

# City Council Work Session

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

Date: March 17, 2014

## ATTENDANCE:

Mayor/Council (please check) x Hanel, x Cromley, x Yakawich x Cimmino(5:35)  
x Pitman x McFadden x Bird x Swanson x McCall x Crouch x Brown

## Agenda

### TOPIC #1: Not In Our Town

- Tina: Introduction – 20 years Not In Our Town originated. In June 2014, a special leadership gathering. June 20-22 former Chuck Tooley is Chairman for that event. Presentation for a potential donation from the City Council's Contingency Fund.
- Chuck Tooley: History of NIOT. Occurrences in 1993/1994 that kicked off NIOT. In 1993 gathered to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. day. After ceremony, found flyers on our cars that were racist. Placed by Knights of the KKK. Found out later the several white racist organizations had identified the Northwest United States as an ideal homeland for the white race. Started getting more and more negative activity in our community. A Native American single mother found swastikas and epithets spray painted on the side of her house. The painters union showed up and scraped and repainted free of charge and a couple of hundred Billings citizens stood by to cheer them on. Skin heads were in town causing problems. Elderly people at churches were harassed. The grave stones in the Jewish Cemetery were turned over and desecrated. People of Billings put together a "Stand Together Billings March". 400-500 marched down Poly Drive. The beginning of festival cultures is at Rocky Mountain College which continues every year. What caught national attention was when a piece of paving stone came through the window of Isaac Schnitzer's bedroom during Hanukkah. Had been responding all year long to hate activity. People of Billings stood together and didn't back down. Menorahs stayed in windows of homes and violence went away. Love defeated hate. The national television came to Billings and made a documentary of what happened throughout the year. Broadcasted on PBS named "Not In Our Town". One of the biggest recognitions was the Raoul Wallenberg Award for civic courage presented in 1997. Chuck's opinion that the way Billings responded to hatred and recognized in such a positive manner made a difference in community. Many letters from around USA. Believe that this is what led us to success with that community planning project when other projects had failed. It was the Downtown Billings Vision Plan. We came up with a framework that involved at least 1,000 citizens of Billings in one venue or another. Released the framework plan in 1997. Over \$100M of improvements

were made in downtown. Had 100 new businesses come in. Acknowledge steering committee for conference coming up in June. Will mention some on the committee here tonight. Former Deputy Mayor – Kay Foster, former County Commissioner – Mike Matthew, Greg Krueger from Downtown Billings, Board of Director Chamber of Commerce and one State Representative, and Council Member Becky Bird, along with the Director of the Western Heritage Center, President and Vice President from a bank. Plus 18 people on the Steering Committee. After NIOT was broadcast on PBS, cities used the Billings example to do positive things in their own communities. Rocky Mountain College will be providing the space for the Not in Our Schools workshops for teachers. During the day we will be having the schools, the teachers in one workshop. Will have law enforcement in another workshop. Will have a welcoming event downtown. Many events. The Steering Committee is asking the Billings Council consider a contribution to help support the National Leadership gathering.

- Cimmino: Other sponsors? Have you met your fundraising goals?
- Chuck Tooley: No. Need \$50,000 to support conference. Lots of enthusiasm.
- Swanson: Was there 20 years ago. Will support this.
- Pitman: \$ amount requested?
- Chuck Tooley: \$25,000 out of \$65,000 Council Contingency.
- Crouch: Buy a full page ad? Number of organizations?
- Chuck Tooley: More than that. Tina Volek sent an electronic attachment and it says “Sponsorship Opportunities”. The \$25,000 category for sponsors, we get 6 registrations, a school training or presentation in your community or workplace, prominent ads on the website for 8 weeks. Website reaches 90,000 visitors monthly. Special thank you postings on Facebook. Logo and name placement to get a sponsorship acknowledgement for the next film they make. Full page color ad in the conference book which will look like this.
- Tina Volek: Use of the Council Contingency Fund requires approval of a Resolution by the City Council. Will prepare one and bring it forward to future session if the Council so directs.
- McFadden: How often does the City donate to a nonprofit organization?
- Tina Volek: Happens periodically. One that comes to mind did donate to Little League for a larger waterline at Centennial Park. Also MLCT conference.
- Pitman: Has to be from an initiative?
- Tina Volek: If you wish to make an Initiative we move items to regular Council Agenda. Do seek some consensus from the Council on how you want to proceed.

