

City Council Work Session

November 19, 2007
5:30 PM
Community Center

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor/Council (please check) x Tussing, x Ronquillo, x Gaghen, x Stevens, Brewster,
x Veis, x Ruegamer, x Ulledalen, x Boyer, x Jones, x Clark.

ADJOURN TIME: 9:25 p.m.

Agenda

TOPIC #1	<i>Public Comment</i>
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- None

TOPIC #2	<i>Board & Commission Reports</i>
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- None

TOPIC #3	<i>Senator Kelly Gebhardt & Representative Robin Driscoll</i>
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Councilmember Veis welcomed Senator Kelly Gebhardt and Representative Robin Driscoll.
- Mr. Gebhardt said he co-sponsored the bill with Sen. Gillan but voted against it on floor, due to Essman's sales tax bill, and probably would have voted for it if he had known the fate of Essman's bill.
- Ms. Driscoll said she would have supported it if it had made it to the House, and preferred a statewide sales tax. She said you need urban communities to support it and would stand a better chance to pass the bill.
- Mr. Gebhardt said small communities have the option and he did don't like the system and felt it should apply to all cities, regardless of size.
- Councilmember Ruegamer said he didn't think that statewide sales tax would benefit the cities; gave an example of bed tax disappearing in the city of Helena. He said all we

wanted to do is the right to ask our voters if tax is acceptable, and needed their commitment and passion to get it passed.

- Councilmember Boyer said the first time that all seven large communities supported the bill, and at the MLCT conference, even small cities stated that they needed the local option tax too.
- Mr. Gebhardt said he would make a commitment and support it again if it comes up. He said the 1997 MACO supported sales tax that would have replaced the 95 statewide education mills, and would have allowed locals to increase property tax levy without increasing the overall burden.
- Councilmember Clark said property tax was unpopular.
- Councilmember Ulledalen said you need the local flexibility to use the tax for the local needs that would differ from city to city.
- Councilmember Boyer said she moved here 32 years ago and had consistently heard that there will be statewide tax reform, including a sales tax. She said she didn't think it would happen in her lifetime, and felt the Bill would have guaranteed property tax relief.
- Councilmember Jones said the roads need work and felt they've been creative in how the work had been financed, but it all comes from the local taxpayers. He said he would prefer to not have a revenue sharing formula.
- Councilmember Ulledalen said retailers don't see just our population, they see a regional population, and are asking the regional population to help support the infrastructure.
- Mr. Gephardt felt fairness says you shouldn't have to revenue share but it was a tool to gain small town support, and said property tax relief helps too. He said maybe zone the tax relief so those farther away get less relief.
- Councilmember Ulledalen said the Chamber was promoting the bed tax be returned to cities, since state has substantial reserves.
- Mr. Gebhardt said the Bill made it out of the committee but not to the floor and felt if the State didn't need the money, maybe the cities should get it. He said about 2/3 of the bed tax is paid by in-state residents.
- Ms. Driscoll said you won't get that tax away from the state, and felt you need to start calling it a local option tax, because resort tax doesn't fit most people's definition of a resort area.
- Councilmember Ruegamer said he had been calling it a tourist tax, and said the State started at a 4% bed tax, then raised it an additional 3% and the cities would like to have the 3% back from the State. He said local hotels just agreed to charge \$.75/room night and don't want to tax the public anymore.
- Councilmember Jones said we're still waiting for our revenue share from Red Lodge.
- Councilmember Veis said TID law had worked for the City of Billings and didn't need more restrictions from the state.
- Ms. Driscoll said she was in favor of TIDs, because they attracted businesses to vital areas, and said people needed to understand that TIDs don't raise their property taxes.
- Mr. Gebhardt said when he was a county commissioner; he thought they were a pretty good deal, but the problem was that the schools didn't get the increment and the benefit from the growth. He said too many districts would cause problems with education funding.
- Councilmember Ulledalen said in many areas, the option is TID or let the area rot. He said the Downtown TIF would put a lot of money into schools when it sunsets next year.

