

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
August 19, 2019

ATTENDANCE: All CM Present

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: 8:00 pm

Agenda

TOPIC #1	Traffic Guidelines and Practices
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- **Erin Claunch, Engineer:** overview of Manual of Traffic Control Devices from Federal Highway Administration, speed limit guidelines and regulations, road characteristics, traffic calming types, pedestrian factors, prioritizing areas.
- Discussion about various speed and traffic issues on streets around the City. King Avenue West and Main Street
- Cromley: speed bumps or textured asphalt options. Claunch: yes, could be done.
- Ewalt: digital MPH readers effective? Claunch: effective with new drivers and out of town drivers. Loses effectiveness by commuters and drivers that are used to it.
- Joy: signal increases speeds? Claunch: unaware of any studies.
- Friedel: lack of funding for traffic calming studies. Claunch: residential
- Yakawich: number and costs of study? Claunch: City staff time and pay. Increase in the summer 3-5 per month.
- **Debi Meling, Engineer:** Safe Routes to Schools (no longer funded) but still use terminology. SD2, Riverstone Health and City collaboration. Overview of boundaries and how people get to school, crossing and where improvements are needed to keep people safe. Try to concentrate kids to one area. Public outreach to identify routes, social media. Overview of future guidelines.
- Yakawich: Riverstone Health roll in school routes? Meling: knowledge and known concerns.
- Neese: recommendation for busy streets? Meling: Grand Avenue and 15th, reconstruction. Planning on front end very helpful.
- Ronning: land closure payment? Meling: payments are incentive for efficiency. Control tool and not funding source.
- Joy: infrequent crosswalks during long stretches...add more crosswalks? Meling: staff discussing priorities, crosswalks don't change driver behavior.
- Clark: blinking pedestrian lights costs? Meling: 32nd Street \$15,000 -\$20,000 several years ago.
- Ronning: blinking left turn lights? Claunch: now required, nationwide found to be safer.

- Kukulski: speed tables in front of Medicine Crow School? Claunch: traffic calming policy and priorities. Would be applicable.
- Kukulski: Council and City could work with MDT to change Main Street.
- **Public Comment:**
- Dennis Ulvestad, 3040 Central Avenue, Billings, Montana: would like to know formula that changed 32nd and Central to 45 mph. Claunch: numbers of driveways, accident history, etc. makes equation.
- Jane Van Dyk, 3130 Gregory Drive, Billings, Montana: would like to see traffic calming in Gregory Hills Subdivision.
- Ming Cabrera, Heights Business Association: speed on Main Street is issue. Willing to work with City to change Main Street issues.
- Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, Montana: some signals countdown, some just turn colors. Consistency would be good.
- Dave Mumford, Public Works Director: 1st Avenue South to begin soon. Funding for residential streets is only gas tax which is used by overlays and chip seals. Council needs to discuss funding and what will not get done.

TOPIC #2	Order of Business
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Kukulski: Council Order of Business is done by ordinance. Could change to resolution for easier changes. Add Council reports, Council engaging in public comment. Public comment on all items at the beginning.
- Friedel: time stamping.
- Cromley: Council initiatives only during that time.
- Neese: concerned about public comment on hot topic items lasting a very long time.
- Ronning: City Council very different than Legislation. Council Initiatives infrequent, do not want to limit people's participation. Need Council reports in some form. Council discussion area.
- Brown: agendas put together better helping meeting length, effectiveness decreases with long meetings.
- Clark: large increase in separations. Consent Agenda now takes up to an hour. Need to ask questions before Council meetings.
- Ronning: excessive questioning of Consent Agenda items has become micromanagement. Questions need to be asked ahead of time.
- **Public Comment:**
- Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, Montana: two separate public comment sections confusing. Combine on agenda and not on agenda public comment. At the end of meeting would be more appropriate.

TOPIC #3	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Yakawich: grateful for Mr. Mumford's work during hail storms.
- Kukulski: trees in parks not being removed immediately due to litigation.
- Yakawich: Volunteer appreciation dinner coming up.
- Ronning: CodeRED needs more work. Kukulski: City paid for majority of program. Will continue to work with County.
- Joy: increase public education.
- **Public Comment:**
- None

TOPIC #4	Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Frank Dominguez, 130 Avenue B, Billings, Montana: son killed by drunk driver. Would like funding for some billboards to promote awareness.

Executive Session at 8:04 pm