#### Public Comments:

The following people testified on “Not In Our Town”:  
Steve Gordon – 3316 Laredo Place, Billings, MT  
Dick Pence – 4307 Palisades Park Dr., Billings, MT  
Randy Hyvonen – 1237 Poly Dr., Billings, MT  
Susan Smith – 5522 Billy Casper Dr., Billings, MT  
Lee Llewellyn – 1038 N. 30<sup>th</sup> St., Billings, MT  
Ronda Kiesser – 1520 Westwood Dr., Billings, MT

Kay Foster – 115 N. Broadway, Billings, MT  
Carol Hardy – 2211 Spruce St., Billings, MT  
Grover Peterson – 1025 Rivergreen Dr., Billings, MT  
Jason Newby – 902 N. 22<sup>nd</sup> St., Billings, MT  
Barbara Gulick – 2018 12<sup>th</sup> St. W., Billings, MT  
Curt Hughes – 1322 W. Beartooth, Billings, MT  
John Smillie – 4111 June Dr., Billings, MT  
Jackson Newby – 902 N. 22<sup>nd</sup> St., Billings, MT  
Marjorie Hughes – 1322 W. Beartooth, Billings, MT  
Carrie Bernard – 5135 Sweet William Ave., Billings, MT  
Thomas Hall – 3040 Central Ave., Apt. E201, Billings, MT  
Lester Hall – 4311 Wells Place, Billings, MT

- Cimmino: 18 people provided testimony. 11 in opposition, 6 in support, and 1 remained neutral. Can we clarify the confusion as to whether or not these are two separate issues in terms of funding this gathering in June? Also going to be asked to support or not support the Non-Discrimination Ordinance. Technically, NIOT is associated with both activities.
- Mayor Hanel: Want to be very clear that the discussion this evening did not pertain to the Non-Discrimination Ordinance. Have not reached that point yet. This was a request for support of NIOT. Be sure everyone is understanding. Any need for clarification. Comments made were totally acceptable.
- Cimmino: As a Council Rep. our duty is to make sure that everyone took time to come here this evening, and walk away with a clarification to keep those two issues separate. I was asked for financial support from the committee of this gathering that will take place in June. It is our duty to educate the general public.
- Mayor Hanel: Will state one more time that this evening; the discussion was specifically of that on the Agenda Item #1. Which has to do with NIOT and the request for support both monetarily and with a Letter of Proclamation.

Break at 7:00 to 7:15.

## **TOPIC #2: CIP/ERP/TRP**

- Vern Heisler – CIP (Capital Improvements Program): Acknowledge the committee members that were present. Each of the Departments represented are the ones that have projects in Capital Improvement. CIP process, every other year we do 2-3 public meetings. Public input is critical. Sent out worksheets last November to different committee members and departments. Have since completed and sent back to us. CIP is not done. It is a draft. Was placed on the cities website about the time we presented hard copy to Mayor and Council. Fiscal year 2014 was already approved. What we are looking at is 2015 to 2019. Totals represent these years. Had a project last year that was in fiscal year 2018. The airport decided to move it one year out. Summary page states what all of the funding sources are. Approved projects are at the top that were approved last time. Bottom totals up everything for the whole CIP for the airport. Did a couple of different things in this year's CIP. We added a Public Works future project list. Some on list don't have funding. Also projects that it is not

time to do them yet but in the next 5 years. In previous years Parks had combined projects they wanted to do. They would say General Fund unfunded. Changed this year and put in own separate spread sheets on the back. When it comes time to vote, you will either amend it or accept the draft as is, or you may choose to not accept draft. Modifications to original draft. This year just one change from the Library. Just asked that the project be moved by one year.

