

# City Council Work Session

5:30 PM  
Council Chambers  
Date: May 13, 2014

## ATTENDANCE:

Mayor/Council X Hanel, X Cromley, X Yakawich, X Cimmino, X Pitman, X  
McFadden, X Bird, X Swanson, X McCall, X Crouch, X Brown

## Agenda

(Budget Only)

### TOPIC #1: Review of Previous Budget Work Session

- Tina Volek: Purpose of this item on the Agenda, was to allow the Council to review the material presented and ask questions.
- Cimmino: Questions were asked and Mr. Weber answered regarding the funding sources for Building, Planning, and Community Development at the Miller Building.
- Public Comment: Tom Zurbuchen.: Last Monday, Staff presented tax revenues for the GF and the Public Safety Fund. When those are compared with last years budget, the GF tax revenue goes down, Public Safety tax revenue goes up. The State changed the formula and that makes it alright? What the State used to do was set property boundaries. Then we applied the mills to property boundaries. The State has never come in and withdrew GF or added to Public Safety. Is this something new? Are we going to have different taxable values on our properties now? How did the State change this so that the tax revenue from one dept. goes up, and another goes down when the mills are the same? Every year when there is a campaign for an open seat on the Council, candidates throughout the City say that they are going to critique every line of the budget. This is a line of the budget and nobody seems concerned. What value is the budget when the revenues defy logic this way? This budget makes no sense when the revenues aren't uniform. It stands to reason one of the four numbers is an error.
- Tina Volek: There is the GF and the two Public Safety Levies. The second Public Safety Levy approved in 2004 is for a flat dollar amount. Whatever Mills it takes to generate that amount of money, \$8.2M, it is a consistent number that comes in. What we indicated to Mr. Zurbuchen earlier was that the GF taxes are going to be lower because the Legislature reduced the personal property taxes if you remember, which are then given back to us in the HB 124 entitlement. But, that is not property taxes. This will be changed for the budget. We did not change the amount for the #1 Levy which was adopted in 1999, and to which the same principle applied. That number will be changed when we get a revised document. I will also point out that we are going to be in the first year of a six year reappraisal cycle, which means evaluation is rolled back as well.
- Mayor Hanel: What you have described is a very complicated State Budget.

### TOPIC #2: Municipal Court

- Judge Kolar: Here to present the 2015 Budget. We became a Court of Record in 1996. We handle the most cases in the State. We handle the misdemeanors and municipal infractions

that we switched over three years ago when I took the bench. We do have several grants that do support our Treatment Court (DUI), our Drug Court, and our Mental Health Court. Four positions are funded by that grant. Those grants will be coming due. Last year I said I was going to go to the State and try to get funding for the Mental Health Court. It sounds like we are going to get this funding to encompass that court so we don't have to keep asking for grants. Our Mental Health Court has been I believe a big success. And it helps a lot of individuals that are in the system. It gives them more guidance. We have the Mental Health Center working with us. We have a Case Manager that we have hired through the grant, and we have case managers through the Mental Health Center who work individually with these participants. We pay for one, and the other one Mental Health Center pays for. We hooked up into their system, and when we get these participants, it doesn't cost that much of the grant because we have services that exist in the community. That is what one of my goals was with Mental Health Center was to get them working with our treatment court because the funding was already there. We are a Mentor Court. This means one in fourteen in the nation. As a treatment court, we are receiving our plaque tomorrow. 70% of our budget goes to personnel, and 27% goes to operations. It really doesn't change much it is just the longevity of our employees. That is why our budget has gone up. Do have printouts for you. Shows how many employees they have: 4 full time grant funded; 13 through the City; 2 part-timers. All positions are filled but 1. Currently looking for applicants to fill that position. Biggest challenge has been space. Very pleased we are doing a space study. Will hopefully get some good answers and security will help us as well with our back courtroom. Has been the issue for the last 2 years. We are looking forward to the Master Plan.

- Mayor Hanel: What security do you have for your back courtroom?
- Judge Kolar: Will have people go through the metal detector and then come in courtroom and go through the same security. We will pull about 10-15 individuals, they will be called and then we will escort them to the back. We do have a Bailiff in the back, and we have the officer up front.

