

# City Council Work Session

5:30 PM  
Council Chambers  
March 18, 2019

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Mayor/Council** (please check) x Cole, x Cromley, x Yakawich, x Neese,  
x Ewalt, x Joy, x Friedel, x Gibbs, x Ronning, x Clark, x Brown

**CM excused:**

**ADJOURN TIME:**

## Agenda

<b>TOPIC #1</b>	<b>Legislative Update</b>
<b>PRESENTER</b>	Greg Dorrington & Aimee Grmoljez
<b>NOTES/OUTCOME</b>	

- Conference call reviewing items: OBSD bill, SB340 406 Impact Bill - Public Safety Human Trafficking, SB147 – Protecting the Entitlement Share SB315 – Local Option did not go anywhere, TIF bill (HB462 only remaining bill.) Watching: Local Control, Affordable Housing, HB16, SB18, Work Force Development.
- Council discussion and questions on bills and impacts for City.
- **Public Comment:**
- None

<b>TOPIC #2</b>	<b>Yellowstone County Continuum of Care – Tumbleweed</b>
<b>PRESENTER</b>	Various
<b>NOTES/OUTCOME</b>	

- Matt Lundgren, Friendship House & Billings Leadership Organization: discusses dream of build campus to address homelessness. Overview of homelessness needs and community concerns.
- Erika Willis, Tumbleweed & Yellowstone County Continuum of Care: asking for City to invest \$90,000 to fund a coordinator position and seed money for the program.
- Brown: what government money would be available? Willis: HUD money an option. Need a coordinated effort to bring money into City. Brown: coordinator duties? Pulling together team, work with funding sources, grants, etc.
- Joy: one time ask from Council? Willis: reoccurring need from community, not one time ask.
- Cromley: business organizations approached? Willis: good relationship, DBA, BSED asked to be included and will re-group.
- Mayor: Billings population of homeless? Lundgren: 3 active shelters and Billings has largest homeless population. Can access information through data base.

- Yakawich: seems community groups aren't working together. Patti Webster, Housing Authority: coordination between groups different this time. Working together, need coordinator to bring groups together for City.
- Mayor: ask would include City staff involvement? Chris Kukulski: uncertain, may not be City staff. Would need some serious discussion.
- Ronning: Billings Gazette article recorded 431 homeless, increase 21%. Program working in Missoula (only city with decrease).
- Neese: how will program help homeless and prevent enabling issue? Lundgren: work together as group to direct people to appropriate departments.
- **Public Comment:**
- Tim Goodridge, EBURD: vagrancy, theft, vandalism issues. Like coordinated approach idea, data collection valuable to address issues.
- Lynette Kosovich, 1140 North 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Billings, Montana: should be asking money from all areas of community. Committee has worked hard to come up with long term solutions. Potential coordinator housed and supervised from United Way.
- Patty Webster, 4432 Long Lane, Billings, Montana: ongoing education - MT Housing Partnership, June 17-19, Billings Hotel and Convention Center. State Homeless Conference, April 1-2, Helena at The Delta.
- Council consensus: would like more detail, see a sharing component.

Recess at 7:25 pm.

Reconvene at 7:35 pm.

<b>TOPIC #3</b>	<b>Opioid and Methamphetamine Response</b>
<b>PRESENTER</b>	
<b>NOTES/OUTCOME</b>	

- Nick Fonte and Amy Trad, AmericaCorps VISTA: overview of opioid and methamphetamine use, side effects and statistics. Need for needle exchange program, program needs, public service announcements.
- Cromley: clarify transportation needs? Nick: relying on public transportation is very difficult.
- Ronning: clarification on the Phoenix? Amy: Phoenix bases recovery around gym, free if in recovery. Safe needle disposal in Billings? Amy: gives people a place to dispose of needles, found, used, sanitation workers, police officers etc.
- **Public Comment:**
- None
- Neese: public service announcement regarding panhandling? Kevin Iffland: a few.
- Brenda Beckett, Community Development: spare change for real change program by DBA has great value.

<b>TOPIC #4</b>	<b>Draft FY2020 – FY2024 CIP, TRP and ERP</b>
<b>PRESENTER</b>	
<b>NOTES/OUTCOME</b>	

- **ERP** – Mark Balter, Internal Services Specialist: introduction of ERP Committee members. Overview and mechanism to replace and fund City equipment. Established guidelines, estimated future replacement costs, deferred replacements costs, recommended transfers.
- **TRP** – David Watterson, Information Technology Director: TRP Committee member introduction. Overview and mechanism to replace and fund City technology. Replacement schedule, established guidelines for review consideration. Replacement funding and annual review highlights. Hand me down program review, totals by department and past year comparison.
- **CIP** – Jennifer Duray, Public Works Assistant Director: overview of CIP, plan summaries, projects by departments and categories, revenue sources.
- **Public Comment:**
- Pam Ellis, 2000 Outlook Drive, Billings, Montana: City needs to do a better job of notifying public of meetings. Disconnect between CIP and OBS plan. Park plan does not care about the Heights.
- Cara Lohrenz, 2644 Woody Drive, Billings, Montana: Woody Drive being used as a through street and is very dangerous. Looking forward to plans to increase safety.
- Tom Rupsis, Parks Board Chair: recommend delaying Heights Maintenance Facility, not removing. Centennial Park bathrooms need to be removed, costs increased, so delayed other items. Castle Rock funds should be included in CIP.
- Steve Zeier, SBURA: \$25 million will not be sufficient for recreation center. Looking for outside fundraising.
- Council would like to see more information on water plant and reservoir and parks funding before CIP approved.

<b>TOPIC #5</b>	<b>Fire - Long Range Master Plan (LRMP)</b>
<b>PRESENTER</b>	
<b>NOTES/OUTCOME</b>	

- Delayed until 4/1/19.

<b>TOPIC #6</b>	<b>Council Discussion</b>
<b>PRESENTER</b>	
<b>NOTES/OUTCOME</b>	

- Ronning: Citizen’s Police Academy currently taking applications.
- **Public Comment:**
- None

<b>TOPIC #7</b>	<b>Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda</b>
<b>PRESENTER</b>	
<b>NOTES/OUTCOME</b>	

▪