- Tina Volek: Clarification – Was in this budget year 2014, which was originally approved for last year and now asking it to be set to 2016.
- Heisler: This is a huge document dollar wise. 146 projects with a little over \$278M over a 5 year period. How do we get the money? Have a lot of different funding sources to go into one project. Most of the funding sources are specific as to their use. Annexation – historically the CIP go hand in glove. One hinges on the other one. Public hearing and Council action on April 14. Once approved, does go into the city's budget.
- Mayor Hanel: Clarify these are compliance projects that are required.
- Yakawich: I am a small business owner. If the Public Safety Mill doesn't go through, and we are facing greater economic challenges in the next couple of years. Is there a way of looking through our budget for some recommendations?
- Tina Volek: Have separate sources of funding depending on the projects. Parks and Rec is in the General Fund with Public Safety. The funds that come for most of the Public Works projects are raised through fees, grants, and tax funds. We cannot move those from that dedicated purpose for which we are given those funds for example to Public Safety. Would be anything that is a General Fund also for Police and Fire. Park Maintenance District is a separate source of funding as well. Any GF moneys would be very difficult to move those to, for example Police, if they come from another source. It is a restricted source financially.
- Mayor Hanel: Council Member Yakawich – If the funds weren't there, the Council would make that decision as to which projects to eliminate.
- Heisler: Also raises a point that this is the plan. Each project within this plan does come to City Council as it is being bid.
- Pitman: Are we starting to look outside the box as far as how to fund some of these projects? We went to the public when we had three major projects. The community supported it. Maybe something we look at. Have future growth and as we go forward if there are any ideas for financing, it would be a great opportunity that we really need to start paying attention to.
- Tina Volek: The Airport gets Federal Funds. Do get some Federal pass through money but it comes through the State. The future of MAP is still very much in doubt. Maybe we have a year extension on the transportation funding,, but don't know beyond that. Many years ago we received funding for Zimmerman Trail. That trail is scheduled for this summer. We are cooperating with MDT who controls the funds which comes through the Federal Government. Our local sources would be to bond. Have looked at the arterial funding in our bond, but Council has not recommended that we proceed with that.

- Pitman: Dates set on when we are going out to the public for comment?
- Heisler: This is every other year and was done last year. Really set up this year for the Council Work Session, putting the information on the City website and our Public Hearing.
- Vestor Wilson – ERP (Equipment Replacement Plan) – This is for FY 2015. Have distributed books with 20 year plan detail, policy guidelines, and summary. Equipment we review must have a useful life of at least 3 years, and have a value of at least \$5,000. Sometimes over this 20 year plan, which means sometimes a piece of equipment may be replaced 2-4 times during this span. The following photos show vehicles that have served their useful life for the City. Committee does spend a substantial amount of time reviewing every piece of equipment. Check each vehicle to see if it meets the criteria for mileage, hours, and age. If it is in good shape, may wait another year for replacement. Reviewed this year 133 pieces of equipment. Had about \$10,700,000 that we were going to originally replace. When going through plan, decided what we could hold off on and couldn't hold off on and ended up deferring 64 pieces of equipment for savings to the City for about \$4.6M. These are vehicles that will be transferred from one division to another. So they are kept in service for the City at a lower cost. For FY 2015, this is the cost replacing each and every piece of equipment by division. In Section 2 in your books, it breaks down every division in detail. Includes SBR's (Supplemental Budget Request). FY 2015 is \$6M. Total replacement in subsequent years is listed. FY 2016 is largest due to the added year. When we keep pushing equipment back, it makes that next year look a lot bigger than it really is. Graph explained in Power Point presentation.
- Mayor Hanel: What would the usage be within the Law Enforcement for the Suburban being transferred from the Fire Department?
- Captain Bedford: Would use where needed. A transport vehicle or working a detail, etc.
- McFadden: When the vehicle comes to the very end of the line, it goes to auction doesn't it? Have you considered because we get so very little money at an auction, would it be a better option if we were to run some of these pieces of equipment into the ground rather than lost its value at an auction sale?
- Tina Volek: Can do a cost benefit analysis if you would like. Have we done that kind of analysis before?
- Larry Deschene: Not in detail.
- Captain Bedford: When we do this analysis, especially on our patrol cars, they become expensive to continue to operate. Sometimes we have vehicles that are dying before their time; we jump ahead and get rid of them now. Really are at the end of their life.
- Tina Volek: We also do trade in vehicles frequently when new ones are purchased. I sign the paperwork after Council approves the sale. Do take advantage of that.
- Mayor Hanel: The police vehicles used on a daily basis are used aggressively.

