

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
August 3, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

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

ADJOURN TIME: 9:15 pm into Closed Executive Session

Agenda

TOPIC #1	Contract Amendment for Integrated Water Plan
PRESENTER	Dave Mumford, Public Works Director
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Mumford: In 2011, Public Works completed first step of integrated water plan. Going out to RFP shortly on next phase. Trying to set long-term direction over next 9-10 months.
- Only 2.5% of water in world is fresh and available for consumption. Of that, less than 1% is available for use. Started plan in '09 because City will have used up its water rights that are supposed to carry us to 260,000 population. City has 172 cubic feet per second, but Yellowstone River is over-allocated. Can take off in spring and store. Have had droughts for decades in MT in past. California outstripped infrastructure, hit drought, and is now trying to decide what to do.
- Yellowstone is only source and will approach maximum usage in 20 years. Average use is 18-20 million gallons per day. In summer, most of water goes on ground. Single line from plant is old and has collection system issues. Heights water system is at capacity and Heights water and sewer will need expansion in future. Working on storm drain pipe. Pipe on 4th goes all way to Rocky Mtn. College. If City follows traditional practice, costs estimated at \$300 million. Looking into alternative methods.
- Federal and state regulations affecting need for new wastewater treatment plant, courts have limited amount can put on from wastewater. Numerical nutrient standards and water standards increasing. Wastewater plant will be at capacity in 15-20 years. Have been asked to take over irrigation ditches – decision to add a new plant for water? Troubling to spend \$35-40 million on plant used only for summer irrigation uses.
- Integrated Water Plan looks at current and future water and wastewater uses. Without water and wastewater, City will not grow. Department goals are to be cost-effective, deal with consumers, and be good stewards of environment. Held several meetings and public survey on plan to develop 6 scenarios, and recommended 2. Looked at groundwater discharge, especially on West End, not natural water under city, is brackish and hot. Would have go to Pryor Mountains for water. Did more studies over past few years: looked at water conservation, including energy rebates with utilities, new storm design standards, off-stream storage, groundwater studies, water & wastewater systems, re-use,

water from under river, Yellowstone River Advisory Council, state line to Yellowstone, plan adopted by State and State Legislature. State plan for Missouri and another river.

- Public Works board asked to look at off-stream storage; want to assess community demands using Planning's information, impact from water rights, even other places to offset seasonal demands. BBWA has four times City's water right, possible to negotiate use. One water conservation effort would be to help people get rid of grass. Bozeman has fulltime employee who helps people understand the problem; Billings not at that point yet. Could use non-potable water to irrigate? Storm drain system being declared State water source. Direct and indirect water re-use may require some existing laws (ie toilet to tap) to change. Can expand existing water plant, but still locked to single location. Two intakes, good all year round. Plant still has vulnerability.
- Wastewater options. Re-use and reclamation been examined to build lakes to treat or use for irrigation. Also have recreational uses. Wouldn't have to treat unless used, like Heights or West End. Groundwater disposal another option.
- Want to look at long-term capital options. Then tell what costs and source of funds are. Tried to give 4-year phase-in wastewater treatment plant rates. Bringing in large contract to do study to determine what City can do. Perks of putting water on top of ground? Where to put dams? Prior studies show what will and won't work. Will need to bump up water rights in 15-20 years. Not long when have design and build. Some areas Council thinks it wants to look at?
- Hanel: Which states control rainwater? Mumford: MT and most states have control of pick-up, but State still working on what do with it/treatment/discharge. Wisconsin requires rainwater to be kept on property, some Colorado cities limit. If State controls curb and gutter as waterway, problem
- Pitman: Look at toilet to tap. Should be looking at residents to drill wells? Mumford: Encourage to do so if we can. Pitman: Motor home has grey water tank, point in future where houses set up that way? Mumford: not viable, end up with San Francisco effort, which rotted pipes because low flow didn't move solids. Could use for large business system. Pitman: This study will answer those questions and also look at downside of options? Mumford: Yes.
- Cromley: How is toilet to tap legislation phrased? Mumford: Cannot have direct re-use in the State. Fear of re-use programs. Cromley: Big Ditch water rights adjudicated? Mumford: Yes. With people going to houses, would like to discuss purchase with companies.
- McCall: When doing RFP, will this be broad and go to typical engineering firms as well as companies that do this specifically? Mumford: target national firms that will partner with local firms that have expertise in this area. All are welcome to compete. McCall: Irrigation ditch variances? Mumford: Big Ditch has 640 CFS. City has 172 CFS. All adjudicated water rights go to agriculture; little to human consumption. McCall: With irrigation ditches, wise for City to purchase whole ditches, or rights? Mumford: Great to have because some, like High Ditch, available; but in people's backyard, hard to maintain. Ditch companies struggling. McCall: Groundwater below Billings all same within what radius downtown? Mumford: All irrigation water. Alkali flat, ditches are what made community livable.