- Councilmember Ruegamer said you have to find blight when the TID is created and those taxes are usually stagnant or declining. He felt you needed to look at it long term, and said the east Billings TID wasn't benefiting the schools.
- Councilmember Veis said if we let the school taxes out of the law, then counties would want out and there would be no increment.
- Councilmember Gaghen said the East Billings District the Superintendent of Schools showed there are no schools in that area.
- Councilmember Clark said the school district benefited directly from the TIF district, resulting in the \$3.5 million for the Lincoln Center.
- Councilmember Veis said there were three transportation projects that were important; Airport Road, Shiloh Road, and the Bench connection. He said cities are finding it difficult to work with MDT on large road projects, ICAP is expensive and MDT wants the money up-front. He asked for support of these major projects.
- Ms. Driscoll stated she really didn't know the issues, and was not on any committees that dealt with it, and asked to be educated on the subject.
- Councilmember Ulledalen said the main question was how to pay for a growing community. He said Congressional appropriations for Airport Road and Shiloh Road came to millions of dollars, and have had no progress after many years. He said Zimmerman Trail project was killed by MDT charging the ICAP and making the city advance fund the local share and any overage. He said you could get used to paying ICAP for escrowing funds, but waiting 10 years for the project was unacceptable.
- Councilmember Veis said the Airport Road project was 11 years old and was afraid the Shiloh Road project was going in the same direction. He said there seemed to be no recourse for cities, and said any assistance Council could receive would be appreciated.
- Mr. Gebhardt said the approximate 13% local share goes into preliminary design/surveying and the old preliminary designs would get thrown away and the money was wasted. He said the City might be able to do the preliminary design/survey yourself and save the waste of funds by the State. He said for example, the road south of Musselshell cost more to design it by three times, than it cost to construct.
- Councilmember Gaghen said the City had received federal appropriation for the Zimmerman Trail project based on cost estimates at the time, but by the time MDT got it to bid, the costs were outdated and eventually cost much more than originally predicted.
- Mr. Gebhardt said he talked to Mr. Lynch at the end of the session and told him that he needed to speed up the projects, and told Council he was there to serve them and to call him if they needed anything.

Mayor Tussing invited newly elected Councilmembers, Jani McCall and Denis Pitman, to join the table and said they could ask questions at any time.

City Administrator Tina Volek said in the Friday packet there was a document in regard to the School District #2 recycling project, and asked Councilmembers if they would like to add the item to the end of the current agenda, or put it on the December 3 agenda, which would be the last Work Session Meeting of the year.

It was decided to take care of the issue during tonight's meeting.

TOPIC #4	<i>Community Development Board Funding Priorities</i>
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Brenda Beckett, Community Development (CD) Director, introduced David Goodrich Community Development Board Chairman, and Emily Schaefer, member of the Board.
- Mr. Goodrich said the CD Board process descriptions were site visits, develop questions for applicants, review responses; attend a two day budget hearing on the requests, develop recommendations and present to Council. Mr. Goodrich reviewed neighborhood improvement projects over past 10 years; i.e., affordable housing projects and said they have constructed over 1800 units since 1995.
- Mr. Goodrich said the Board reviews housing assistance projects, and asked the Council if it would better to put more money to fewer projects?
- Councilmember Veis said the City was receiving less and less funding with each year.
- Mr. Goodrich said the Board was working with fewer dollars, so they needed to decide which way to go. He said when the Board received the responses; the applicants were split in their decision. Mr. Goodrich said he felt smaller amounts with a broader distribution made the best case for keeping it that way with the CD Board. He said there was potential risk of money waste or fraud greater with larger grants than with the smaller ones that we're doing right now.
- Councilmember Gaghen said she was on the CD Board in from 1981 – 1988, and said Council had committed to using the 15% public services limited for that purpose. HUD encouraged the City to fund small organizations and start-ups. She said broad spread was the best method of funding, and felt the CD Board worked hard to boost the impact of the dollars. She said the National League worked hard to get Congress to continue funding these types of programs.
- Councilmember Veis asked if Council should consider giving a 'nest egg' to an organization but then restrict them from applying for awhile.
- Mr. Goodrich said the Board will consider that in the spring, and said the only problem is that those participants not in the first year will complain that they aren't getting their fair share, and it is difficult to change the process.
- Ms. Beckett said the organizations definitely want some money, even if it is a small amount, and if the annual grant drops below \$500,000, she would recommend that public service funding be eliminated.
- Emily Schaefer said last year they had many new applicants and decided to let them all wait for a year to get into the cycle. She said it was hard to tell people no, but they had not received many complaints from organizations about the Board's decisions.
- Councilmember Ruegamer said he had asked someone from outside the grantees how they think the money should be distributed, and suggested asking local retailers for their input. He also said 'should give the higher dollar amounts to the most effective programs, not just the biggest' was the way to proceed.
- Mr. Goodrich said the Board wanted to come up with an analysis process to show effectiveness and effective money will get money.
- Councilmember Jones said that last year the spread was so thin that it didn't help anyone, and wanted to cut off the organizations that aren't being effective.