Brown: To what advantage are we saving \$4M in FY2015 rather than FY2016? These funds can't be used elsewhere, correct?

- Tina Volek: That number will go down next year. It will be a smaller number every year than what we are projecting.

- David Watterson – IT (Information Technology) Department.

There are 18 staff members in Dept. They serve a variety of roles.

**Overview of City of Billings Technology Replacement Plan for FY2015** (see attachment).

- Plan Overview
- Committee Members
- FY15 TRP Plan Recommendation
- FY15 TRP Totals by Department
- FY15 TRP Capital Expenditures
- FY TRP Replacement (*By Technology Class*)
- FY15 TRP Plan (*Past Year Comparison*)

After everyone uses the vehicles and they are not suitable for day to day use, we get the vehicles and then we run them for another 20,000-30,000 miles. Very supportive of that plan. The Technology Replacement Plan is similar to the EQR, except the funding is not prefunded. It is budget authority to replace equipment. Look at equipment that has 3 years of life or more. Evaluate equipment what can live another year. Representatives all over the City that represent each department and look at the technology items and do a full inventory each year to cross reference and make sure things are where they need to be. Also do a lot of hand-me-downs which is how we get our van. A lot of computers will serve a useful life for 3-5 years on a person's desk, and then maybe go out to a front office kiosk, or front work station, or for lunch rooms, etc. People throughout our organization which all work together to evaluate our technology. Last year was considerably higher than other years. Spent \$600,000 on an investment for the new world software, which are the Public Safety Police Records, Fire Records and Criminal. Worked in conjunction with the Fire and Sheriff's Department for corrections. Large investment – 12-16 month conversion process. Will be done in October of this year.

- McCall: New World Software: Does it have the capability to do tracking of various sorts on outcomes? Can you set up programs within it?
- Watterson: Have a product that is called Crimeview. It is a statistical data base program that does analysis. Feed it from New World from the incidents and the records and calls. It will then generate reports. That is how we do a lot of criminal statistics, regional stuff, mapping of where certain types of incidents are happening.
- Swanson: Do you have a system for knowing whether you have the latest and the greatest?
- Watterson: Representatives throughout the organization that are on the list. Get feedback from Dept. heads and supervisors of recommendations if they feel like the technology is not meeting their needs, or if outdated. Do a lot of consulting.

Public Comment: None

### **TOPIC #3: Annexation Map Amendments**

- Wyeth Friday: Reviewed the power point on -

#### **Limits of Annexation Map Amendments**

- Limits of Annexation Map Update
- Annexation Committee Recommendations 2014

Background: The Annexation Committee which is bringing this recommendation this evening was put together along with the City and the Council directed all of this, the Cities Annexation Map and their policy. Have been in place since 2001. Have representatives on this committee from all across the different departments in the City. Parks and Rec., Police, Fire, Public Works, Transit, Administration, Planning, and School District 2. Annexation Committee gets together in two capacities. (1) Do the big review of the Annexation Map, and the Policy. (2) The same group reviews annexation requests throughout the year, which are brought to the Council with recommendations when we have a specific property that is asked to be brought into the City. Blue area on Annexation Map is the existing city limits; red area is 5 year limit of Annexation area where we expect annexations to be a request to come in within a shorter time period. This is the area where throughout the year; there may be a request anytime for this. Orange area is long range urban planning area. This area is what the City and the Council put on the map with the idea that we would not expect an annexation request to come in that area now, but an area that the City recognizes that there may need to be and could be a future analysis to determine whether that area at some point in the future could be served with City services. The white area, no expectation that the City would provide services at this time. Yellow area is the urban long range area. Would have to do more analysis before there was any consideration to being the property into the red which would necessitate bringing it in for annexation in the future. Did make major updates in 2011. We are focused specifically the requested map amendments. Last time map was amended by Council, was May of 2012. The review policy for the annexation map is the same time the City reviews its CIP every year. There are projects in the CIP that could influence the way the map is portrayed. Forwarding three recommendations in the red area to bring property that was not in red. Also a request to bring into orange. Did have a request from a management group out of the Lockwood area that is looking at a large commercial industrial park plan. Had quite a bit of review and discussion. Received a letter requesting that withdrawal. Will come back for further discussion on this later. Knife River property is a 447 acre property off of Shiloh Road. Committee recommending that be added to the red annexation area for 2014. The Elysian Road area property is 290 acres. We also make any updates to the map that occurred since the last review. Had 5 annexations in 2013. There were concerns that started with capacity of water storage for the City's system.

