the cart located at the back of the Council chambers or at the podium. Comments on items listed as public hearing items will be heard ONLY during the designated public hearing time for each respective item. For items not on this agenda, public comment will be taken at the end of the agenda.)

The public comment period was opened.

There were no public comments, and the public comment period was closed.

1. **CONSENT AGENDA** -- Separations:

A. **Bid Awards:**

1. **Airport Ramp Replacement Project.** (6/25/19) Recommend Knife River - Billings Division; \$3,081,589.30.

B. **Subdivision Improvement Agreement Amendment, Legacy Subdivision.**

C. **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** between the City of Billings and Billings Public Schools, Billings Career Center and Billings Catholic Schools for School Resource Officer Program; \$357,976.

D. **Bills for the week of:**

1. June 3, 2019
2. June 10, 2019

Councilmember Brown separated Item 1D1 in order to abstain.

Councilmember Ewalt, in reference to Item 1C, asked for clarification on the variances in the School Resource Officers (SRO) costs. Rich St. John, Police Chief, stated the total cost for all officers would be \$613,752 and the Police Department would pay \$255,766 of that amount. Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator, stated the agreements negotiated with School District 2 had varied throughout the years and that would contribute to the difference is SRO costs.

Mayor Cole asked for clarification on scaling back the program, if needed. Chief St. John stated the officers from the SRO Program, and various task forces could be used if they were needed for police calls. He added that the SRO program was a very valuable asset to the City and schools.

Councilmember Joy moved for approval of the entire Consent Agenda, with the exception of Item 1D1, seconded by Councilmember Cromley. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Clark moved for approval of Item 1D1, seconded by Councilmember Friedel. On a voice vote, the motion was approved 10-0, Councilmember Brown abstained.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING ORDINANCE amending the South Billings Boulevard Urban Renewal Plan (SBBURD). Staff recommends approval. (Action: approval of disapproval of staff recommendation.)

Wyeth Friday, Planning Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the purpose of the South Billings Boulevard Urban Renewal Plan amendments. He added there had been significant participation from the South Billings Urban Renewal Association (SBURA), and the City Finance, Legal and Administration departments. He gave an overview of the projects included in the current plan and future projects and programs.

The public hearing was opened.

- **Frank Fuhrmann, 433 Hillview Lane, Billings, Montana:** stated he would like to see the entire City pay for the new evidence center and not just the Southside TIF District residents.
- **Jerry Driscoll, 4344 Stone Street, Billings, Montana:** stated he did not see a need for another swimming pool. He added that the City was not taking care of the blight and street improvement issues.
- **Reverend Fred Rodda, 4212 Clevenger Avenue, Billings, Montana:** stated he did not think that the proposed aquatics center and the evidence center should be paid for by only area residents. He added that he was already paying an extra \$100 per month to pay for a recent SID in the area.
- **Frank Berry, 2420 Rimrock Road, Billings, Montana:** asked for clarification on how future projects would affect Midland Road. Mayor Cole stated the Midland Road improvements were complete and there were no plans for further construction on Midland Road.
- **Roger Perkins, 4154 Mitchell Avenue, Billings, Montana:** stated he hoped the aquatics center and evidence center projects did not take priority over the existing planned infrastructure. He added it was not fair for people in the area to be financially responsible and would like to see all taxpayers pay for the proposed projects. Councilmember Friedel recommended attending the SBURA meetings to stay informed of projects in the area.
- **Carolyn Rukstad, South Billings Boulevard Urban Renewal Association (SBURA):** stated they would like more people to attend the SBURA meetings. Councilmember Gibbs asked for an update on the status of the consultant contract for SBURA. Ms. Rukstad stated they were drafting a Request for Proposals (RFP) and hoped to have the position filled within the next three months.

Councilmember Neese asked for clarification on the side street projects, such as Hallowell Lane. Ms. Rukstad stated those projects were scheduled for completion in the next 1-2 years. She added that SBURA had to wait for underground construction to be completed by Public Works before they could begin the surfacing.

Councilmember Ronning asked if project information was available on SBURA's website. Ms. Rukstad responded affirmatively.

Councilmember Ronning requested that SBURA send Council a timeline for the new consultant hiring process.

Councilmember Neese asked about the financial expectations SBURA had for the new aquatics center. Ms. Rukstad stated they needed other entities to step forward and show interest in order to move forward with plans. She added that the aquatics center was in the very early planning stages, and was not taking priority over existing projects.

There were no further speakers, and the public hearing was closed.

Councilmember Yakawich moved for approval of Item 2, seconded by Councilmember Friedel. Council discussed the improvements in the area and upcoming projects.

Councilmember Ewalt asked for clarification on Council's role in the SBURA decisions. Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, stated the SBURA Board asked Council to consider the usage of its resources for projects annually and Council was able to approve or amend the budget they presented. Councilmember Neese asked for legal counsel on the allowance of specific projects as defined by TIF Districts. Brent Brooks, City Attorney, stated that the statute allowed for it as long as the purpose was to eliminate blight.

On a voice vote, the motion to approve Item 2 was approved, unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT on "NON-AGENDA ITEMS". Speaker Sign-in required.
(Restricted to ONLY items not on this printed agenda. Comments are limited to 3 minutes. Please sign the roster at the cart located at the back of the Council chambers or at the podium.)

The public comment period was opened.

- **Ken Crouch, 1642 Wembly Place, Billings, Montana:** stated he hoped enough cities would pass an Indigenous People's Day so Billings could follow.
- **Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, Montana:** stated he could not get a copy of the contract from SBURA and the public had a right to be informed.

There were no further speakers, and the public comment period was closed.

COUNCIL INITIATIVES:

There were no Council Initiatives.

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.



CITY OF BILLINGS

BY: William A. Cole
William A. Cole, Mayor

ATTEST:

BY: Denise R. Bohleman
Denise R. Bohleman, City Clerk