Our budget as of today, our revenues is \$1,279,000. Our grants will be ending in a couple of years and so that is one of our big challenges as well to keep the treatment courts running.

- Yakawich: Do you have someone in your office that seeks out grants?
- Judge Kolar: Me, my Administrator, and our coordinators all get together, brainstorm then find and write the grant. Not an easy task. Big chunk of money. \$555,000. A lot of it goes for full time employees. It also goes to the treatment at Rimrock. This is different than the Mental Health Court because they are hooked into State funding already. We have people that have been working with the Mental Health Center in the past and so those individuals will get them hooked back up to Mental Health Center which is a huge savings for our Court.
- Bird: How did you receive the honor of being a mentor?
- Judge Kolar: Every two years you have to go through a questionnaire. They look at your policy and know you have treatment court. They come to a Psych visit, and they interview all of the team members. They also talk to some participants that are actually in the court. Then they decide if they want to designate that. One of the benefits besides being a mentor court is that we also receive free training.
- Bird: You have a wish list for secured back court space.
- Judge Kolar: Yes, excited for whatever they decide.
- Bird: What are you looking for as far as securing the back court space?
- Judge Kolar: What I would like is to create another courtroom and have an entrance we all come through for all courtrooms. We would have to take some office space away from me,

and the City Attorney's office. Something we all need to discuss. Ideally we would like to have a second floor.

- Crouch: Did I hear you say that in a couple of years, some of these \$555,000 grant dollars will end?
- Judge Kolar: They will. We are okay for maybe a year.
- Swanson: How large of an area do your patients come from for the participants of the treatment court?
- Judge Kolar: Anybody that commits a crime in the City limits is welcome in our treatment court. Some of them are out of the County and they are in our DUI Court and don't have a way to get to treatment because some of them don't have driver's license and treatment is several times a week. Not having transportation is very difficult.
- Pitman: Did you get any money from the fund last year for your wish list?
- Judge Kolar: All issues were addressed by the IT Dept.
- Bird: Possibly losing some funding for treatment courts in a couple of years. The \$500,000 investment in the various treatment courts in Billings, save the City quite a bit of money? Do you have any data what the cost savings is? Important for the Council to understand.
- Judge Kolar: Yes. Can access it. When the participants buy into it, they are the ones doing the work. Many participants have graduated with amazing stories.
- Public Comment: None

### **TOPIC #3: Legal**

- Brent Brooks: Distributed hard copies of presentation. There are fourteen professionals in the City Attorney's Office. We have two divisions: Civil and Criminal. The Criminal does all of the Prosecutions within the City limits of Billings for misdemeanor violations. We handle appeals to District Court and things such as Probation Revocations which is another important part of our Criminal Division. Domestic Violence Unit is partially grant funded. A very experienced Staff. We don't have much turnover. Do have a Domestic Violence Investigator from the BPD that is grant funded. We are increasingly devoting one person (not full-time) to processing document requests. Sometimes other attorneys will request confidential criminal justice information. There are statutory limits on what we can give out to other attorneys.

What We Do: Essential Services Civil Division

- Mayor, City Council & Administration support
- In-house litigation and MMIA litigation support
- Oral and written opinions/advice
  - Specific attorney assigned to specific department or to specific areas of law
  - Risk management in cooperation with HR & MMIA
- Public document requests/review and fulfillment
- Legislative support to City lobbyist (bi-annual)
- Bi-annual tracking & implementation of new laws
- Major duties:
  - Document drafting/review
  - Collective bargaining agreement/grievances/arbitrations
  - Interpretation/application of City Charter, City Code, Titles 7 & 76, MCA
  - Insurance
  - Land use
  - Urban renewal/TIFD

Four Funding Sources for the City Attorney Office – General Fund is where we get all of our sources – revenue. A&T/ PW (Aviation and Transit / Public Works). They do utilize our

services quite a bit. Both of those departments have contributed enormously to an attorney position in our office. Then we have Statutory Surcharges that are required in Title 46, by our State Code.