- Cimmino: Thought that Phipps and Riverfront Parks were going to be annexed.
- Friday: Both are in the red area and PRPL working on the annexation request.
- McFadden: Any interest in annexation Audubon Center?

- Friday: Riverfront Park yes, the Audubon Center no.
- Swanson: Cost benefits analysis?
- Friday: Yes on benefits, less info on costs. All the departments look at their service abilities and how they potentially provide services to those areas. Make sure we are not negatively affecting existing residents and services that are provided. Received additional data from our lesion area requests that looked at some of the revenue streams that different types of development could provide. We know what some of those revenue streams are. Not as comfortable from City side about all the costs are. City did embark on a cost of service study. Did not move forward at that time. Committee interested in other ways that we may be able to pursue in the future.
- Cromley: What is the most rigorous part of the process?
- Friday: Probably when property is moved to the red map area. Annexation looked at property which is adjacent to city limits in red. May be served on Shiloh Road by transit, Police, Fire, Traffic, and Solid Waste. Phasing of annexation development is key to the city's ability to serve this property over time. When talking about these large properties, they are coming in in pieces and phases so there is the ability for the City to provide those services as those properties expand and this development occurs, verses if all 447 acres came in tomorrow, that would be challenging. Point out that when it says served by sewer and water for example, that means that when that development starts to occur, then that development will build the infrastructure in that area. The City will not have the expense of running lines out there. That will have to be part of that project. Development has proposed on both requests, looking at commercial with some residential. Understanding the commercial properties tend to be a better revenue stream coming in, verses services going out. Elysian Road Property: This has multiple owners. There was an annexation on Mulowney Lane. There is a subdivision that was done in County which is to be developed in the City. It hasn't come forward yet. Several different property owners that McCall Development has been in discussion with to see about developing. Vision is: How could this whole area potentially come into the City over time and be developed with the school being a major part of how that is developing. School has passed a bond and will be expanding. Their interest is to get this area within the City. Water and sewer aspect of this is major. Public Works has been in discussion with the owners. They are potentially looking at SID or different mechanisms to fund that. There are projects in the CIP to address this. Looking at higher taxes and assessments, revenues that could help offset some of these costs for services. Close to the river there is a concern when talking about septic systems, storm waters that need to be managed. Back to Map: Plan to come back in April for consideration.
- Yakawich: Report expressed some concerns about ability to serve these areas, especially fire and police, so why does committee recommend putting the land into red area.
- Friday: Know it is going to take multiple years for this to develop. Annexation law allows the Council to condition things at that time. Step before that is we bring this into the initial area and then over time we can provide the service.



- Yakawich: If we were to annex, you would give us another report saying whether or not the Fire and Police could cover that.
  - Friday: Yes. There would be a separate report analyzing that specific area.
  - McCall: Elysian School would become part of School District 2?
  - Candi Millar: District would remain the same until there is some negotiation with School District 2. It would not affect the boundaries on annexation. Elysian District is large. Already encompasses many parts of the City including commercial area along King and Gabel.
  - McCall: One of those long term planning that could be really significant.
  - Tina Volek: Elysian does send their students to high school in Billings.
- Public Comments: None

#### **TOPIC #4: Downtown BID Renewal**

- Lisa Harmon: Recognizes Greg Krueger – Director of Downtown Billings Partnership, Joe Stout – Director of Operation, and downtown officers – Matt Lenick and Tony Nichols.

Business Improvement District. Work on beautification, safety, hospitality, and outreach. We have our own 7 member board, and our own budget. Budget is derived from assessments. BID is a tool for property owners to fund supplemental services over and above what a city or municipality might provide. Nationally the law provides that if you want to create a BID, you could just manage parking. Could just create a bid to do marketing. You approve budget, work plan, and also approve my Board of Directors.