- Councilmember Stevens said the quote from the Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization warning against large grants because agencies become over-dependent on few sources of funding, which she said would force innovation.
- Jani McCall asked if the Board required outcome measurements.
- Ms. Beckett said yes, and that HUD also required it, and there were several demographic reports required as well.
- City Administrator Volek asked what the Board’s next step would be.
- Ms. Beckett said the CD Board would discuss effectiveness and survey the organizations, and would like quarterly reports. She said the organizations and CD Board struggled over the annual decisions. She invited Councilmembers and staff to attend sometime.
- Councilmember Ulledalen said of all the boards and commissions, he appreciated Ms. Beckett among the most, and knew there were tough decisions, and thanked her for all the work that she and the organization had done.

TOPIC #5	<i>2008 Federal Legislative Agenda</i>
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Bruce Putnam, Retired Aviation and Transit Director for the City of Billings, introduced himself to everyone and reviewed where last year’s projects were before he discussed the current year’s projects. He said even though the City submitted more projects than could be funded, he felt it was important to keep the needs in front of delegation because you never know when a project would fit an individual or a committee’s needs. Mr. Putman said Council needed to prioritize approximately eight projects. He said this year’s projects were, Cobb Field - \$500,000; Housing First - \$400,000; Shiloh Rd - \$7 million; Police had two projects for video and a vehicle; and \$222,000 for Harvest Foundation water and sewer lines. Mr. Putman said the Democrats promised no ear-marks and that it would be hard for them to sustain, and thought there would be insignificant changes to the process or funding.
- Councilmember Ronquillo said a TV station reported \$333,000 would be funded for the Cobb Field project, and asked if Mr. Putman had any comment.
- Mr. Putnam said he did not know the figure, but would check on it.
- Councilmember Boyer said when they visited Washington, every office asked for a prioritization, and felt they needed to concentrate on that issue.
- Councilmember Veis asked about the Naval Reserve Center funding.
- City Administrator Volek replied the funding had been removed from the bill and did not make it past the committee.
- Mr. Putnam said there were several new projects and would be presented at the December 17 Council Meeting and asked for Council to take action to prioritize the top eight projects, and would send Council a memo asking for responses by December 13. He said about half of the new requests were repeats from last year, and described them one by one and provided handouts to everyone detailing the up-coming projects.
- Councilmember Veis questioned the amount that was committed to the Naval Reserve Center and asked for a reduction/new estimate.

- Assistant City Administrator McCandless said they would submit a new cost estimate.
- Councilmember Veis asked about the MET buses and if the City had a chance to use Exxon dollars for buses and went to PRPL instead.
- City Administrator Volek said Exxon picked, not the City.
- Councilmember Jones asked if cameras on buses were required.
- Mr. Wenger said they were not required, but advisable for school routes and to also document accidents.
- Councilmember Boyer asked about the project described to Celebrate Billings and asked if they still wanted to immediately support the concept. She said they wanted some research and consultation done in order to provide Council direction.
- Ms. Beckett said, yes. They were following the recommendations for consultation first.
- Mayor Tussing asked if Celebrate Billings caused the contact with businesses.
- Ms. Beckett said, yes.
- Councilmember Ruegamer said he would not support this project.
- Consensus among the Councilmembers was not to support.
- Mayor Tussing asked if this was an unusual request for federal appropriation.
- Ms. Breckett said yes, but there are other cities that have established business consortiums.
- Councilmember Veis asked where parkland purchase would be.
- Mike Whitaker, Director of Parks/Public Lands said it had been many years since a regional park has been created, and currently the City is not developing any of these kinds of parks.
- Councilmember Veis asked what federal funding stream this would come from.
- Mr. Whitaker said it would be a through Federal Appropriation fund.
- Councilmember Veis then asked Mr. Putnam is he knew.
- Mr. Putnam replied he did not know for sure.
- Councilmember Boyer asked how this would impact the Cottonwood Park project.
- City Administrator said any growing community had a hard time confronting this. She said you might have to buy an operating farm and let tenant farmer continue to operate it, maybe for many years, and felt now is the time to buy before land becomes more expensive or not available.
- Councilmember Ruegamer said he heard too often that all of the development is on the west end and suggested Council identify where this land would be purchased.
- Councilmember Veis: asked if the City used cash in lieu of park dedication funding for this.
- City Administrator Volek said cash in lieu wouldn't touch this size project.
- Councilmember Veis asked if it was better to ask for money to develop parks rather than land acquisition.
- City Administrator Volek said it may be out of city limits today and in thirty years from now, it may be.
- Mr. Whitaker said Riverfront was not in the city, but eventually probably would be. He said 80-100 acres of land would probably be outside the city limits, but not for too long.
- Councilmember Veis: asked if the Shiloh Road money was on top of what we've already obtained (\$7 million) and said this was always on the top of our list and we'll start lose our credibility if we don't act soon.

