

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
April 20, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor/Council (please check) x Hanel, x Cromley, x Yakawich, Cimmino, x Pitman,
x McFadden, Bird, x Swanson, McCall, x Crouch, x Brown.

ADJOURN TIME: 8:30 and conduct executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Agenda

TOPIC #1	Legislative Update
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- No report other than the past 2 submitted by Bartlett. He will be here May 4 for a wrap-up discussion.
- **Public Comments:** None

TOPIC #2	Metra Water and Sewer
PRESENTER	Dave Mumford, Public Works Director
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Dave Mumford: YC requested water and sewer service outside the city to a parcel next to MetraPark. Council guidance?
- Hanel: simplest way to handle?
- Mumford: say the parcel is part of MetraPark, so there are no new connections.
- Swanson: location? Across road from main building.
- Pitman: simplest way is best in this case – part of our previous agreement.
- Brown: what use? Commissioner Kennedy: Extension / 4H office building. \$500,000 bldg.
- McCall: do it simply. Logical extension. County cost? Any City expense? Don't know County cost and City has no cost, forego the SDF payment.
- Cromley: formal mechanism to be used? Verbal, OK to connect because it's part of MetraPark.
- **Public comments:** none
- Council directed staff to move forward with this plan.

TOPIC #3	Parking Strategic Plan – Parking Advisory Board Recommendations
PRESENTER	Bruce McCandless, Assistant City Administrator
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- McCandless: written presentation attached in Council packet. Will distribute Parking Plan via email.
- Cromley: meter bagging policy and courtesy tickets? (360 day or 180 day?)
- McCall: request that City Attorney Brent Brooks research how much authority/flexibility the PAB can be given.
- **Public comments:** none

TOPIC #4	CDBG and HOME Program Review
PRESENTER	Brenda Beckett, Community Development Manager
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Beckett: Pat Likam, Board member is in the audience. Presentation is on the server. HUD plan required every 5 years. Housing needs assessment, other 5 year plans. Plan findings – housing cost; minority concentrations; need for smaller units (4000 people on Housing Authority waiting list including 1,200 that need 1 BR apt); increasing homeless. Priorities continue in housing, with choice being emphasized. Board thinking about how to engage more citizens.
- Yakawich: how do task force survey responses correlate to actual projects that take place? Beckett: the responses to affect actual projects, and the task force considers all survey responses.
- Cimmino: please send the presentation.
- McCall: # of surveys? All task force members surveyed, but don't know response or #s in the task forces.
- Cromley: Home Center? Initiative generated through the department. Housing options for people in Billings. One vote for it currently.
- Yakawich: still working on poverty? All programs. Will send report.
- Brown: VISTA project covers what projects? All projects dealing with poverty.
- **Public comments:**
- Pat Likam 4449 Ryan Avenue, Billings, MT, task force chair. Statements on poverty and race. Need to continue working with organizations to help low and moderate income individuals.

TOPIC #5	Water and Wastewater Rate Study
PRESENTER	Jennifer Duray, Public Works Finance Manager
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Duray: presentation is on the server. Water and sewer don't charge tax funds at \$633,000. Need council direction because rates must be stated in the PH notice.

- Hanel: System Development Fee comparison? Lower than most communities.
- Yakawich: rates difference between Lockwood and Billings for water intake? Do not have Lockwood's rates, but can get that information.
- **Public comments:**
- Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, MT: Worden decision was that all customers had to have a meter. State law requirement? Building required to have larger meter at higher cost because Fire Dept couldn't reach back of building. (RSD on Moore Lane). Duray: meter size deals with how much water can flow through it, not how far it reaches.
- Duray: everything is metered and only GF doesn't pay the fees. Consultant told them that it's 50-50 among cities who charge or don't charge their tax funds.
- Brown: would like to see break out of water use by facility.
- Pitman: need this info for transparency.
- Hanel: any objections to advertising the displayed rates? Dave Mumford, Public Works Director: everything is metered.
- Cimmino: who is the consultant? AE2S
- Council direction: Advertise the rates as presented. Would like to see separate rate for outside of City service.

TOPIC #6	Solid Waste Rates
PRESENTER	Jennifer Duray, Public Works Finance Manager
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Duray: proposing the same thing as last year, but this is the 2nd year of a 3 year rate adjustment, so rates would increase by about 10% for residential and about 2.5% for commercial. Landfill rates proposed to increase 3%.
- Yakawich: define monthly roll-off? Large rolling dumpsters.
- Brown: how much out-of-state waste? 5-6,000 tons, or about 1% of total waste. Agreements with Powell and 2 Tough Guys Services (Park County, WY) to take their waste.
- Pitman: higher rates for out of state. When is it punitive? Why isn't it double? Fee is set to recover City's costs of providing services.
- City Attorney Brent Brooks: fees have to be reasonably related to the cost of providing the service but Council allowed some discretion.
- Cromley: roll-off fees? Set to cover City's costs.
- Volek: thank you to water and wastewater staff for all of the work on the budget preparation.
- Hanel: City staff and County staff has done a great job of keeping the area clean around the landfill.
- **Public comments:** none