Here to talk about the next ten years. Need petitions that represent 60% of the land mass. Then ask you to create an ordinance that would recreate the BID. Presentation requesting that you would consider the City signing a petition passing a Resolution. Will expire in July of 2015. Zone 1 was an 18 block area when the BID was created where the property owners mandated that the work plan would be clean, safe, and outreach. Idea is to keep downtown beautiful and stimulate growth and economic development and redevelopment. We pressure wash. Work to clear the sidewalks by clearing leaves and removing snow. Work on planters in the district along Montana Ave. Work to take care of Parks Maintenance Districts in areas. Working with Public Works in new and different ways to prevent graffiti. Doing a public art project on traffic signal boxes. Together with TIF funding and Public Works funding, we have enough funding for 12 traffic signal boxes. When the weather is nice, we will do 10 more. Are original local artists. Looking to public spaces and how we can create better civic spaces. Talking about pocket parks and alley scapes. Request for green space in downtown. We created a giving program called spare change for real change. This is a public awareness, education, and fund raising program to educate people to not give to panhandlers but to give in more constructive ways. Maybe instead donate to other non-profits and social service agencies that are in this area. Have granted \$35,000 to entities that alleviate poverty and homelessness. And use re-entry in education as a basis for their programming. \$5,000 to the Center for Children and Families, Tumbleweed Runaway Program, HRDC. Was on the Board for Homelessness for 6 years. Feel like my office has a handle on

the issue. 5K in two Sundays. Able to grant money to housing authority. Worked with alliance partners to change branding for downtown Billings. Free bikes by their office you can ride anywhere in downtown area. How do we do the safety downtown? Issues we face being for at risk individuals. Decided to approach a private partnership with the City of Billings. Worked on an officer program. Took some tax increment financing money to pilot a program to see if property owners through their assessments would want to fund additional safety component downtown. Had \$282,000. Had to buy a \$55,000 patrol car that doesn't get any miles on it because the officers walk and bike. Rotates the car through our downtown. Property owners love the officer program. Expanded the bid in 2009-10 to the larger BID. Benefit in Zone 2 is the officer program. Property owners were able to fund and got 2 officers. Created a crime watch for business program. Did an amazing amount of work. Created a brochure which is a calling tree. 500 property owners in the District and 625 people are watching the Facebook page. Want people to come downtown and feel safe. Have removed 35,000 bags of trash in 9 years from downtown. The district has grown 7% on average annually within the BID. People are investing and moving in. To look at what we derive in assessments on a yearly basis - \$286,000 and remove \$130,000 that we pay BPD for the 2 officers. We reimbursed the City \$125,000 to \$130,000. If you subtract from that we are back at \$150,000. Our budget is derived from 78% from assessments. Get a \$25,000 TIFD grant to go towards our safety program, and 14% in contracts when events are held and we clean up, or the PMD's that we help facilitate the City. Assessments in FY14, City of Billings owns 13.8% in district. FY13, assessments were at about 33,500, this year projected under \$31,000. Have unloaded some property. 13.2% City of Billings own of land in the district. In the clean zone, assess 68% for the lot and 31% for the building value. 1% for the taxable market value. Encourage to go on Downtown Billings.com.

- Yakawich: Concerned about transient population.
- Harmon: Is our ordinance enough? A lot to talk about when it comes to this problem. Problem areas that were brought to attention in a letter I sent out, about a business that is engaged in a practice that is encouraging inebriation. Do we need to take a look at an ordinance? Look at the one we have? Have done significant outreach to the business that is enabling a portion of this. What can we do here?

Public comments: None

#### **TOPIC #5: Aquatic Fee Adjustment**

- Tina Volek: Want to reference that in Friday packet, the Council did receive an audit opinion from Junkermier - Clark – Campanella – Stevens, P.C. indicating that revenue items should be accounted for within the GF from the slides, rather than being set up as a separate water slide fund. Would be held within a line item in the GF, but not a separate fund.
- Kory Thompson: Rose Pool water slide revenue average about \$27,000/year. Included all expenses and all revenues including the water slides that were

putting us above \$18,000. Taking the water slides out of Total Revenue put us under \$9,000. Specifically Rose Pool, are looking at expected increases of \$9,000. Overall aquatics budget will show a \$16,000 increase, mainly for wages.