- Crouch: What does conservation program at King and Shiloh do? Copy on Eastside? Mumford: West Side takes water in storms, clears solids, and wetland plants take out nitrogen & potassium. None planned in east, but some possible on West End.
- Bird: Commend for proactive and productive role in dealing with water, one of most critical issues. California and other places show that nothing is more critical. Like taking long-term approach, unlike deferred maintenance in parks requiring maintenance district. Which communities are doing a good job providing models for dealing with Billings water issues? Mumford: Billings is leading in MT & WY, but some coastal cities in WA; Portland has water park reuse from wastewater treatment plant; also in NM; but, they waited until out of water. New York City’s integrated water plan commissioner & Ohio’s water and wastewater commissioner came here to talk about what other parts of country doing. Validated that looking ahead is the smart move. All have examples. Responding is better than reacting. CA in crisis mode only 5 years into drought.
- Mayor: Referring to buying parts for intakes? Mumford: Single line comes down 27th. Exxon spill: saved by Fire Chief in Laurel; warned coming problems. Crisis flood mode moved through quickly.
- Bird: What are concerns with shutdown of Corrett plant? What should Council be thinking in terms of water? Mumford: Below intakes, bought land around water plant to protect intakes. Issues with what goes in. Water rights were for pass-through, water treatment very limited. Hoping whoever comes in will be conscious of City, need someone to annex in so we can control what goes in. More concerned over power. Volek: City submitted letter of interest to Talon Energy; waiting to hear what to do after plant demolished.
- Mayor: Good presentation. Mumford: Feel free to bring forward ideas. Might be able to do own electricity. Will bring answers.
- **Public Comment:**
- Kevin Nelson 4235 Bruce Ave: if City concerned about water, are Planning and PW redesigning landscaping requirements for commercial properties? How much water used on Shiloh? Catalyst for study climate change: going to spend lots money on hypothesis. Can spend lot of money on theories. Hopefully stick to facts.
- Ed Gullick 3015 10th Ave North: as City resident, pleased with scope of work. Intelligent, innovative, avoids capital costs and improve environment. Excited about recycling water for parks, etc.

TOPIC #2	Quarterly Updates (BIRD, Downtown Billings Partnership, South Billings Urban Renewal Association, Budget, Initiatives, Strategic Plan, City-Wide Park District 1 Projects)
PRESENTER	Kelly McCarthy, Greg Krueger, Steve Zeier, Tina Volek, Mike Whitaker
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- **BIRD:** Kelly McCarthy, Development Director. Patti Nordlund retired, hired Leesa Kennedy. In last quarter John Armstrong also left, now working with North Park Task Force, Sam Westerman coming on. Final stage of TIFD expansion. Properties along Exposition Gateway annexed, showed new boundaries across from Metra. Well into infrastructure project that came to Council about 2 years ago. \$3.1 m revenue bonds

closed in June. Cost \$220k/year, will run lean until people develop. Knife River began construction July 13. Water, sewer storm water, and able to add street lights due to better bids than expected. New surface, 9th, 10th, 2nd, and 3rd. November completion, slow down around Montana Fair. Driving on gravel, but extensive upgrades on 3rd.

