

# City Council Work Session

5:30 PM  
Council Chambers  
February 17, 2015

## ATTENDANCE:

Mayor/Council (please check) x Hanel, x Cromley, x Yakawich, x Cimmino,  
x Pitman, x McFadden, x Bird,  Swanson,  McCall,  Crouch, x Brown  
Adjourn at 9:10p.m.

## Agenda

### TOPIC #1: Legislative Update

- Ed Bartlett – updates on a couple things beyond written report. MLCT and others making good progress on local option bill. Public intoxication bill will be introduced tomorrow with additional co-sponsors. HB 502, crime lab satellite in Billings sponsored by Dale Mortenson. SB 301 PSC oversight of water and sewer rates hearing on Thursday and several cities and MLCT will oppose.
- McFadden: not much support for local option tax among public, personally don't like it.
- **Public Comment:** none

### TOPIC #2: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

- Pat Weber introduces Lawrence Stensland, JCCS partner in charge of City audit. Comments on the audit, then a few on CAFR.
- Yakawich: page 180, positive side of finances? Equity report and activities report are positive for the City, as well as change in net position – positive in governmental and business type funds.
- McFadden: basis for performing audit? State requirement? City pays for it. Means there are unfunded mandates from State and Federal Government.
- Tina: asks Pat to introduce staff: Andy, Jim and Donna. Bond refunding at 2.1%, saved \$440k.
- **Public Comment:** none

### TOPIC #3: CIP, ERP, TRP

- CIP – Vern Heisler: presents the plan and focus on public participation.
- Pitman: significant amendment would require a new hearing before Council action? No, but funding rebalance might be necessary.
- Vern: continues presentation.
- Hanel: questions the PSAP fee. Chief explains source and use.
- Vern: continues presentation.

- Cimmino: cost and placement of wastewater plant? Want an explanation of \$55 million cost estimate. Council was told that the plant would be all new.
- Pitman: recent conversations about \$300 m plant on west end. Want more info on the change.
- McFadden: \$61 million unfunded by Fed Govt?
- Vern continues: describe public comments. Schedule. Annexation committee meeting tomorrow and will be presented at same time as CIP. Invites city council recommendations.
- Cimmino: Riverfront Park \$1.5 million trail project; will it be annexed?
- Wyeth: PRPL and Planning working together to bring several parks to Council for annexation.
- Pitman: cost to buy inner belt loop R/W? Could city buy easement or fee and lease back to property owners so they don't lose use and there's no public encroachment? Vern: will report on costs.
- McFadden: S. 32<sup>nd</sup> street west, south of King – project schedule? Vern: FY 15 CIP.
- Yakawich: how do public comments impact the CIP? Vern: impacts the process; example is phase 1 inner belt loop. Any comments impacting decision this year? Vern: Inner Belt loop being discussed again.
- Brown: how are meetings advertised? Tina and Vern: Gazette article, website posting, Times required hearing notice. Brown: is 13 attendees good? Vern: depends on the project and public interest.
- Pitman: next time consider a 6:00 or later start time. Vern: will look at it next time.
- Vern: WWTP photo is current plant, will look completely different after upgrades.
- Cimmino: project presentations from Depts? Tina: not planned. Will have a hearing on 3/9. GF projects will be presented to Council as SBRs in FY 16.
- Hanel: suggest that CMs present questions about CIP before March 9 meeting.
- ERP - Chief Dextras: presents committee. Describes ERP and criteria.
- Cimmino: am I allowed to ask questions
- TRP - Dave Watterson:
- Yakawich: save some money by auctioning old units? Yes. Article in news about city being held hostage to spyware? Didn't see article but security is a 24X7 responsibility, use modern security tools.
- Pitman: policy against using thumb drives? Kasperski software scans remote devices and excluded before files open.
- Hanel: how many PCs in city? approx. 800.
- Weber: internal service funds budgeting,
- Brown: TRP is separate from annual IT charges? Yes.
- **Public Comment:**
- Tom Zurbuchen: attended both CIP meetings and stated that CIP is financially constrained. Yet, there are 2 new fire stations in the CIP. Relocate FS 5 should not be done. Planned in the PSF future levies? Don't need to add a station in heights, already have FS 6.

- Kevin Nelson: lavish TRP. Write a check for a \$1m truck is an indicator of excess taxation.

Break at 7:50. Reconvene at 8:07

#### **TOPIC #4: Priority Based Budgeting**

- Priority Based Budgeting
- Jon Johnson and Chris Fabian: refresh process. Reviews the PBB process. Ask “why”?
- Bird: good to refresh and refocus. CM Pitman advocate for PBB. Reframe the conversation to what to we do and why do we do it? what differences have you seen from city #26 to city #86, about the conversations or questions being asked/answered? Cincinnati started with asking 5 policy questions and some others following that lead. Real difference is in cities that decide they’ll have the conversations for many years, not just in the current year. Staying focused on “why are we doing this” will give best results.
- Brown: is this a tool for Council to use?
- Tina: self-scoring, peer review and that leads to discussions.
- Jon: city is pacing equipment replacement with the program scores.
- Pitman: McCandless has good working knowledge of process, sit down and slow down the conversations.
- Bird: valuable for city council and senior staff to work together, hear from people who actually provide the services. Want to do that again.
- Hanel: exceptional process.
- **Public Comment:** none

#### **TOPIC #5: Council Discussion**

- Pitman: memorials
- Bird: policy on citizens sponsoring or adopting parks – future work session item?
- Tina: PRPL has policy on how facilities are named. Maybe use that as a model for other city facilities.

#### **TOPIC #6: Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda**

- Kevin Nelson: King Ave. East is arterial and Calhoun is arterial. Why are residents paying for street lights on arterial streets. Weber said that \$350,000 would come from TIDs and used for PS. I didn’t suggest that. Just take PS levy money out of the districts. Scenario 1, \$475,000/new employee. Break down and analyze what is in that figure. Reprioritize that money using PBB. Is that the money that we really need to spend on PS and include in the PS levy?

**ADJOURN TIME: 9:10 PM**