- Mr. Putnam recommended Council proceed and resolve the issues with MDT, and to keep these types of projects in front of delegation.
- Mr. Mumford said Council would have at least a year to work on the issue with MDT.
- Councilmember Jones said \$21 million was a huge number, and asked if we could break it down and get the right-of-way.
- Mr. Mumford said there was a Council initiative to prompt a change in the CIP of \$500,000 for design and start acquiring land. He said a lot of the road is on state land and the land may have value, but the State would realize huge value increase in their land if a road is built through it. He said he would like to use local dollars to purchase land so we don't have to do an EIS.
- Councilmember Clark said we need to get local project administration authority, and could make a huge impact.
- Councilmember Ronquillo said Mr. Barrett said we should not ask for money for multiple projects because the State doesn't have the capacity to fund multiple projects.
- Councilmember Boyer said we needed to focus on the Shiloh Road project.
- Councilmember Veis said he wanted to talk about planning and construction funds at the next PCC meeting on December 5.
- Mr. Putnam continued describing the other project and said this may be the most opportune time to get transportation dollars, due to Baucus' position on the Senate Finance Committee.
- Mayor Tussing asked if Rimrock Road., Shiloh to 54th was still upcoming.
- Mr. Mumford said yes, but these projects were different than the Shiloh Road project.
- Councilmember Gaghen asked if the City could break the project into two parts to avoid traffic problems.
- Mr. Mumford said no, the City could do it all if money is available.
- Councilmember Clark inquired why the City was asking for water plant money.
- City Administrator Volek said the City was committed to security improvements and it was a capital improvement project and would be funded locally if we can't get federal money.
- Councilmember Gaghen said Council had become less active on railroad relocation, but still felt it was an important project. She said North and South 27th Streets would be at capacity in 2020 and traffic backups would become worse. She said Council was not sure how to proceed because they've worked a long time and are not making much progress. She said the Committee would meet January 30, 2008, to determine if they should proceed.
- Councilmember Jones said he would like to add a project to list; the Calamity Jane Reservoir, which would be approximately \$500,000 to conduct a study.
- Councilmember Ruegamer said he agreed and water would be our biggest problem within the next 20 years, and said it was imperative to work on the issue.
- City Administrator Volek said staff would investigate the Calamity Jane study and would send Council a reminder email asking for their priorities by December 13.

TOPIC #6	<i>Biodiesel Test Program</i>
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Larry Deschene, Motor Vehicle Maintenance Manager, gave Council the background on Biodiesel bids and the test (pilot) program. He said the test program objectives were to include 12 vehicles (6 exact pair).
- Councilmember Veis asked if 12 vehicles would be a good number to run the test with.
- Mr. Deschene mentioned several pertinent points that were used to test Biodiesel in the Boulder bus system that used comparable numbers, and described the fueling operations in detail.
- Councilmember Veis asked if there were any interim reports available.
- Mr. Deschene said he could do create one; however, it would not be fair/accurate because the vehicle would not operate during all seasons.
- Mayor Tussing asked who will operate the vehicles.
- Bill Kemp, Street & Traffic Division Manager said they would try to keep same people in the test vehicles but could not always do that.
- Mayor Tussing said different operators could cause variances.
- City Administrator Volek pointed out that we are bumping the % up to 10 as opposed to the original 2% stated earlier.
- Councilmember Gaghen asked if that was the standard for tests.
- Mr. Deschene said he didn't know if there were any standards set, and there was no magic number for a test.
- Councilmember Gaghen asked Ed Gulick if that was the standard that he endorsed
- Mr. Gulick said a small number will cause greater variance.
- Councilmember Ruegamer said he had received a letter from YVCC and they thought a larger sample would be better, but if something goes wrong, the City did not want to jeopardize many vehicles.
- Councilmember Ulledalen asked if engine manufacturers have any advice on Biodiesel.
- Mr. Deschene said that was a grey area, and the City was not going to void warranty if they used less than a B20 blend.
- Councilmember Ulledalen asked if manufacturers were supporting up to a B10 blend.
- Mr. Deschene said yes, IH is.
- Jani McCall asked if there were any other cities testing Biodiesel.
- Mr. Deschene said not that they are aware of; that Bozeman had part of fleet last year and said they would add more this year.
- Mayor Tussing asked if there was any way to measure the emissions.
- Mr. Deschene said he had asked Cummins and they did not know anyone other than an engineering company who could provide those measurements, and the State of Colorado mandates tests, so they have the equipment available.
- It was asked if Council would like to proceed with the Biodiesel test program, and consensus was yes.