- Finances: FY 15 payments equaled \$640k. \$660k next year, last year \$640k.
- Shows graph of income and expenses. Base revenue \$1.2 million, now up 50% to \$1.8m over decade.
- Billings Architectural Association competition included blighted building and architects designed more than 20 potential projects. Property owners have selected one, trying to get costs down, may build. Coming back next few years with composition because of brownfields, renovation of historic part of City.
- 2nd Annual BIRD Bash: September 10. Will send invites to Council.
- Within 2 years, place will change significantly, five years won't recognize. Many projects in the works.
- McCall: Congratulations. Question around street lights: add or replace? Kelly: No public street lights, will replace some private. LED lights, low maintenance. McCall: Be SILMD? Mumford: SILMD already done through NWE.
- Bird: Design for street lights- kind where light goes up or comes down? Kelly: Down. Bird: Watching TV, lot of questions. In terms lighting, have anything in place for standards? Candi Millar: Private properties all shine down.
- Pitman: Community engaged. First major detour of street where there were no complaints. Results are worth the efforts.
- Mayor: Aerial out of airplane? McCarthy: Have inexpensive source.
- **Public Comment:** None.
- **Downtown Partnership:** Greg Krueger, Development Director. Report is from three organizations. Up to today. Final FY 15 already presented. New map showing north 27th St district analysis to determine what is revitalized, completed in this or previous district, do no harm. Green areas are parking or underutilized. Examining block between 23 and 32nd New Market Credit Zone, same on Minnesota to 1st Ave site. For affordable housing, plethora of mixed use projects. Put stars at SkyPoint because major parking garage underutilized and the Annex Building, used for Jasons and Hart Albin. Awarded technical assistance grant because 2/3 of top floor has no access. Looking at ways to build access and egress to put housing in there. Montana Avenue star is former Spaghetti Depot/Antique Depot building, vibrant area, but building vacant. Gold has increased taxes base. Grey include buildings like Library that contribute to district but don't contribute taxes. Purple are undeveloped areas, mostly parking. Blue areas are mostly historic buildings. Projects in FY 16 to date include list plus Yellowstone Art Museum removal of lead paint encumbered from prior year. Blue are three awards this year: Montdevco are 2 developers looking at specific area getting technical grants for appraisals, items DBP can own if project doesn't go. Significant possible project. Montana Rescue Mission Grant of \$10k for Grannie's attic/Elliott's Furniture Building. Determining whether can be used. MRM paying taxes because not part of mission. Code restrictions difficult, trying to determine if Mission uses or private developer acquires. New Market Tax Credit Zone and Historic District. "Also up to \$25K for collaborative

street banner program between City and TBID. Helped with core of City to complement existing wayfaring signs.

- Work plan basic, revolving loan with \$2.5 million assets, owe banks nothing. Sit down with banks end of cycle to better utilize what's not attached to banks. Interlocal agreement expires October this year. Fund 203 for North 27th St. has projects requests exceeding \$100 million, to include Artspace investigation of \$150K, possibly with EBURD; street level recruitment and retention with more resident info from downtown; conference center; place-making with DBA & BID; economic development. Look at bonding again by 2020 last year can bond again. Would be last tax increment district for downtown if able to do projects planned.
- Key elements include underutilized buildings, parking plan, business clustering include business serving downtown residents, links within districts and neighborhoods; green components like lighting, insulation and HVAC systems, increasing work force. Businesses hurting for entry-level service jobs with people who can't drive and pay to park – walk to work. Want to work on traffic calming, especially Montana Avenue, try to convert 1-way to 2-way streets for pedestrian safety and access. Many streets under control of Montana Department of Transportation.
- Leesa Harmon on Community Innovations: Alliance works with DBA & BID. Summits in October and June. One-page summary distributed, showing 5 committees' work to date. Native American Committee on Transitional Recovery Assistance Project (TRAC) with 14 peers served, 25 referrals, and three peer mentors trained. Faith leaders, social service providers referring to these programs. Know for sure critical after-care service, especially for Native American population. Hired six more peer mentors since progress report paper produced. Video at conference and on 4RealChange.org on young woman now through treatment and applying to university for economic development degree. Motivated Addiction Alternative Program (MAAP): when people cited for open container or criminal trespass involving alcohol; given 4 warning citations and offered treatment, actually written a citation for 5th and offered treatment. Last week, 5 at court accepted treatment, 2 showed up. Will track success over time. Licensed addiction counselor Joel Simpson helping. Legislative committee working on public intoxication. Open container cites down 70%. Funding Committee asking for \$1m for sobering center + Grant for tracking. Spare Change for Real Change funds Joel's position. 44 people attended last monthly meeting in July. Joel, Matt & Tony presenting at International Downtown Association conference.
- Yakawich: Because downtown so visible, question. Counting 15 buildings in TIFD area vacant (car rental, Payne West, camera shop); visions on what to do? How to address? Krueger: Slide shown on how to address. Real estate agents working to fill spaces, two of those mentioned have contracts. Major project will fill at least 1/3 if successful. Buildings not neglected; difficult to work with. Annex building on North Broadway has access issues, getting grant to evaluate, talk to other tenants and developers. TID will work with them. Worked in past, will work again in future. Yakawich: Constituents say, when walking south side to north side, vacancies are visible. Krueger: Opportunities in Southside need to be evaluated. Serious problems, but working on them through work plan. Yakawich: If had magic wand, what would Leesa do in North, South and Pioneer parks, which are getting inundated with homeless. Some things getting worse, people being pushed into parks. What else can we do? Policy Council can implement? Harmon:

