

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
August 1, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor/Council (please check) x Hanel, x Cromley, x Yakawich, Cimmino, x Brewster, x McFadden, x Friedel, x Swanson, x Sullivan, x Clark, x Brown.

CM Cimmino was excused.

ADJOURN TIME: 7:25. Recessed into exec session to discuss litigation strategy

Agenda

TOPIC #1	Yellowstone Kelly Interpretive Site
PRESENTER	Mike Whitaker, Parks Director
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Tina Volek, City Administrator, introduced new Library director, Gavin Woltjer.
- Mike Whitaker: update Council on the Yellowstone Kelly grave restoration.
- John Brewer, Chamber of Commerce: introduces committee members: Bill Cole, Chris Dimmoch and Dan Brooks.
- Whitaker: abbreviated slide show, funds have been raised. Bid this month and build this fall and next spring.
- Hanel: road is unacceptable for large vehicles.
- Whitaker: working with PW on getting millings for the potholes.
- Cole: City's seed money was critical. Will be at least 9 to 1 money match.
- Yakawich: lighting?
- Cole: power will be run to the sight but lighting not planned at this time. Cameras will be installed nearby.
- Public Comment:
- none

TOPIC #2	2016 Unified Planning Work Program Information
PRESENTER	Scott Walker, Planner
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Wyeth Friday, Interim Planning Director – introduction and brief review of packet.
- Scott Walker, Planner: review 2016 program now and coming back to Sept work session for the 2017 program. Goes through presentation. Meeting federal regulations crucial. Key is that UPWP is necessary in order to receive and spend federal transportation money. Process, personnel, funding and sources, 2015/16 accomplishments,

- Yakawich: most money for studies, not bricks and mortar? Study part uses Planning money. Roads and transit are programmed through the Trans. Improvement Plan (TIP).
- Yakawich: 4 board representatives, unanimous agreement? Almost always unanimous but can remember some split votes but the plan still gets approved.
- Public Comment:
- none

TOPIC #3	Quarterly Updates
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Tim Goodridge, East Billings Urban Renewal District, (EBURD): residential development for the first time in 40 years. ArtSpace Project formerly focused downtown but may be moving to the EBURD; BIRD bash on September 15. Reviewing bids on pedestrian overpass on Expedition. Connection to Metra key component.
- Brewster: send email on the BIRD Bash?
- Lisa Harmon, Director, Downtown Billings Alliance: Community Innovations – Celebrated 1 year Motivated Addition Alternative Program (MAAP)
- Volek: Officer Lennick was promoted to sergeant. Harmon: interviewing for 2nd ROC position.
- Brown: does DBA interview officers for downtown patrol?
- Harmon: have one member on the selection panel.
- Yakawich: visible impact; concerned about parks near downtown. Would coalition working more with parks?
- Harmon: yes, and now taking applications for new Resource Outreach Coordinator (ROC) – Resource officer and counselor.
- Sullivan: a year of stats for MAAP? Tracking 74 individuals, still working with 38. Staying consistent with choosing citation over MAAP on the streets, but choosing MAAP in front of judge. Will forward stats. New ROC required a FY 16 budget amendment?
- Volek: position scheduled to start on July 1, will require budget amendment soon.
- Clark: transients at Battin building are a problem.
- Volek: no report from South Billings Urban Renewal Association (SBURA) but will respond to questions.
- Clark: when does association start meeting again? SW Corridor task force?
Floyd Martin: will start again in Sept. Optimist park plan meeting moved to the 18th.
- Volek: budget and health fund-respond to questions.
- Clark: health plan reserves staying up despite large claims.

- Volek: initiatives, will remove completed ones unless Council objects.
- Sullivan: any movement on the downtown safety assessment/plan? Volek: underway and Public Works will lead.
- Clark: Public safety funding with fees? Volek: still working on it
- Volek: strategic plan – Babcock meeting on the 8th.
- Yakawich: when will we be bringing a consultant in to do more planning? Volek: every 3 years. Budget for FY18. Not certain same cost, may have to do RFP.
- Yakawich: can we step that up? Use someone local? Volek: Use Korn Ferry now.
- Sullivan: talking about new strategic plan next fall? Right after municipal election. Think we should do it sooner – like plan every two years along with election cycle. May not need a consultant every two years.
- Volek: not budgeted. Will do what Council directs. Appreciate an initiative giving that direction.
- Brewster: moving strategic planning to after election would allow new Councilmembers to be involved.
- Hanel: refresher may not be bad idea.
- Brown: need moderator if every 2 years.
- Volek: enormous amount of staff time. Broad strategic areas result in actions. If Council wishes to proceed, it would require a full Saturday.
- Mike Whitaker – PMD 1 projects: irrigation system Veterans Park, \$125,000 grant to assist with Hawthorne Park playground equipment, signed with CTA on Rose Park Pool Operations Building, Stewart Park irrigation upgrades, Amend Park.
- Brown: Stewart park traffic plan being done in-house or consultant? Whitaker: consultant
- Brewster: savings from automating irrigation? Whitaker: personnel savings even if there aren't water cost savings
- Clark: where is Monte Vista? Progress on new dog park? Any chance of full park development? Whitaker: west end. Dog park group took off the summer and fundraising. Matter of resources.
- Volek: Sept 6 work session discussion about park development financing.
- Sullivan: project economics report – ROI, etc. important to brag about.
- Public Comment:
- Tom Zurbuchen, 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT: 4th quarter budget report – projected to use \$3.3m GF but instead put \$1.4 million into reserves. \$4.7 million swing is almost 10% of the total budget. Lobbyist didn't report how the reappraisal bill would impact the budget. Won't actually save the money from irrigation projects, will just spend it somewhere else.
- Volek: Council reduced mill levy by 10 mils. City has seen reduction in taxes, increases in property taxes due to voted levies. Assessed valuations went up. Council requested saving reserves, remaining set aside for Public Safety. Council requested postponing PS levy.

- Clark and Brewster: lowered mills but increased tax collections because valuation decreased.
- Hanel: amount we collected via mills was less, values went up therefore increasing revenue.
- Brown: went with 99 mills because there would be less of an increase.

TOPIC #4	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Yakawich: letter at last task force meeting about lead pipes. Volek: PW will make presentation on Sept. 20
- Sullivan: article about west end traffic during construction. People get fired up when we work multiple projects and can't get around. Want to see schedule for road construction next year. Volek: will talk to PW

TOPIC #5	Public Comment
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Tom Zurbuchen, 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT: July 12, city hired 4 new police officers. Heights task force officer said more have retired and several officers tied up on background checks. Police officers don't need to do all of the checking, such as employment info, HR should do it. Wasting resources.