TOPIC #7	<i>Work Force Housing – Tom Llewellyn</i>
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Tom Llewellyn said he was not representing anyone except himself, and said Billings needed workforce housing. He said the City needed rental and ownership housing for workers and for our children. Mr. Llewellyn said the median family income was approximately \$45,000/year, with most families able to afford a house worth \$140,000-\$150,000, but there weren't many houses in that price range available. He said the workforce housing project could consider a price up to \$170,000, and the South Billings Boulevard TID would give them a great opportunity to create new workforce housing. He said he wanted the City to create a task force from industry, City staff, neighborhood task forces, etc., and said he had already talked with the State about a program. He said there was an incentive for each affordable house sold, and felt the housing situation was just going to get worse.
- Councilmember Ronquillo agreed and said there were 80 applications for 20-capacity Southern Lights unit. He said Kings Green was a phenomenal project, but there was only one builder involved because they only receive a 15% markup, so it makes it tough to attract builders.
- Mr. Llewellyn said they have a builder that has been able to build \$150,000 houses. The high end builder is looking for a lot for less expensive housing because that's the future market in Billings.
- Councilmember Ulledalen said the issue in southwest Billings was rezoning.
- Mr. Llewellyn said that was an issue in the entitlement program, and felt you need to get the land first, then the zoning, and then the builder.
- Councilmember Ulledalen asked if the City could drive zoning in the area.
- Mr. Llewellyn said yes.
- Councilmember Veis asked if there was a task force schedule in place.
- Mr. Llewellyn said he would like to get the task force had been appointed now, as there was a going to be a housing summit in the spring, and would like the task force to be a 1 year appointment. He said April is Fair Housing month, so that would be good time for the summit.
- Candi Beaudry, Planning Director, said it was great to see this item on the agenda, as Planning very concerned about the issue. She said the objective was to have an affordable housing task force now but had mostly been hearing a lot of people pointing fingers at each other. She said we need to bring these groups together to identify the problems, and then figure out a solution to overcome those problems. She said a one-day summit would be appropriate, with the outcome of being able to advise Council as to how they could break down the barriers.
- Councilmember Veis asked why the market doesn't react to this, and gave the Dover annexation as an example, and asked what the workforce could do that would be any different.

- Mr. Llewellyn said the task force would have the opportunity to bring together some entitlements, incentives that could bring the marketplace together. He said the margin on a \$250,000 houses is better than \$160,000, so why would a contractor want to build down. He said he was afraid no one would react until the market is shot.
- Councilmember Ronquillo said the Kings Green was going too swiftly and all the houses were already pre-sold. He said the contractors that are willing to settle for the 15% profit on lower price housing are going to be scarce.
- Mr. Llewellyn said the Canyon Drive project started with houses valued at \$47,000 and now were selling for \$105,000. He said these homes were built as starter homes to allow people to live in them for a few years, and then sell in order to buy bigger, better homes. He said now the residents love the area and do not want to sell or move.
- Jani McCall said the task force made sense, because having all the stakeholders at one table, you would be able to come up with better solutions, rather than having separate entities trying to reach an agreement. She suggested getting the actual consumer involved in the task force as well.
- Mr. Llewellyn said that was why he wanted neighborhood task force membership, and felt it was critical.
- Councilmember Jones said he would like to move forward with this project.
- Councilmember Boyer asked what the entitlements and incentives would be.
- Mr. Llewellyn said the entitlement would be having the zoning in place before the development, and there would be a cash incentive for ‘sold’ affordable housing;
- Councilmember Ulledalen said the Strategic plan called for work on infill development.
- Mr. Llewellyn said there were 450 acres of undeveloped parks, and felt we could use some of it for housing.
- Councilmember Gaghen said it needed to be instilled in people and developers that they can give back to community by supplying a community need, such as affordable housing.
- Councilmember Stevens asked where the boards and commissions discussion was at, i.e., applications, appointments, do we keep or terminate some.
- City Administrator Volek said she did not know, but would gather the information and report back to Council.
- Councilmember Ulledalen said if we didn’t do anything on this, affordable housing would move to the suburbs, but city would still be responsible for the infrastructure.
- Councilmember Veis said one of the goals of the East Billings TID was workforce housing.
- Denis Putman said he would resign from the Park Board, so there would be a vacancy.

