

Agenda Items

City of Billings
Weekly Legislative Report
Fifth Week of the Montana Legislature
February 7, 2013

As of today, February 7th, 705 bills have been introduced (of the 2128 bill draft requests filed). Budget hearings under HB 2 continue for House Appropriations Sub-Committees. Although not part of HB 2, Executive Action was taken this week on the K-12 School Funding Plan (SB 175) and the Bonding Program or JOBS Bill (HB 14). The Senate Education Committee voted 10 to 0 to support SB 175, which includes increases in State funding for education of over \$100 million. The Bonding Bill (HB 14) was also supported in Executive Action by the Long-Range Planning Sub-Committee by a vote of 4 to 2. HB 14 would fund construction of university system buildings in six Montana cities, including the new Science Building at MSU-B, and the new museum in Helena, and a law enforcement building in Butte. The funding for the facility in Butte, which is a combined operations center for several law enforcement agencies, is \$1.6 million. For this Report the following topics and bills are also highlighted:

- The Select Joint Committee on Pension Reform, Sen. Dave Lewis as Chair, meets every Tuesday and Thursday. This week the Select Committee considered proposals related to the teachers retirement system. Executive Action on the many proposals has not yet been scheduled.
- HB 314, to revise Special District laws, is pending Executive Action in House Local Government Committee. We opposed the transition section of the Bill (Section 10) which would require Billings to redo the process to form the citywide park maintenance district. We anticipate that an amendment will be introduced in the Committee to delete this Section. HB 185, sponsored by Rep. Clayton Fiscus, was tabled in House Taxation Committee. HB 185 would have required a referendum for all new park districts, if a fee was requested.
- SB 186, to adopt a primary seat belt law, was tabled in Senate Judiciary Committee.
- The Senate and House both passed resolutions this week recommending that the Districting Commission amend its plan when it meets to take final actions on February 12th. The House Resolution requests the Commission to redraw the boundaries of a number of districts, including House Districts 47, 48, 49 and 50 in Billings and Yellowstone County, to make the districts more compact and “square-like”.
- SB 111 would add three small cities as urban areas (as already defined in Federal regulations) and redistribute Urban Highway Funding Allocations. The Bill has passed the Senate and was “Concurred In” by the House Transportation Committee this week. The impact to Billings could be a reduction in federal highway funds of about \$113,000 of the approximate \$2.5 million the City anticipates receiving.

I look forward to discussing these and other legislative matters with City Administrator Volek and City Council. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like information on any particular topic or bill.

Ed Bartlett, City of Billings Lobbyist, cell: 406-431-6014

Other Items



FROM THE DESK OF . . . PATRICK M. WEBER

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MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
CC: Tina Volek
Date: 02/08/13
Subject: Mid-Fiscal Year Parking Fund Report

Attached is a mid-fiscal year Parking Fund report. The steps that staff, the Parking Advisory Board and the Council took in preparing and approving the FY 13 budget had the desired effect of balancing the fund and improving its cash position.

There are several factors that facilitated the change in the cash position and balancing the budget of the Parking Fund, which are as follows:

1. The Parking Fund transfer to the N 27 TIF Fund in the amount of \$591,000, which was originally to be used for land assemblage for the Empire Garage, was reversed.
 - a. This brought the FY 12 ending cash balance to \$346,508.
2. Fine and meter charges were increased for FY 13.
3. The transfer of \$233,000 to the General Fund was eliminated.
4. There are one-time revenues in FY 13 in the amount of \$200,000 for an energy rebate from NorthWestern Energy for the lighting projects at Park I and Park II.
5. Debt Service expense on the Park II expansion will also be \$300,000 less than in previous years. The first payment on the refinanced lease will not be until September 2013, which is in FY 14. This results in Debt Service expense in FY 13 to be \$214,000 less than budget.
6. There also was unanticipated revenue from the Park IV garage in the amount of \$25,138 because Parking operated the garage in July 2012, the first month of FY 13.

The FY 14 estimate shows a small revenue shortfall, but that will certainly change as staff prepares a recommended budget and as the Council considers whether to create a Parking Commission.