Many things outside box. Practically speaking, street behavior changing, especially downtown where higher risk individuals dwell due to handouts, etc. Word on street is that people can't come to Billings and be publicly intoxicated. One person came to city, turned self in to treatment. Can spend more time in park areas, but will connect if outside law six times in 30 days. Will take time, can charge with criminal trespass, may be what we need to do for MAAP data system. Since July, Rimrock took in 60 people. Can help parks, working together to use tool. Spread out more throughout City. Matt and Tony have educated police force on how MAAP works.

- Bird: Farmers Market feels different in a good way. Went to flea market on Minnesota Ave. Commend folks coordinating. Whole part includes Minnesota. Hope and promise for town, provide complete package. Feel same way? Once get someone relative significance, opportunity for that part of downtown is explosive. Leesa: Affordable housing company looking at area. Grannie's Attic as possible site for Art Space, which could build 45 live/work units. Bird: Bridge discussion? Leesa: Should have gone to different area, didn't happen way we thought it would. Will need to work on train traffic. Need to talk about traffic calming. People driving 45 mph in 25 mph, looking at tree lighting. Wrapped boxes. Volek: Millar confirms money for proposed bridge allocated to 13 other projects, not currently available. Bird: See wraps on trash receptacles on street in another city.
- Cimmino: Downtown is looking wonderful. Despite some recent vandalism, need to support public art effort. Wrap art includes painted base not done in other places. Leesa: Artist chooses color. Have 12 completed. Horse project was not DBA project, ROW used temporary time, DBA paid for lights, needed education campaign as to interactive public art. Bozeman has 100 wrought iron statues bolted in.
- Mayor: As many vehicles parked downtown in evenings as during day. A lot of activity.
- Brown: Going through MAAP program, officers trained in counseling? Leesa: No. Citations marked so judge knows that individual could be diverted to treatment. Protocol is 4 warnings, 5th one, arrested. Judge offers treatment or jail time. Jail time escalates. All Patrol fluent in MAAP so apply fairly, with hope no one freezes to death. Brown: Open container went from 231 to 69, where did they go? Leesa: some left community. People are connecting to treatment centers. Counselors are helpful. Rimrock and Crisis Center partnering.
- Hanel: any VISTA members? Yes, one worked in the office for 18 months. Worked on Spare Change to Real Change program. Would like to have another VISTA member in the future.
- **Public Comment:**
- Ed Gullick, 3015 10th Avenue North, appreciates the innovations downtown. Encourages Council to improve downtown street infrastructure. Will help pedestrians, bicyclists, businesses. One way streets pose travel difficulties downtown.
- Dennis Ulvestad, 3040 Central Avenue, praised downtown developments and progress. Greg and Leesa have made amazing strides for downtown. Takes time to make changes. Billings will be the envy of the state.
- **SBURA:** Steve Zeier. Included report in Friday packet.