TOPIC #8	<i>Cherry Creek Development, Phase II</i>
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Juliet Spalding, Planner II and Brent Brooks, City Attorney updated the draft of the Friday packet report on Cherry Creek, mainly the options section. Ms. Spalding said it was first reviewed on Oct. 22 for compliance review on Phase I, permitting the Phase II development. She said the Development Agreement required Council review of compliance with Phase 1 criteria. She showed a map of the area, including MHP, which included the 63 units which were the issue.
- Councilmember Veis asked if they complied with Phase 1 standards.
- Ms. Spalding said there had been discussing involving the stormwater review and solution, landscaping (58 missing trees) which most of them were missing because there aren't houses on those sites yet, so they wouldn't be maintained and could be damaged when houses are placed.
- Councilmember Boyer asked when they were supposed to be planted.
- Ms. Spalding said it was not specific but the developer had agreed to plant by May 1, 2008, or financially guarantee.
- Councilmember Gaghan said there were 50 sites not occupied but asked if they still wanted to proceed with Phase 2.
- Ms. Spalding replied yes. She said the emergency access gate did not appear to be used for everyday access; the developer has repaired the fence and closed the gaps, but the gate may not comply because it's not sight obscuring; and the Traffic Assessment Study showed a 27% increase in traffic
- Councilmember Gaghan asked if the 27% accounted for the 50 empty sites.
- Ms. Spalding replied, yes.
- Councilmember Jones asked if criteria weren't met, can Council say no to the 63 units.
- City Administrator Volek replied, yes.
- Councilmember Boyer asked if Council was allowed to approve phase 2.
- Attorney Brooks said the TAS supplemental report from Terry Smith said additional traffic wouldn't adversely impact the streets or intersections. He said the recommended option was to allow 363 units conditioned on completing the phase 1 requirements.
- Mayor Tussing, Councilmembers Jones and Stevens, discussed that the TAS would give the City the ability to restrict the development to 300 just units.

<p>Additional Information:</p>

School recycling project:

- Dave Mumford, Public Works Director said in September there had been a discussion with the school district about recycling. He said the initial discussion was about aluminum, but changed to paper due to sanitation problems with cans. Mr. Mumford said they had placed 2 – 100 gallon containers in each elementary school, and secured a contract with recycler. He said the test had ended and had a lot of support for it from schools and they don't want the program to end. He said it would cost the City approximately \$2000/month, and the funds were not in the budget.

- Mayor Tussing said he talked to company that did his personal recycling, and the company spokesperson said they would do it for schools for \$40/month. Mayor Tussing suggested they contract with him and get business sponsors for the costs. He said he gave the representative the school board member names because he felt it was time for schools to take this over. Mayor Tussing suggested that we give schools a 2-week notice and stop the service.
- Mr. Mumford said they were continuing to pick up and have agreed to do so until they get a replacement or if Council says we were able continue.
- Councilmember Veis asked if the City could offset the costs with other recycling program reductions.
- Mr. Mumford said currently they do oil, refrigerators, haz mat, etc., but have not looked at which ones can be reduced to pay for this service.
- Mayor Tussing said the City should consider increasing the fees, but give rebates for recycling.
- Councilmember Veis suggested sending a Councilmember to talk to the school board and take along Mr. Mumford to answer any questions they may have.
- City Administrator Volek suggested that we continue to Christmas break.
- Mayor Tussing said he would get in touch with the district and offer the private alternative.
- Councilmember Stevens said she supported the program but it thought it shouldn't cost the City to do it.
- Mr. Mumford suggested to subsidize the private electronics recycler to help his program expand; and maybe could do something similar with Earth First someday.
- Councilmember Veis suggested that Mayor Tussing and Mr. Mumford visit the school district.
- Councilmember Ruegamer said the MLCT board meeting discussed the TMDL and had joined the National association of clean water agencies and suggested the use of that data base to help with discussions with DEQ, MMIA and MLCT executive committees. He said Bob Worthington was leaving in the middle of the year and two boards wanted a closer relationship, and a MOU would be drafted to formalize.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.