**Personal Services Comparison - FY14 & FY15**

	<b>Adopted Fiscal Year 2014</b>	<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2015</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Salary and Benefits</b>	\$1,034,830	\$1,090,850	+ \$56,020*
<b>Domestic Violence Grants Salary &amp; Benefits</b>	\$281,443	\$299,565	+ \$18,122*
<b>Total</b>	\$1,316,273	\$1,390,415	+ \$74,142

**O & M Comparison - FY 14 & FY 15**

	<b>Adopted Fiscal Year 2014</b>	<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2015</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>O &amp; M</b>	\$ 255,583	\$ 170, 927	- \$ 84,656
<b>Domestic Violence Grants – O &amp; M</b>	\$ 1,890	\$ 1,880	- \$10
<b>Total</b>	\$ 257,473	\$ 172,807	- \$ 84,666

**Domestic Violence Grants Operating Budget Comparison – FY 14 & FY 15**

	<b>Adopted Fiscal Year 2014</b>	<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2015</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Grant Funds</b>	\$ 71,732	\$ 70,542	-\$ 1,190
<b>City Match</b>	\$ 211, 601	\$ 230,903*	+ \$ 19,302*
<b>Total</b>	\$ 283,333	\$ 301,445*	+ \$18,112*

- Yakawich: Total on grants?
- Brent Brooks: Total requested this is around \$70,542. That is a total of two separate grants from Board of Crime Control. Many grants often have a limited shelf life. We have been receiving grant renewals from the Board of Crime Control for about 12 or 13 years now. The Board of Crime Control gets this grant from the Federal Government from Congress. Each State gets a certain amount of Domestic Violence funding.
- Pitman: Software you purchased last year – does that have updates or costs to look at in the future?
- Brent Brooks: Yes. Will get you information. With this software, you have to add two or three people devoted in our office to programming. Will be an annual maintenance and license fee that is required.
- Bird: Yellowstone County Detention Facility is constantly struggling with an over-population; can you explain to the Council what the relationship is between the County and the City pertaining to the jail situation?
- Brent Brooks: The County is the entity that is responsible for the operations of the Yellowstone County Detention Facility, and the funding of it as well. The City misdemeanor convictions that

have jail time attached from Judge Kolar's Court, are sent to the Yellowstone County Detention Facility because the penitentiary lease are for a year or less. They are not sent to the Dept. of Corrections, or more particularly the Montana State Prison. Are very mindful of the fact that we do not want to fill the jail full of misdemeanors. The City does not fund the jail.

- Tina Volek: The City at this point makes a payment of about \$20,000/month on average to the Corrections Facility for the pre-release, pre-trial and then incarceration after conviction.
- Brent Brooks: There is an attempt by the County Attorney, our office, the Sheriff, Police, etc., with pre-trial supervision to keep some of those populations of criminal defendants out of the facility through alternative monitoring.
- McCall: We have law suits against the City. Some of them have gone on for years and years. Outside of those law suits that carry over year to year, do you see an increase in the number of law suits over a period of time?
- Brent Brooks: Can get more information from the Montana Municipal and local authority. Does fluctuate from year to year. In the past two years, it has gone down some. More aggressive in investigating the cases. Have a close relationship with the other City Attorneys and MMI Defense Council. We e-mail each other constantly on the risk management, civil, and criminal issues.
- Crouch: What is an average case load, and how has that changed over the last 5-10 years?
- Brent Brooks: On the criminal side, we are going to have about 3,000 to 3,200 criminal cases total for this calendar year. That can include several counts of one case.
- Mayor Hanel: Where are you with space for your staff?
- Brent Brooks: Definitely challenged for space. 5-6 people on second floor, several on the bottom floor. Wish list to get everyone together on one floor.
- Swanson: Have a Planner to make the space we occupy more efficient?
- Tina Volek: Have a Facilities Manager – Saree Couture. Primary duties are to ensure that our facilities are well run, provide cleaning. To also look at the maintenance of our facilities, which she has greatly improved in her time with us. The space and site Master Plan is intended to identify how pieces of the organization that work together are then housed more closely. Have started the space and site Master Plan and we are in the process of negotiating the contract. When complete, hope to do first, the Municipal Court.
- Public Comment: None

#### **TOPIC #4: Library**

- Bill Cochran: Handed out FY15 Budget Presentation for Library.