TOPIC #7	Quarterly reports
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PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- BIRD: Patty Nordlund, Operations Director; Lisa Kennedy, future BIRD Operations Director.
- Downtown Billings Partnership – Greg Krueger; annual report.
 - Yakawich: a lot of empty buildings, what can we do about this? Some buildings are currently in lease negotiations. Urban Renewal Plan of 2010 also addresses the overall plan.
 - Cimmino: thank you for all of the hard work. Any discussion of updating Downtown Framework Plan? Would like to update this; current trend is to work on more zeroed-in plans for specific projects. Framework plan is still a vision, and much of it has been implemented.
 - Bird: conference center update? Will probably see something brought to Council within the next two years.
 - McCall: staff and volunteers do a great job. Ticking point/side effects with weekly events like Alive After 5? Surveys sent out to business owners? Yes, have conducted outreach for feedback on these types of events. Make changes in response to merchant feedback.
 - Hanel: any update on Skypoint? Looking into this currently. Did pay to have it cleaned, but the cleaning did restore it completely.
- SBURD – Candi Millar and Steve Zier; report, project updates
 - Yakawich: Family Dollar store; did SBURD work with this? No, Family Dollar chose that location and set up the business on its own.
- Q3 Budget as submitted by Pat Weber in the Friday Packet
- Initiatives: 17 in Friday packet, and 16 have been completed.
 - Cimmino questions about Facilities Master Plan. Volek: preliminary study has been completed, but staff is adding information regarding the Municipal Court remodel. Will be presented in May.
 - McCall: Request for initiatives that have been completed and removed over the years.
- PMD 1 Projects: report from Mike Whitaker
 - Yakawich: requests heads-up to task force when location of S Park spray park is decided. Yes, the task force will be notified.
 - Yakawich: pickle ball and tennis courts? Pickle ball organization joined tennis organization. Courts will be installed at Castle Rock Park and Pioneer Park.
 - Swanson: guidance on developing dog parks? Some new parks will include dog park areas.
 - Hanel: parking at Centennial? Plan includes a couple of lots at the park.
 - Cimmino: who maintains dog park in The Heights? Would be nice to have increased emptying of waste disposal areas. Park division.
- **Public comments:**
- Dennis Ulvestad, 3040 Central Avenue, Billings, MT: likes the quarterly reports and that they're all under one public comment session. Downtown improvements have been outstanding.

TOPIC #8	Council discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- McFadden: City protected employees’ privacy at landfill regarding discipline, but police officer’s name was revealed when officer was terminated. Why the difference? Brooks: police are in a position of public trust, and public has a right to know. Can provide additional detailed information with relevant cases as well.
- Yakawich: advisory boards: how can Council support them? Volek: would like to discuss boards in the fall (whether to combine some, discontinue others). Yakawich: willing to lend support to help with this
- Cimmino: re-iterates importance of advisory boards. Members of the community work very hard as members of advisory boards. Report about the necessity and utility of some boards? Volek: can repeat previously conducted report to determine future of some boards.
- Hanel: encourage community members to participate in City advisory boards.
- McCall: board membership is about empowerment and appreciation. Need to help board members feel this.
- Brown: blue ribbon updates? Volek: has met with many community members and will report back to Council. Advice received is widely varied.
- Yakawich: when will we be dealing with this? Hanel: very delicate situation and will address.
- Pitman: when is new conservation area going to be stocked with fish? Volek: was stocked on its opening day, but will check to see when it will be replenished.
- Hanel: had the honor to help celebrate a woman’s 106th birthday.

TOPIC #9	Public Comments on Items Not on The Agenda
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Dennis Ulvestad, 3040 Central Avenue, Billings, MT: talked about lighting district a couple of weeks ago. Can citizen request that CM sponsor an initiative? Instead of so many districts, consolidate them but keep arterial lighting separate? Hanel: yes, may request this; it is up to the Councilmembers’ discretion whether to create an initiative. Volek: Consolidation would be a huge challenge.
- Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Ave, Billings, MT: complaint about statements about arterial fee. How much arterial fee being reimbursed from the \$4.8 million TIF bond? Hanel: Mayor will make a corrected statement about this at the next regular business meeting. Volek: Mr. Weber responded to Mr. Nelson’s email, and Mr. Weber’s response was “no.” Can provide additional information.

Additional Information:

- Crouch and Volek: Community Innovations meeting tomorrow at 3 at the library.
 - McCall: Great Falls is very interested in the model that we are using and are excited to use our format.