- Tina Volek: On an average we use our slides for 20 years. We are accruing revenue in a very short period of time to offset the maintenance of slides. I would ask the Council to consider is whether this is something we really need to accumulate in the first 3 or 4 years that the pool is open. Means you are going to have to offset the revenue from the GF or will not be able to keep the pools open the same amount of time, or provide fewer services. Is there a way we could amortize this over a period of time, still meeting our maintenance requirement in the long run, but not doing it all in the first 3-4 years, and incurring additional expense to the GF to the slides?
- Thompson: Based on input from Council, we did not see there was support to do any kind of increase for the water slides. Just looking at daily admission not impacting any of the water slide fees. Minimal increase for youth admission. Did put the adult admission in budget. Corresponding increases to the season passes for both the youth/adult, and then the season pass which is for the families. Again this is Option A. Impacts to Option A, there are some increases that total about \$20,000 in projected estimated revenue for 2014. Also based on input from Council and previous Work Sessions, took a look at half the increase to the youth admission, 50¢ increase for the adult. Then the corresponding increases for season passes. Impact would be half of Option A, just over \$10,000 in estimated revenue. Have discussed in the past, Option C would be to not make any changes to current fee structure. There would be some increase in the GF for those expected increases and operations.
- Crouch: How do these fees compare to the Oasis?
- Thompson: Option A - \$3.00 fee to get into Rose Pool, the Oasis is at \$6.00. Adults are \$6.00, Oasis at \$8.00.
- Public comments: None
- Pitman: Option A for April meeting.
- Mayor Hanel: Option B. Strong promoter of family activities and use of the pool, keep it affordable.
- McCall: Agrees with Option B.
- Brown: Supports Option A.
- McFadden: Leaning towards Option B.
- Mayor Hanel: What if both options were on the business agenda and Council could vote at the time.
- Brent Brooks: Could do both, but need to prepare two different resolutions. Need to publicize that both options are being considered.
- McCall: Willing to vote for Option A if kids rate was cut to \$2.75.
- Bird: Like idea of family season pass, including the slides. If we get more season passes sold, will make up the quarter. Could be an incentive for families.

- Mayor Hanel: Asking for consensus if direction is provided to staff to return with the Resolution with recommendation of the youth daily admission \$2.75, the family season pass to include the use of the slide.
- Discussion about presenting multiple options so Council can choose among them.

#### **TOPIC #6: Council Discussion**

- Mayor Hanel: Reminder of lunch tomorrow at the library. Highlands owner from Canada coming to Billings to meet with Kevin Nelson and local manager and Mayor this week. Will keep Council informed.
- Mayor Hanel: What does Council want to do with Item #1 – Proclamation or money or both? Welcome discussion but want to be very careful Mr. Brooks because we have closed public comment and public is gone.
- Tina Volek: Anything discussed will come back to Council for an agenda item. We will not put that on consent.
- Mayor Hanel: Options for Council to decide on.
- Tina Volek: Can bring forward a Resolution that represents what was requested, and the Council can amend at the hearing.
- Pitman: Bad place to head down. Could do Proclamation at a meeting. If it requires financial, needs to start first as a Council initiative.
- Tina Volek: When had request for pool, the Little League came and made that presentation to the Council. But do not believe there was an Initiative. It was a move forward as an agenda item with a resolution. Are creating a new step if you are going to use the Council's fund. If the Council prefers, don't know of any legal reason we can't do an Initiative. Is a new process.
- Mayor Hanel: Could move forward with a request at a business meeting. Then decide at that time if, and how much the Council desires to place forward towards the request.
- Cimmino: Seems the Proclamation is unanimous. What exactly is the policy on how we spend City Council Contingency?
- Tina Volek: Will not plan to put on Agenda for the 14<sup>th</sup> of April.
- Cromley: Item #1 is like other items we have had. Had a hearing on renewal. NIOT. Have a consensus that we want to go ahead with the Proclamation and some monetary amount.
- McFadden: \$25,000 is enough that believe I don't want to see put on the Agenda. This needs to be an Initiative. Like to see the public have more input.
- Yakawich: Are we rushing this through, or is it important to take some time and put in as Initiative. What allows for more community discussion?
- Mayor Hanel: On the business agenda it would be a public comment item. The public would have the opportunity to comment at that time.
- Tina Volek: Normally it is a Resolution if the Council wants us to set a public hearing on the matter, we can. Do want to point out that the non-discrimination Ordinance is already a City Council Initiative. Would direct to bring it back to the