##### New Library

- 4,749 new cardholders – Increase of 232% over January-March 2013
- 243,923 library materials checked out – Increase of 27% over January-March 2013
- 98,439 people in bldg. Increase of 37% over January-March 2013

May increase when parking lot is built.

##### Library Technology

The new facility has greatly enhanced the technology for services provided by the Library.

- Increased number of wireless access points and bandwidth
- Increased number of public computers
- Additional amenities for meetings, groups and individual users
- TECH Digital Learning Lab focused on teaching STEAM concepts to teens

##### FY 2015 Budget

- FY 2015 Library operating budget, excluding capital and supplemental budget requests, is expected to balance.
- The Library will fund supplemental budget requests from unobligated cash reserves.

Revenue

- The FY 2015 estimated revenue is \$3,272,560. This total number is lower than the FY 2014 revenue, which included one-time payments from the County, an energy grant reimbursement and sales of surplus equipment. Excluding those one-time payments from comparison, revenues will increase \$118,398 or 3.7%.

- The largest revenue changes are:

Decreases:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor rent	\$18,152
Increases:	City Tax Revenue	\$55,207
	County Tax Revenue	\$19,342
	Donations/Contributions	\$18,667
	Fines/Forfeitures	\$18,145
	State Reimbursement	\$13,799
<u>Revenue</u>	Charges for Service	\$7,900
	Investment Earnings	\$7,137
	Miscellaneous	\$31,200
	State Grants/Aid	\$51,633
	Donations/Contributions	\$63,667
	Fines & Forfeitures	\$65,525
	County Tax	\$789,250
	State Reimbursement	\$376,754
	City Tax/General Fund Transfer	\$1,879,494
	<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$3,272,560</b>

Expenditures: Excluding personal services and uncontrollable costs, there are no significant changes from the FY 2014 operations and maintenance budget to the FY 2015 budget.

Supplemental Budget Requests:

➤ Building Project Completion:	\$27,500
➤ Security Guard Contract	\$6,000
➤ Increased Custodial Hours	\$9,505
➤ Technology Maintenance Increases	\$10,522
➤ Seasonal Digital Learning Lab Employee	\$22,500
➤ Contracted Book Awards Assistance	\$3,600
➤ Window Cleaning Services	\$6,000
➤ Volunteer Program Costs	\$16,763
➤ Digitalization of Montana Room Materials	\$5,000
➤ <b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$107,390</b>

Expenditures:

Contingency	\$25,000
ERP Transfer	\$28,027
Utilities	\$110,591
Library Materials	\$308,294

O&M	\$902,226
Personal Services	\$2,009,702
<b><u>Total Expenditures:</u></b>	<b>\$3,383,840</b>

CAPITAL: Requests for FY 2015 include: Photocopy machine - \$4,000

- Pitman: \$6,000 to clean windows. Is that part of the warranty?
- Bill Cochran: Already have our fee ready to go out. Windows are a very important part of overall energy and lighting systems. There are monthly, quarterly, and annual cleanings for different parts of the exterior and interior windows. Trying to maintain that so the quality is maintained from the beginning. Will be warranties covering it for a period of time. These are expected increases for the maintenance fees for all of the new technology that will be anticipated. In this first year, wherever there is not new revenue provided to pay for these, we have unobligated reserves that can pay for them. We expect to have revenue above expenses. Expect 30-40% decrease in utility costs.
- Mayor Hanel: Where will the money come from if you have already adjusted this with the corrections of the reflection pond safety issue?
- Bill Cochran: Have a change order to the contract with the tract floor. It was not anticipated that adults or children would voluntarily or accidentally enter into the wading pool. Have had many examples of both, who accidentally entered it, and people, including the adults who thought nobody was watching and walked into it. Creates a liability and concern for us and their safety. The change order that has already been approved would have a powder coated steel railing.
- Bill Cochran: 31.9 staff members. 66,000 square feet.
- Tina Volek: We have more security, and we have a much better line of vision throughout that facility.
- Bill Cochran: We have security cameras. Our staff works together. The openness of the building has made a big impact. We work with the Library Board and City Attorneys. If all the steps that we have taken doesn't reduce the issues with children and their parents, we have the potential to not allow children under a certain age to be in the Library unless there is parental supervision.
- Bird: How is the café?
- Bill Cochran: Café is kind of a deal breaker because of hours that are required to be open. Set a minimum of hours and then they bid on the rent. After a year of operation, will be opening that rent per your instructions, when the contract was awarded. Hoping that will be a true reflection of what their business experience will be. Right now, hard to predict with no parking lot. Expect when traffic goes up, they will have more business.
- Bird: Positive feedback from the vendor?
- Bill Cochran: Yes. No regrets.
- Crouch: Any figures as to the use of the west end Library?
- Bill Cochran: Pilot project out at City College is ongoing. Still on the Universities long range building program and in our CIP. When it became clear they needed to do their Science Building and we were going to be working on downtown, that has been pushed off into the future. We send a staff person out every week day to pick up and deliver materials. Also have computers there.
- Kathy Robins: This past quarter (January through March) was slightly down at the College of Technology. Could be due to people coming to new Library. Can't give exact number.

