

ORDINANCE NO. 10-5520

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS PROVIDING THAT THE BILLINGS CITY CHARTER BE AMENDED TO ADD SECTION 1.07; PROVIDING FOR A PERMANENT 1 MILL LEVY FOR ADDITIONAL CITY-ONLY PLANNING FOR FUTURE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT AND TO ACCESS MORE FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FUNDS FOR BILLINGS, AND SUBMITTING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY AS PROVIDED BY LAW.

WHEREAS, the City of Billings continues to experience population growth, increasing demands from the community for growth management and land use planning, and the continued support of efficient use of public resources, protection of public safety, preservation of property values and sound land use planning; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Division is currently funded $\frac{1}{2}$ by Federal Transportation Planning funds, $\frac{1}{4}$ by fees, and $\frac{1}{4}$ by a County-wide 1.22 mill levy. Revenue from fee-based services is unpredictable while demand for community planning services is increasing, which has resulted in less community planning and a loss of local funds to match Federal Transportation Planning funds for the City; and

WHEREAS, the demands for exceptional City land use planning and growth management exceed the current financial resources available for community planning, and without additional funding, a reduction in community planning services will continue. A permanent 1 mill levy providing resources for community planning and increased access to Federal Transportation Planning funds will be of great benefit and will help ensure quality, long-term growth management and land use planning for the City of Billings, Montana, as detailed below.

Purpose: Fund additional City-only planning for future growth and development and to access more Federal Transportation Planning funds
Amount: \$158,912.00 approximately
Mills: 1 Mill, not cumulative (meaning only 1 mill will be assessed annually)
Duration: Permanent
Impact: Fair Market Value \$100,000.00 Home = approximately \$1.24
Fair Market Value \$200,000.00 Home = approximately \$2.82

WHEREAS, it is currently projected that in 2011 a 1 mill levy will cost taxpayers approximately \$1.24 per year for a house valued at \$100,000 or approximately \$2.82 per year for a house valued at \$200,000. Because the value of a mill changes on an annual basis, it is not possible to provide an exact dollar amount for 1 mill for each year in the future. However, only 1 mill will be assessed annually. The City Council believes

that this minimal cost to the taxpayers will result in exceptional community planning services that are sustainable and will ensure continued public involvement in the growth and development of the City of Billings.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS, MONTANA:

Section 1. That Article I of the Billings, Montana City Charter be amended to add Section 1.07 so that such section shall read as follows:

"Section 1.07. Mill Levy to Fund City Planning.

For the purpose of funding additional City-only planning for future growth and development and to access more Federal Transportation Planning funds for Billings, the City Council shall levy 1 mill for the City's Planning Division. The levy is permanent, not cumulative (meaning only 1 mill will be assessed annually), and will be in addition to other mill levies authorized by Charter or law."

Section 2. REFERRAL TO ELECTORS. This ordinance shall be referred to the electors of the City of Billings as soon as possible at a regular or primary election by resolution duly and regularly passed by the City Council.

Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after second reading and final adoption as provided by law, but not until approved by the electors as provided by law.

PASSED by the City Council on first reading this 9th day of August, 2010.

PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED on second reading this 23rd day of August, 2010.

CITY OF BILLINGS

By Thomas W. Hanel
Thomas W. Hanel, Mayor



ATTEST:

By Cari Martin
Cari Martin, City Clerk