- Miller Crossing update: removed from property tax assessments. Tax increment bond has been closed. Debt has been replaced with revenues from Tax Increment District. Final reimbursement payments have been made to the residents.
- TIFD assistance projects: in talks with potential property buyer.
- South Billings Sewer Phase II Project: 150-160 homes in dense subdivisions that were on septic tanks. Homes continue to hook into sewer systems. Long term project. Pipes are there. Meeting basic sanitary and infrastructure needs.
- Calhoun Lane: currently under construction and scheduled to be completed mid-September.
- Optimist Park Master Plan: thanked Council for funding from Contingency Fund. Project will move forward soon.
- Orchard Lane: full reconstruction to include storm water facilities, curbs, gutters.
- Dick Anderson Construction: building 7,000 square feet office facility on South Frontage Road.
- Ray Property: moving forward with office showroom facility.
- Yakawich: glad that residents are being taken care of. Partnership with CLDI is commendable.
- Orchard School Health Clinic: up and running. Clinic open in the summer as well.
- Yakawich: Jackson St reconstruction complete? Zeier: sidewalks and improvements are being made. Project was recently bid and will begin soon. Sewer improvements will take place in phase two of the improvements.
- Yakawich: S Billings Blvd and King Ave E: how to improve pedestrian safety? Not sure, but it is a busy intersection.
- **Budget:** Volek: Pat Weber does not have a presentation, but is available for questions. Extensive report was prepared and distributed in the Friday Packet.

Mayor Hanel called for a recess at 7:45 pm.

Mayor Hanel called the meeting back to order at 8:00 pm. Councilmember McCall was no longer present after the recess.

- **Initiatives:** Volek: Initiative materials were distributed in Friday packet. Staff asks for permission to remove items marked as “complete.”
- Pitman: discuss pros and cons of annexing Phipps and Riverfront Park initiative; thinks this can be removed.
- Whitaker: Parks Department wants to proceed with the annexation.
- Pitman: initiative was to discuss the pros and cons of annexation, not the annexation itself. Can remove this and mark it as complete.
- Pitman: 2012 initiative to work with realtors on guidance for park dedication.

- Volek: some indication that realtors would bring forward initiative to amend process of dedicating land; did not occur. City working with DPARB on ideas to coordinate with school district for park dedications.
- Hanel: Issues with having to dedicate a certain amount of land. Land would sometimes end up being useless.
- Pitman: leave this open or mark as complete?
- Volek: can mark complete if Council would like.
- Hanel: supports marking this initiative as complete.
- Pitman: mobile vendors. If project doesn't move forward in the next few months, will need to start over with new councilmembers.
- Volek: will look into this. Met with Leesa Harmon. Vendors able to use parking lots instead of streets. Most issues have been addressed/alleviated.
- Pitman: if most issues have been addressed, can mark as complete.
- Pitman: list of pending road projects from Public Works, including information about arterial fees.
- Volek: list is included in CIP.
- Pitman: can mark this as complete when list with costs and arterial information is received.
- Brown: would list be yearly or a one-time list?
- Pitman: one-time list. About 20 projects on the list. Council can examine list and determine which projects to pursue.
- Bird: helpful to clarify the status of projects (delay, replaced with something else, goal for start dates)
- Cromley: can mark animal control initiative as complete. Staff has acted on the initiative.
- Cimmino: inner belt loop right of way purchase. Phase I has been completed. Motion was amended for Phase II.
- Volek: will work with Dave Mumford on this.
- **Strategic Plan:** Volek: presented goals and objectives.
- Funding to complete Inner Belt Loop in the Heights. Included in 2015 Legislative Infrastructure Bill that was not approved. Staff would like to keep this project open and assign to Public Works/Administration/Planning.
- Sustainable Economic Development: meeting October 21, 2015 with Big Sky Economic Development, the City.
- Publicize historic aspects and cultural advantages of Billings. Continue work as liaisons to the Cultural Partners, Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board, and Convention and Visitors' Bureau. Continue this committee.
- Brown: how are historic aspects being publicized?
- Volek: Historic Preservation Board publishes news releases. Coordination of events takes place through various groups. Online postings as well.
- Continue work on relationships with Moss Mansion, Alberta Bair Theatre, Depot Montana Avenue, Zoo Montana? Staff will continue these roles.