PARKING FUND QUARTERLY REPORT for the month ended DECEMBER 31, 2012

FUND 521	Actual FY 12	APPROVED FY 13	YTD Actual FY 13	% YTD Actual to Approved	Estimated FY 13	Estimated FY 14
Beginning Cash	\$ -	\$ (276,812)	\$ -		\$ 346,508	\$ 872,876
REVENUES:						
PARKING METER INCOME	\$ 274,427	\$ 370,545	\$ 164,114	44.3%	\$ 328,300	\$ 328,300
VIOLATIONS	118,266	200,684	66,561	33.2%	134,000	134,000
SURFACE LOTS	52,376	47,900	32,450	67.7%	64,900	64,900
PARK 1 - GARAGE	240,396	247,000	112,040	45.4%	224,000	224,000
PARK 1 - STORE RENTAL	53,875	74,500	37,076	49.8%	74,500	74,500
PARK 2	542,604	522,400	250,350	47.9%	500,700	500,700
PARK 3	152,553	147,500	75,482	51.2%	151,600	151,600
PARK 4	287,181	-	25,138		25,138	-
ISSUE OF A LOAN	593,151	-	-		-	-
INVESTMENT EARNINGS	3,204	3,851	432	11.2%	900	900
SALE OF CAPITAL	1,001	-	-		-	-
BOND SALE FINANCING	-	-	-		-	-
TIF TRANSFER	-	100,000	-		100,000	100,000
<i>One-Time</i> LIGHTING REBATE-NW ENERGY	-	163,980	-		200,000	-
MISC. REVENUE	-	-	45		-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 2,319,034	\$ 1,878,360	\$ 763,688	40.7%	\$ 1,804,038	\$ 1,578,900
EXPENSES:						
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 715,225	\$ 696,816	\$ 312,877	44.9%	\$696,816	\$721,816
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	1,395,089	540,939	279,501	51.7%	540,939	568,939
CAPITAL	202,027	-	25,000		-	35,000
DEBT SERVICE ¹	292,440	253,819	13,005	5.1%	39,915	255,800
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	233,308	-	-		-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,838,089	\$ 1,491,574	\$ 630,383	42.3%	\$ 1,277,670	\$ 1,581,555
Revenue Over/(Under) Expense	\$ (519,055)	\$ 386,786	\$ 133,305		\$ 526,368	\$ (2,655)
Ending Cash	² \$ 346,508	\$ 109,974	\$ -		\$ 872,876	\$ 870,221

Note ¹ The Debt Service line for FY 12 actual does not contain the principle amount of \$210,975.

Note ² \$591,000 transferred back from the N 27th TIF to eliminate an ending negative cash balance.



FROM THE DESK OF . . .

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Assistant City Administrator

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February 8, 2013

TO: Mayor and City Council
Tina Volek, City Administrator

SUBJECT: Empire Parking Garage Retail Unit Option

When the City purchased the Empire Garage property from Mr. Honaker and Mr. Nelson in April 2011, it agreed that the two parties would have options to purchase some or all of the retail space being planned for the new building's first floor. The agreements require the City to establish the purchase price, notify the two parties and allow 20 days to exercise the options. Staff delivered the notices to Mr. Honaker and Mr. Nelson on February 7th. A property evaluation that NAI Business Properties prepared for the DBP established the option price.

If either party fails to exercise his option, the City must follow City Code, Section 22-900 in order to sell the property. That process requires an open solicitation, notifying surrounding property owners and conducting a public hearing before Council determines whether a purchase offer is acceptable. If the City receives an acceptable offer, it must offer Mr. Honaker and/or Mr. Nelson an opportunity to match the price and purchase the property.

This will be an unusual and interesting time for the City since it doesn't usually option and sell retail property within a condominium. Mr. Nelson, Mr. Honaker or others who would like to lease or purchase the property may contact you for information or to lobby for your support. Please refer those individuals to me so that I can ensure that the City complies with its prior agreements and obtains the best possible prices for its property.



February 2013



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28

Special Event Calendar

***Approval Pending**

For questions or details:
wellbrooks@ci.billings.mt.us



March 2013



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

1 0 1 1 1 2 1 3 1 4 1 5 1 6
 *ST. Patrick's Day
 Parade & Celtic
 Street Fair
 9:30am-2pm

1 7 1 8 1 9 2 0 2 1 2 2 2 3
 *Shamrock Run
 11-30am-1:45pm

2 4 2 5 2 6 2 7 2 8 2 9 3 0
 *Spare Change for
 Real Change Run
 7:30am-12pm

3 1

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April 2013



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 2 3 4 5 6

***Elephants on
Broadway
5pm-9pm
Downtown**

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

***Scheels Run for
Ryan
7am-11am
Westend**

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

28 29 30

Special Event Calendar

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