

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
May 23, 2017

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 excused: Cimmino

ADJOURN TIME: 8:43 p.m.

Agenda

TOPIC #1	Downtown Business Improvement District (BID)
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Lisa Harmon, Executive Director, Downtown Billings Alliance: discusses BIDs, introduces staff.
- Joe Stout, Operations Director: Overview of Business Improvement District (BID) 523 bags of trash collected, snow removal etc.
- Matt Frank: Motivated Addiction Alternative Program (MAAP) program - safe and clean. Overcrowding in jails detrimental to how program works. Summer bike program. Parks will get busier during summer. Working on options. Josiah Hugs hired.
- Harmon: Community Innovations lost Licensed Addiction counselor (LEC), decided to hire through office to help future issues. Expenditures: officer program, staffing.
- Sullivan: plan to keep ROC officers? Shortage of LEC's and mental health staff. Will keep ROC on staff and is easier to hire then LEC. Josiah will start and be able to serve cultural piece.
- **Public Comment:**
None
6:15 pm Mayor Hanel left the meeting. Deputy Mayor Cromley filled in as presiding Mayor.

TOPIC #2	Downtown Urban Renewal District (DBP)
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Greg Krueger, Downtown Billings Alliance, Development Director: operating budget sent to Council on Friday. No questions.
- **Public Comment:**
None

TOPIC #3	East Billings Urban Renewal District (EBURD)
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Tim Goodridge, Billings Industrial Revitalization District (BIRD): discusses proposed projects for FY 18 and beyond.
- Yakawich: what is the EBURD vision for residential development? Part of master plan, housing study.
- Brown: TIF pays for installation and operations go to owners? A city lighting district? Yes.
- **Public Comment:**
- Tom Zurbuchen, 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT: east end needs development and parking, not a bridge.

TOPIC #4	Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID)
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Alex Tyson, Visit Billings: CMs received packets in the mail? Outside Magazine best town award. assets here. funding
- Shelly Mann Chair: June 2nd, first flight to Dallas on American Airlines. 10-year review of TBID.
- Swanson: lacking aquatics. Yes and ice surfaces also. Sports facility feasibility study.
- Sullivan: doing anything to push the recruiting south – Casper and beyond
- Yakawich: any plans for entries/displays to the city? Chamber and BSED working on it.
- **Public Comment:**
None

TOPIC #5	Public Works
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Dave Mumford, Public Works Director: PowerPoint overview of PW.
- Jenifer Duray, PW Financial Manager: over view of finances.
- Mumford: challenges and FY 18 plans. Resolution will be sent to Council for Phillips, Heights and Lockwood. Contractually required. Also ask Council to consider setting new SDFs. Legislature recommended that solid waste bill go onto the water bill instead of property tax assessment.

- Clark: rates going down? Waste water treatment plant did not go online as quickly as thought. Charging for operational plant, before it was.
- Brewster: Can Council make a motion to reconsider rates? Brent Brooks, City Attorney: yes, must have public notice.
- Sullivan: Operations center rent went up 6%, why? Volek: office rent increase could be utilities, etc. Will find out exact break down.
- Yakawich: effect of creating a new, lower tier. Would have to redo the entire rate study.
- Sullivan: billing cycle differences? Duray: changed about a year ago so that all have approx. 30 days, ranging from 29-31 days due to weekends.
- Brown: if rates don't increase now, what will be the ask in 2-3 more years? Probably 7%-8%.
- Mumford: review additional assessment increases. County DES wants \$20k/yr to implement reverse 911. \$8/yr. residential rate increase for residential street plowing.
- Clark: what happens to the residential street plowing money if there aren't any snow storms? Could keep it in the account or spend for other street work.
- Sullivan: street striping doesn't last. Testing other methods or products? Epoxy on new streets but water based paint for restriping.
- **Public Comment:**
- Tom Zurbuchen, 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT: franchise fee is an illegal sales tax. Can't be deducted on taxes. Departments should be paying for their water. Solid waste fee shouldn't be uniform. Negatively impacting the poor.
- Perry Moller, 714 N. 32nd St., Billings, MT: water and sewer rates have increased too much. Consider them to be combined. Central city residents subsidize outlying residents. Like the system development fee.

TOPIC #6	Budget Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Tina Volek, City Administrator: want to make a brief presentation. 2 more discussions possible on budget before June 12 adoption. Direction from Council for changes? OK for general fund (GF) and PSF?
- Brewster: want to use GF to pay for water, do not offer subsidy.
- Council wants 4 budget resolutions
- Estimate to have GF pay for water and sewer services. (more inclusive) want the numbers and then make a decision.
- Franchise fees don't need to be studied right now.
- Sullivan: figure out how to add police head count as the City grows.
- Brown: don't want to muddy budget waters by considering personnel changes, but do support Brewster's proposal for charging GF for water/sewer/trash.

- Brown: can we break out separate facilities like pools from parks?
- McFadden: consider a lower rate for city facilities, such as for heights water.
- Clark: clarify which depts. are paying and for what.
- **Public Comment:**
- Tom Zurbuchen, 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT: state property tax assistance programs. Elderly homeowner/renter credit. an include all taxes, fees and assessments on the tax bill, so cost is less than if billed on utility bills.

TOPIC #6	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- None
- **Public Comment:**
None

TOPIC #7	Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- None