Agenda in June after the budget. Funding for a meeting that will occur in mid to late June. If we delay a significant amount of time, not sure of the impact. Because they will have to make some plans on what they are going to do. Can certainly set a public hearing.

- Brown: Trying to separate out non-discrimination from this particular issue. It can't be done. Now for us to support that, we need to decide if we are going to move forward. Is the City, the local government going to support this? If we are going to be donating money, we are condoning that.
- Mayor Hanel: Want to be very cautious of the discussion we are having. We are beyond Item #1 on the Agenda. Simply attempting to provide direction to staff for the future action on the requested Item #1. Certainly allowed within our procedures, whether it is initiative for whether we provide staff direction to put it on the business agenda. Just looking for a consensus one way or the other. Seems as if we are moving towards putting it on the agenda based on the nods it was getting a while ago. Once again, if it is on the agenda, it doesn't mean it is going to pass. It doesn't mean the amount that is going to be requested is going to be approved, and it doesn't mean that it couldn't be postponed or delayed. That is up to you as a Council.
- Bird: Would like to see it go on the Agenda. We had the public hearing this evening.
- Tina Volek: It wasn't an advertised public hearing. Unfortunately, I do want to hesitate. It wasn't a public hearing. It wasn't advertised as such. I will tell you that I have attended very few of the NIOT meetings. I am the alternate. I think I was able to attend one because of the timing. Then Council Member Bird took over. I have no idea what their relationship is to the other.
- Brown: I agree.
- Tina Volek: If that is a question that needs to be asked of them, perhaps the public hearing is a place to do that.
- Bird: I do sit on the steering committee and the focus of the steering committee is the June celebration. That is what they are asking support for. They would like the City to show some commitment for this gathering which this national group emanated out of Yellowstone County, chose to come back to Billings 20 years later to celebrate their accomplishments. The request in my mind, based on my experience, is really for support of a conference; the national gathering.
- Crouch: Up to us to divide the two items. Their agenda is education. It is not to get the non-discrimination passed. There is more violence against gays and lesbians and transgenders than any other smaller group in our society. Education is the goal of Not In Our Town if it is to pass non-discrimination. That is an individual thing. Their agenda is specific. Read what they have developed here. Trying to educate people and just divide different kinds of context for people to learn – how do you deal with differences. How do you deal with things that you don't know anything about? Ministers saying I would be forced to marry gays and lesbians. It is against the law in Montana. Education is the primary goal. Because this particular group has more violence directed to them, especially transgender.

- Swanson: Does that mean you want to separate the two issues?
- Crouch: They are two different issues. This group that is against it has put the two together.
- Mayor Hanel: It appears to me that there is a consensus to provide direction to staff to put it on the next City Council Agenda.

#### **TOPIC #7: Public Comment on items not on the Agenda**

- Tom Zurbuchen – 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT: Friday packet memo on Public Safety Levy. Numbers are just as erroneous as a week ago. \$70,000+ for PD officer. That's the cost for a 6 year officer. Urge you to kick this back and demand proper numbers for these new hires.
- Tina Volek: Average Firefighter works 43½ hour per week. Average Police Officer works 40 hours per week. \$25.55 is base wage. Do a lot of overtime in the Dept. Numbers have not only been checked by the Finance Dept., but by the HR Dept. The two Chiefs believe the numbers to be accurate.
- Kevin Nelson – 4235 Bruce Ave, Billings, MT: Community Growth Scenario – where is the additional revenue? Don't shift taxes to residents by granting incentives to businesses.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**ADJOURN TIME: 10:15**