- Identify future uses/management of the Babcock Theater, scheduled to be turned over to the City in 2017. Currently owned by owners of the Babcock Building. Would like to begin planning for this now.
- Bird: likes idea of starting to plan now. Would also like to see something like an ad hoc committee including community members.
- Volek: can have discussions with current owners and operators to identify sources of individuals who would be appropriate to serve on the committee. Would be helpful to have an initiative from Council.
- Bird: possibility of Alberta Bair taking this under their wing?
- Volek: yes, that is a possibility. Would be happy to talk to Alberta Bair. Initiative would be best guidance for staff.
- Future of Neighborhood Task Forces: integral part of community development. Some task forces not as active as they used to be.
- Hanel: if Council would like to proceed with a work session discussion, it would be appropriate to invite Task Force chairpersons.
- Bird: consider the fact that ward boundaries have changed significantly. Neighborhood Task Forces are critical for low income neighborhoods. Support conversations for revitalizing Task Forces.
- Yakawich: what kind of initiative is staff looking for?
- Volek: direction to proceed for task forces. Which to remain active? New task forces needed? Role for task forces that are not located in low income areas? Funding for task forces? Would like direction on how to proceed.
- Yakawich: would like initiative to have meeting with task force chairs?
- Volek: yes.
- Crouch: how much is City investing in Task Forces?
- Volek: believes \$20,000-30,000 per year. Will have additional information at next discussion on Task Forces.
- Brown: funds only for Task Forces in low income neighborhoods?
- Volek: yes.
- Nondiscrimination language in City Ordinances: Respond to Human Relation Commission's request to revise its duties in City ordinance? Voters failed to pass Charter amendment expanding roles of commissions. Initiative complete as staff took action.
- Cimmino: Alberta Bair hoping to expand facility?
- Volek: Yes. City owns building, Alberta Bair pays a nominal lease fee to the City.
- Cimmino: lease agreement was renewed a couple of years ago? How does expansion affect the agreement? How do taxpayers fund the expansion?
- Volek: Alberta Bair will present information about the expansion, including fundraising, at a future work session.
- **City-Wide Park District 1 Projects:** Mike Whitaker, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands
- 7 tennis courts under construction at Pioneer Park and Castlerock Park. Hope to have courts completed within 90 days (weather permitting)

- Presented concept of South Park Spray Ground. Will be under construction for two months this year and two months next year. Hope to open by Memorial Day 2016. Task Force helped select design concept.
- Pioneer Park playground has been completed. Ribbon cutting ceremony is Friday, August 7 at 1:00 pm.
- South Park playground. Hope to complete later this week. Safety audit will be conducted. Hope to open the playground as soon as possible.
- Yellowstone Kelly: \$500k budget for this project. City contributed \$50k. Raised 38% of remaining amount.
- High Sierra Disc Golf Course: hope to complete project by this fall. Baskets purchased. Hired a fence contractor to install perimeter fence before baskets are installed.
- Kiwanis grant opportunity to replace playground at Trails End Park. \$86,000 grant from KaBoom! And Kiwanis provided in-house grant of \$8,600 along with volunteers to install the playground equipment. Will be a community-built playground. Conducted meeting with children and parents in the neighborhood. Build day will be August 29. Parks department will provide food.
- Bird: time of build? Whitaker: will provide details.
- Cimmino: location of park? Whitaker: 18th Street West near Grand and Lewis.
- Centennial Park Master Plan: hoping to bring before Council at the September 8th Work Session. Thinks that Council will be happy with results.
- Crouch: Centennial Park - is parking analysis still happening? Whitaker: yes. Facility should have three parking lot areas.
- Bird: Centennial Park – will dog park be made smaller than suggested in the plan? Whitaker: portion of 6.8 acre proposed dog park includes storm water retention section. Land could not be used for any purpose other than a dog park, so the size was not reduced.
- Bird: Master Plan for Optimist Park? Would like to see list of parks that do not have a master plan. Park that is East of 24th St W? Neighborhood park? Does it have a master plan? Is it City property? Would like to have a master plan with all parks to know the potential of all park areas. Come up with strategic plans for all City parks. Whitaker: able to provide that information.
- Volek: wanting information about totally undeveloped parks? Or parks that are partially developed?
- Bird: not interested in undeveloped parks. More interested in parks that have partially developed and have additional potential.
- Whitaker: in the process of updating available master plans on the Parks Department website.
- Yakawich: thanked Whitaker for attending Task Force meeting. Through the Blues Festival, the Task Force raised \$650 to go towards a new restroom at South Park Splash Park.
- Crouch: park on Monad east of 32nd Street – Lampmann Park; any inquiries about this park? Whitaker: City has need for programmable space. Crouch: citizens expressed

opposition to creating a park in this area. Whitaker: looking at alternative options as programmable space.

