

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BILLINGS CITY COUNCIL

August 14, 2006

The Billings City Council met in a special session in the Council Chambers, located on the Second Floor of the Police Facility at 220 North 27th Street, Billings, Montana. Mayor Ron Tussing called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and served as the meeting's presiding officer.

ROLL CALL – Councilmembers present on roll call were: Ronquillo, Gaghen, Stevens, Brewster, Veis, Ruegamer, Ulledalen, Boyer, Jones and Clark.

PUBLIC COMMENT on “NON-PUBLIC HEARING” Agenda Items: #1 and #2 ONLY. Speaker sign-in required. (Comments offered here are limited to 1 minute per speaker. Please sign up on the clipboard located at the podium. Comment on items listed as public hearing items will be heard ONLY during the designated public hearing time for each respective item.)

(NOTE: For Items not on this agenda, public comment will be taken at the end of the agenda. Please sign up on the clipboard located at the back of the room.)

- TOM ZURBUCHEN OF 1747 WICKS LN. spoke on Cobb Field, noting that both the Cobb Field levy and the Public Safety levy on the same ballot will result in too much competition for the tax dollar. He said the City does not have the resources to pass both levies and the Council should concentrate on one issue at a time.
- JOE WHITE OF 926 N. 30TH ST. said the City should hire someone locally for the position of City Administrator.

SPECIAL AGENDA:

1. CITY ADMINISTRATOR RECRUITMENT FINALIST SELECTION. Staff recommends approval. (Action: approval or disapproval of Staff recommendation.)

There was no Staff presentation. Councilmember Veis recommended voting for each candidate and those candidates receiving six or more votes would get an interview. The following candidates received six or more votes: (1) Kelly Arnold, (2) Don Cooper and (3) Tina Volek. Councilmember Ulledalen moved for telephone interviews with those three candidates, seconded by Councilmember Gaghen. Councilmember Ronquillo said he prefers to meet the candidates in person rather than a phone interview. Councilmember Ruegamer said someone from the Council needs to go to each candidate's hometown in order to talk to citizens and find out how the candidate handles specific situations. Councilmember Boyer said a phone interview would, or could eliminate some candidates. Councilmember Clark said phone interviews have worked well with other candidates that the City is interviewing. On a roll call vote, the motion was disapproved. Councilmembers voting “yes” were: Gaghen, Ruegamer, Ulledalen, Boyer and Clark. Councilmembers voting “no” were: Ronquillo, Stevens, Brewster, Veis, Jones, and Mayor Tussing.

Councilmember Brewster moved to bring the three candidates in for face-to-face interviews on Sept. 15 or as soon as possible, seconded by Councilmember Ronquillo. Councilmember Ulledalen asked if the interviews could be set for an earlier date. Councilmember Veis reminded the Council that an earlier date could not be agreed upon by the Council at a previous work session. On a voice vote, the motion was approved. Councilmember Clark and Ruegamer voted “no”.

Councilmember Veis asked if a subcommittee should be established to visit the hometown of the candidates. Councilmember Brewster recommended waiting until after the interview before visiting the hometown of the candidates. Councilmember Ulledalen said inquiries could be made by phone saving the City money. Councilmember Boyer said the Council must treat Interim City Administrator Tina Volek the same as the other candidates. Therefore, if “key people” in each community are surveyed, “key people” in Billings must also be surveyed.

Mayor Tussing asked if community groups would be able to talk with the candidates. Councilmember Brewster said there would be time for the candidates to meet with any interested community groups. Councilmember Gaghen asked if the City would be paying for the spouse to accompany the candidate for the interview. Councilmember Brewster said if the Council decided to offer the position to a candidate, then it would be appropriate to bring in the spouse. Councilmember Clark said Human Resources can handle the arrangements for interviews on September 15th or 16th. Mayor Tussing appointed a subcommittee including Councilmembers Boyer, Brewster and Veis to arrange for feedback from the community groups.

2. RESOLUTION 06-18458 amending Res. #06-18456 and submitting the question of issuance of \$12,500,000 General Obligation Bonds for the design and construction of a new baseball stadium to City of Billings’ voters. Staff recommends approval. (Action: approval or disapproval of Staff recommendation.)

Deputy City Administrator Bruce McCandless reminded the Council that they had received a new draft of this resolution this evening. Assistant City Attorney Bonnie Sutherland said the resolution was re-written to provide consistent language throughout the document. Councilmember Clark moved to accept the new ballot resolution as corrected in version #2, seconded by Councilmember Brewster. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT on Non-Agenda Items -- Speaker sign-in required. (Restricted to ONLY items not on this printed agenda; comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker. Please sign up on the clipboard located at the back of the Council Chambers.)

There were no speakers.

ADJOURN – With all business for the special meeting complete, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:27 P.M.

THE CITY OF BILLINGS:

By: _____
Ron Tussing, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BY: _____
Tami Greeley, Deputy City Clerk