

City Council Special Work Session

8:00 AM
Community Center, 390 N. 23rd Street, Billings, MT
January 21, 2017

ATTENDANCE:

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

CM excused:

ADJOURN TIME: 12:00 pm

Agenda

TOPIC #1	FY18 Budget Presentation
PRESENTER	Tina Volek, City Administrator
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Mayor Hanel opens meeting, calls roll. Tina Volek, City Administrator, introduces staff. Passes out budget schedule. Reviews FY 17 budget totals, uses, reserves and accomplishments.
- Volek: reviews some accomplishments: In 2016 Billings was named 7th Best Managed City and reviews budget for FY18.
- Sullivan: info about taxable value? Not yet
- Yakawich: MET status? When is it critical to increase? Kevin Ploehn, Airport Director: need 5 mills just to fill the equipment needs. Can go another 2 years without additional revenue but sooner resolution will be better.
- Sullivan: # riders/day? 500k – 600k total rides/year. 300,000-400,000 rides rely on the bus for main transportation.
- Clark: how much support? \$2.6M state and federal money. About \$2M generated locally.
- Brewster: consider using unallocated reserves for park development.
- Hanel: tell us more about evidence building expansion project. Volek: off of S. Billings Blvd, City bought land for BOC and it is full. Land behind BOC is being farmed and is very expensive. Chief St. John: Evidence building full (60,000 items). RFP pending.
- Sullivan: are there state or federal consequences over evidence regulations? No
- Clark: use building 24/7? Can cars be stored elsewhere? Yes, can deposit evidence anytime. Can store elsewhere but has to be secure and still need building expansion.
- Cromley: looking for storage yard or building expansion? Both.
- Brown: city facility only? Most from city but a little from other agencies.

- Yakawich: last year's budget presentation very good. Priorities list is valuable. Like to know how much return on property disposal. Volek: sometimes give to other departments, always trade in when possible.
- Friedel: ask small cities if they want our old equipment? Some, but could probably expand.
- Hanel: council needs to consider if/how it wants to spend undesignated reserves.
- **Public Comment:**
- Terry Odegard, 2101 Lake Hills, Billings, MT: share some things with you. Personal note. Trying to decide whether to stay in Billings or move to other property he owns. Care about Billings and MT. Will meet with TIF officials and fire dept. Need to be better listeners. Met and talked with Mike Whitaker on Wed evening and plan to talk with him some more. Good presentation and attendance at the park master plan session. Learned a lot. Looking forward to next session in spring. Need to communicate more/better with people about city business.

TOPIC #2	Strategic Plan
PRESENTER	Councilmember Sullivan
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Sullivan: discusses proposal and schedule. PowerPoint presentation. May need to and how to adjust mid-year if needed.
- Brewster: talking about this now so that it can match up with annual budget prep.
- Yakawich: any Councilmember can still bring up non-emergency issues?
- Sullivan: yes but if it's major, should discuss if doing it next year would be better.
- Friedel: maybe set aside time during the year to talk about those change of course, for example, adult material being viewed at the Library.
- Brewster: long term consequences, costly items, such as hiring six firefighters, should wait for annual planning process and work it into the following year's budget.
- Sullivan: try to identify what budget year tasks should be done and then prioritize.
- Yakawich: want to take light districts change off the list
- Sullivan and Council discussion – ID the issues and preliminary decision on which items are FY 18 or later. Complete list review. Any other or new issues?
- Volek: Code review, 3-4 year life span.
- Cimmino: High Sierra Park, adding shelter and consider changing it to community park. Volek: staff has discussed separating dog park and disc golf to reduce cost of PMD.
- McFadden: consider creating a policy on neighborhood park vs City park.
- Sullivan: discuss snow removal policy, budget or separate item. Mumford: need to know quickly if budget item

- Volek: dogs in parks discussion added to calendar soon.
- Friedel: add a couple items. Muni court judge, 10.202 – may appoint a PT judge. Bike ordinance – if and where can people ride on sidewalks vs. streets.
- Clark: review zoning on medical marijuana. Taxes on shops?
- Cromley: disposal of excess parkland.
- Sullivan: enhanced safety zone – not school zones – and increasing fines in those areas.
- **Public Comment:**
- Terry Odegard, 2101 Lake Hills, Billings, MT: good job CM Sullivan
- Recess at 10:00 am
- Reconvene at 10:20 am
- Sullivan: recap progress. Need to go through list again to Identify 2018 projects/issues as follows:
- Office and other space planning – discussion in FY 18 but probably not spend significant dollars yet. Discuss near the end of the year.
- Police evidence is FY 18.
- Garage infrastructure, repairs, not a FY 18 issue.
- Discuss charter changes, may need money for outside counsel, no other major budget needs in FY18.
- Performance measures: talk/review what it is, how it's done, costs, etc. in FY 18, do it later. Lower priority.
- Ethics board – if it stays, there can be some outside legal counsel expense. Coming out of current Legal dept. budget.
- Citizen engagement – not in FY 18
- Indigenous Peoples day – no budget impact
- Downtown pedestrian study – in the UPWP and in the federal planning budget. One way streets under review and downtown TIF funding support.
- Minimum standards – make it a 2019 budget item but continue talking in 2018
- Park bond – end of year
- Babcock – FY 18
- Inner belt loop – talk in FY 18 maybe fund FY 19 or later
- Barrett Road – same
- MET funding – discuss FY 18
- No budget impacts on rest of items
- **More public comments:**
- Tom Zurbuchen, 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT: city hire laid off construction company employees to plow snow in winter, save money.
- Terry Odegard, 2101 Lake Hills, Billings, MT: need more affordable housing. Harvest Foundation, strong foundation, should give them money back.

TOPIC #3	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- McFadden: should look into using outside services for projects, especially for high bids. Should refund the Oasis deposit for pool. City was hanging onto \$100,000 in case pool was unsuccessful and hole needed to be filled.
- Sullivan: thanks everyone.

TOPIC #4	Topics Not on the Agenda
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- None