- McFadden: Is the new parking lot going to have meter or free parking?
- Bill Cochran: It is a technology that Bruce McCandless helped us identify with consultation from people who manage parking elsewhere in the State. It is called "Parking By Plate". People come through entry and punch in their license number. That will give them the two or three hours (whatever we set) that will be free. The enforcement (Parking Division) will get a printout or sync to a mobile device. It will give the license numbers of those registered. If people know that they are going to need more time when they park, it will have the capacity to take credit card or cash. Thinking the technology would be between \$15,000 and 20,000 for the kiosk.
- Public Comment: None

**TOPIC #5: Human Resources / Finance**

- Karla Stanton:

**HR Costs**

○ Fiscal Year 2014 Budget:	\$681,072
○ Personal Services:	\$465,958
○ O & M	\$215,114
▪ IT Charge for Services	\$64,421
▪ Management Asst. Program	\$29,150
▪ Public Information	\$11,300
▪ Advertising	\$17,423
▪ City Hall Facility Management	\$20,737

**Health Plan**

○ Health/Rx Claims	\$10,025,000
○ Dental Claims	\$400,000
○ Stop Loss Premium	\$575,000
○ TPA Fees	\$416,500
○ Affordable Care Act Fee	\$138,600

- McCall: Do you think there is any relationship at all to the whole wellness, as in intervention, getting the primary care that people need?
- Karla Stanton: Hope we can get there. Do think that one thing that helped us this year was when we sent our employees to do the biometrics. Think that is the first step to try to develop that wellness and that train of thought.

**Liability and Property**

Liability Insurance Premium		\$1,514,000
▪ Self-Insured Liability	\$450,000	
Property Insurance Premium		\$339,000
▪ Self-Insured Property	\$200,000	
Personal Services		\$94,270
Risk Management		
▪ Monitor Workers' Compensation Cases		
▪ Administer the City's Safety Program		
▪ Administer the City's CDL and FTA		



- Drug/Alcohol Testing Program

**Challenges**

- Health Care Reform
- Innoprise Software
  - Finish Payroll
  - Human Resource
  - FY16 Payroll Budget Projections

- Pat Weber: Finance Dept. Proposed Budget –

**Finance Expenditures**

Total Budget: \$1,395,057	O & M	\$483,481	35%
	Personal Services	\$911,576	65%

**SBR**

- \$3,500 – Upgrade CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) Unlimited Software. Used to produce annual Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Other Funds		
Fund	Revenue FY 15 Proposed	Expenditure FY 15 Proposed
605 CENTRAL SERVICES - MAIL & COPIES	100,434	99,599
198 TAX INCREMENT - MILLER CROSSING	290,000	290,000
199 TAX INCREMENT - SOUTH	1,271,265	3,340,451
201 TAX INCREMENT - EAST	580,900	511,617
203 TAX INCREMENT DISTRICT - N27 <sup>TH</sup>	2,046,000	2,128,619
723 HISTORIC DISTRICT REVOLVING LOANS	1,665,700	1,704,016
304 LIBRARY - GENERAL OBLIGATION	1,309,529	1,233,499
311 2010 PARKS - GENERAL OBLIGATION	97,239	126,725
313 2004A STREET - GENERAL OBLIGATION	343,087	339,957
314 2007A BALLPARK - GENERAL OBLIGATION	833,004	810,275