- Brown: thought City was looking at selling Lampmann Park land. Whitaker: park board was headed in that direction, but would also like to explore the possibility of creating a programmable space in that area.
- Bird: thanks for the update. Lampmann Park is a perfect place for play fields.
- **Public Comment:**
- Tom Zurbuchen, 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT: says that quarterly budget report is incomplete. Mentioned “major unexpected expense” referenced in budget. 10% swing between property tax collections and public safety fund. Need to adjust budget formulas.
- Volek: will verify information about the unexpected expense. City received \$1.3 million from the settlement of back taxes with Charter and similar corporations; this amount was added to reserves. Approx. \$1 million returned by Police and Fire. Have budgeted \$1 million from unbudgeted reserves to balance public safety fund. \$1 million transfer from unbudgeted reserves to public safety fund is without any additional increase if contract negotiations are settled with the Police department. Expect to use funds in unbudgeted reserves by the end of FY 18. Public Safety is top priority. In the process of determining new number in total assessed valuation from the state. Staff is waiting on this information before recommending public safety levy details.
- Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, MT: many small businesses (MT Supply, Marklite Lines, Kabota Tractors, Yellowstone Motel) moved into Southside without government assistance or handouts. Larger companies like Cabela’s, Sams, asking for tax incentives. Put administrative costs into roads, sewers, etc. Need leadership to give deadlines and direction to staff. Optimist Park is a mess for parking during events. Can do better than starting the second phase of a sewer project. If Crane building was such a pearl, move City offices there. Enforce traffic calming laws. Enforce existing laws.
- Hanel: was at Optimist Park all day Saturday and Sunday, no issues with parking. Nelson: parking is not the issue, but safety is a problem while cars are attempting to park. Narrow passageways for cars. Use Phase II sewer funds for parking facilities at Optimist Park.

TOPIC #3	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Yakawich: appreciation dinner on October 22 at 6:00 pm at the Billings Community Center. Information will be distributed. Boards and Commissions will be sent memos.
- Yakawich: will be bringing forth an initiative to have a discussion about supporting Task Forces
- Bird: would like to add community conversations to future work session.
- Bird: need to discuss how to improve visual presentations for Council and audience members. Certain areas do not offer sufficient views of presentation screen.
- Pitman: previously discussed running a cable from the laptop to the TV in the courtroom for additional views of presentations

- Pitman: much confusion over reappraisals. Encourage citizens to file an appeal. Form will need to be on file with Department of Revenue in order to have future discussions regarding property taxes.
- Crouch: heard news stories about drones at airports around the country. Has Billings airport received any interruptions that need to be addressed? Volek: will check into this. Does not believe that there have been any disruptions. Will contact Kevin Ploehn for additional information.
- Cimmino: can CTA consultant examine additional options for display screens when courtroom is remodeled? Volek: will speak to Bruce McCandless about potential options.
- Brown: David Watterson would be a good resource to consult for display options.

TOPIC #4	Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Dennis Ulvestad: City Charter needs to be amended. Need to limit Council terms to two consecutive four year terms. Term limits allow for more minorities and women to enter the political sphere. Also curbs interest of certain groups. Campaign finance is more effective. Without campaign finance reform, certain interest groups will be affected. Term limits will allow “ordinary people” to participate rather than politicians. Term limit language amendments will limit Councilmembers to only two consecutive four year terms.
- Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, MT: reason why landfill is not open on Sundays during the summertime? Curious about what City receives and expenses incurred as a result of the Blues Fest?
- Hanel and Volek: events pays for police protection at this event, but will double check.
- Yakawich: Blues Festival donates parking money to South Park and other community organizations. Event also pays for security.

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm into a Closed Executive Session.