## Other Funds (Cont.)

Fund	Revenue	Expenditure
	FY 15	FY 15
	Proposed	Proposed
315 2007B BALLPARK - GENERAL OBLIGATION	210,400	198,116
336 STORM SEWER 2003 REFUNDING	1,991,100	1,102,950
820-832 SID	2,120,750	2,478,650
850-869 & 879-899 SIDEWALKS	340,200	392,100
640 CAPITAL VEHICLE REPLACEMENT	1,207,200	1,730,989

### Challenges

- Innoprise software
  - Fixed Assets
  - Accounts Receivable
  - Inventory
  - Fleet
  - Taxes
  - FY 16 Payroll Budget Projections
- GASB 68
  - Will be including City of Billings share of PERS deficit as a liability in annual FY 15 Financial Report.
- Public Safety Levy

# Governmental Funds

FUND NUMBER	FUND DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED			OVER/(UNDER)	CONSTRAINTS				
		% of FY15 Prop Budget (AMA capital)	RECOMMENDED MINIMUM FUND BALANCE	FY 15 Prop Budget		WORKING CAPITAL	RESTRICTED	COMMITTED	ASSIGNED	UNASSIGNED
Billed on Tax										
010	General Operating	29%	\$ 2,592,570	\$21,630,913	\$ 11,735,043	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,592,570	\$ -	\$11,735,043
130	Public Safety	0%	-	1,445,445	1,445,445	-	-	1,445,445	-	-
240	City/County Planning	13%	124,474	174,071	(20,403)	-	174,071	-	-	-
260	City/County Library	25%	544,980	2,745,475	1,900,515	-	1,455,103	1,290,375	-	-
301-303	Street Maintenance	42%	2,938,838	3,294,495	337,657	-	3,294,495	-	-	-
310	Street Light Maintenance	42%	958,640	959,049	2,409	-	959,049	-	-	-
372	Park Maintenance Districts	70%	658,218	1,05,457	(580,851)	-	1,05,457	-	-	-
Other Revenue										
209	Building Inspection	25%	424,298	1,406,138	981,838	-	1,406,138	-	-	-
211	Street/Traffic Operating	4%	288,331	2,970,181	2,703,850	-	-	2,970,181	-	-
TOTALS			\$ 16,322,900	\$34,784,303	\$ -	\$ -	\$7,424,311	\$15,801,591	\$ -	\$11,735,043

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# Proprietary Funds

FUND NUMBER	FUND DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED			OVER/(UNDER)	CONSTRAINTS		
		% of FY 15 Proposed Budget (less capital)	RECOMMENDED MINIMUM WORKING CAPITAL BALANCE	FY 15 Proposed Budget		RESTRICTED	ASSIGNED	UNASSIGNED
WORKING CAPITAL BALANCE								
502	Water	27%	8,840,185	\$ 12,445,481	\$ 3,605,296	\$ 2,550,000	\$ 2,265,481	\$ -
512	Waste Water	18%	3,221,230	7,382,815	4,140,835	1,475,000	5,854,815	-
521	Parking Enterprise	16%	268,389	248,437	(19,952)	-	248,437	-
541	Solid Waste	44%	4,379,012	5,502,325	1,423,313	-	5,502,325	-
561	Airport	8%	3,405,829	5,173,474	4,767,845	6,455,325	1,715,079	-
571	Transit	17%	923,359	2,212,447	1,277,058	2,212,447	-	-
601	Fleet Services	37%	830,440	1,049,783	419,343	-	1,049,783	-
620	Information Technology	25%	507,823	77,823	(265,942)	-	77,823	-
630	Property Insurance	32%	544,937	1,050,055	205,148	-	1,050,055	-
630	Facilities	8%	124,404	35,827	(233,863)	-	35,827	-
680	Public Works Admin	8%	83,933	159,722	73,848	-	159,722	-
670	Engineering	10%	255,807	714,010	458,403	-	714,010	-
TOTALS			\$ 21,295,979	\$ 40,351,825	\$ 12,725,842	\$ 27,823,786	\$ -	\$ -

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- Yakawich: When you look over these payments of claims, what do you look for?
- Pat Weber: Anything over \$2,500. And if you see something suspicious.
- Cimmino: How do we know who is paying for what?
- Pat Weber: I will get you a list of funds with names.
- Yakawich: Looking at the Public Safety Mill Levy. Is it critical that we work on this?

- Pat Weber: Very important. If we want to continue having Police/Fire Protection. When done in 2004, was critical at that time. Idea was to last at least ten years.
- Mayor Hanel: The cost as they increase for the level of service and expectation. The revenues are not keeping up with that. At the present time there are sufficient funds in reserves. But as we spend those reserves down, in the future, will have to change to adjust the revenue coming in.
- Brown: \$300,000 we are going to have to take out for the rock. Will that affect the Public Safety reserve?
- Tina Volek: Mr. Mumford indicated last night that House Bill 124, we get money back from the State in return for having given up gambling, liquor taxes and so forth, many years ago. Can use about \$200,000 of that and replace it with gas tax money to do things that are not directly on the ROW (Right of Way), like landscaping and street lights, etc. The remaining balance will come from the GF. Parks and Rec is in the GF.
- Brown: We are looking at being done in 2017 if we don't get a levy.
- Public Comment: None:

#### **TOPIC #6: Council Discussion**

- Bird: Had a citizen ask me about the ballot measure to open up the charter. Not only criticism of the City but the County too. Wanted to know what it meant. They were disappointed that there wasn't more of an effort to educate the public. There is very little in the ballot. Those are the kinds of things we need to be thinking about in terms of how we are getting public information out. We don't have a City Public Information Officer.
- McCall: I had a call as well from a woman who was very unhappy. She had contacted two or three different people. Two on staff, and a couple of Council Members. We at least need to be educated on what those Ballot Initiatives are, and be able to share it.
- Mayor Hanel: It is State Law and we did have a presentation by Mr. Brooks not too long ago. Did the Council get that presentation?
- Tina Volek: Would you like it again? We would be glad to send it out.
- McCall: I understand it and am willing to share it with her. Her perception is that nobody on the Council gets it because no one called her back or could answer the questions.
- Brent Brooks: Could e-mail that very brief Power Point to the individual, and more than happy to call her too. Could post to City's website too.
- Yakawich: I have talked with a lot of people. At our Task Force meetings, we had a guest speaker who spoke about the charter. We have handed out a lot of charters in the last couple of months. Talking with a lot of people on both sides of the fence, they are very excited about it, and really working together.

#### **TOPIC #7: Public Comment** on any item that was not on the Agenda:

- Dennis Ulvestad – 3040 Central Ave.: LGBT and NIOT. Watching City Council last night and the motion by CM Crouch and Cimmino on Amendment to it on the cost factors in the Billings Gazette. Would like to inform the Council, that I think it would be better to the City if they had a pamphlet for NIOT instead of Billings Gazette. I was a member of the Veterans of Foreign War and we had our State Convention here last year. It was amazing. People took these pamphlets. Instead of newspaper, people when they leave town, can have something physical in their hand in remembrance. Ads in a booklet are really important. If they are returning to our City from out of State, they are going to look at the businesses that are in this pamphlet. Please reconsider a pamphlet NIOT compared to the Billings Gazette Ad.

- Mayor Hanel: Is this something you have talked to the Committee Members about? Mr. Chuck Tooley would be a good contact and they might want to get involved and support your idea.
- Kevin Nelson – 4235 Bruce Ave: What was the result of the meeting with the President of the Heights?
- Mayor Hanel: Had a good meeting. I sent the minutes to the owner of the company who was here for the meeting for his review and approval. He has not sent them back. Mr. Swanson was there with me. They have adjusted their lighting and hours of business. Are not working 24 hours a day. They have moved some of the work indoors. Have considered landscaping more along that eastern side to help buffer some of the noise. Was asked that I put the information from the meeting out to the public. But I have not heard back on the minutes.
- Bird: Heard from neighbor who was hearing noises well after midnight. They are getting significant deliveries at night.
- Crouch: Mr. Nelson, you asked last time about a quiet time for the railroads. That is County property according to Matt Jones at BNSF. He said you would have to go through the County Commissioner and let them make a request.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**ADJOURN TIME:** 8:37 pm