

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE BILLINGS CITY COUNCIL

January 4, 2016

The Billings City Council met in special session in the Council Chambers located on the second floor of the Police Facility, 220 North 27th Street, Billings, Montana. Mayor Thomas W. Hanel called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and served as the meeting's presiding officer. Mayor Hanel gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL: Councilmembers present on roll call were: Cromley, Yakawich, Brewster, Cimmino, McFadden, Friedel, Sullivan, Swanson, Clark, and Brown.

Mayor Hanel allowed for courtesies prior to the Administrator's Report:

- Public Works Director Dave Mumford recognized the following employees who worked on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to restore water service after a waterline failure: Vince Sweatt, Frank Keehn, Wes Dunn, Ralph Mann, Doug Lazz, Derick Miller, Mike Dotson, and Eric Harmala. Mr. Mumford thanked the employees for their hard work and efficient repair of the waterline. Mr. Mumford stated that several residents provided coffee and treats for the employees working on the waterline. Mr. Mumford thanked residents for their generosity and understanding as the repairs were made. Mayor Hanel thanked City staff members for their work and communication with residents and the media during the repair process. City Administrator Tina Volek thanked staff members as well as Mr. Mumford and Deputy Public Works Director Vern Heisler for their work.
- Animal Control Supervisor Tom Stinchfield recognized Animal Control Officer Cindy Katschke for her work. Mr. Stinchfield mentioned a Billings Gazette article which featured Ms. Katschke's work. Ms. Volek thanked Ms. Katschke for her work and positive attitude in providing service to the City of Billings. Mayor Hanel stated that he appreciated Ms. Katschke's dedication and thanked her for looking after animals in the City.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS - TINA VOLEK

- Ms. Volek mentioned that the Local Government Center at Montana State University, in conjunction with the Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority and the Montana League of Cities and Towns, will be conducting free training sessions on roles and responsibilities of City Councilmembers. Ms. Volek stated that she sent an email to the Mayor and Councilmembers regarding these training sessions, and mentioned that she would be happy to provide any additional information to those interested in attending.
- Ms. Volek reminded Council that the January 11 regular meeting will begin at 5:30 pm and then recess into a closed executive session. The topic of discussion for the closed executive session will be the Parmly Library demolition. The regular meeting will be called back to order at 6:30 pm. Ms. Volek also stated that dinner will be provided for Council during the closed executive session.

PUBLIC COMMENT on “NON-PUBLIC HEARING” Agenda Item: #1 ONLY. Speaker sign-in required. (Comments offered here are limited to one (1) minute. Please sign up on the clipboard located at the podium. Comment on items listed as public hearing items will be heard ONLY during the designated public hearing time for each respective item. For Items not on this agenda, public comment will be taken at the end of the agenda. Please sign up on the clipboard located at the podium.)

The public comment period was opened.

There were no speakers, and the public comment period was closed.

SPECIAL AGENDA:

1. Oaths of Office for Councilmembers Larry Brewster, Dick Clark, Brent Cromley, Chris Friedel, and Ryan Sullivan

Municipal Court Judge Sheila Kolar delivered the oaths of office for Councilmembers Brewster, Clark, Cromley, Friedel, and Sullivan.

Councilmember Clark introduced his son Dean, who was in attendance. Councilmember Clark stated that his children in Lewistown and in Virginia were watching the meeting online. Councilmember Clark introduced Kerri Crowe and Connie Wardell, and stated that they were instrumental in his campaign. Councilmember Clark introduced his friend Dennis Ulvestad and stated that he also helped in the campaign.

Councilmember Sullivan stated that he and his wife Kassie welcomed a new son, Patrick, last Monday, December 28. Councilmember Sullivan introduced and thanked his wife Cassie, son Patrick, and daughters Brooke and Kate.

Councilmember Friedel thanked his wife Leslie and his kids and stated that they were the backbone of his campaign. Councilmember Friedel thanked God, his father, and his brothers Trey, Neil, and Doug.

Councilmember Brewster introduced his wife of 43 years, Vonda, and thanked her for her support. Councilmember Brewster thanked Clayton Fiscus for his help during the campaign.

Mayor Hanel thanked the newly elected Councilmembers, as well as reelected Councilmember Cromley. Mayor Hanel wished them all good luck, and stated that he was honored to have them as part of the team.

COUNCIL INITIATIVES

There were no Council initiatives.

PUBLIC COMMENT on Non-Agenda Items -- Speaker Sign-in required. (Restricted to ONLY items not on this printed agenda; comments limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. Please sign up on the clipboard located at the podium.)

The public comment period was opened.

- **Tom Zurbuchen, 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT** distributed a handout regarding pay increases. Mr. Zurbuchen asked for Council to create an initiative to seek an outside negotiator for union contract negotiations. Mr. Zurbuchen explained the figures in the handout, and stated that the City needs a new negotiation team.
- **Dennis Ulvestad, 3040 Central Avenue, Billings, MT** stated that Candi Millar, Planning and Community Services Department Director, does a great job, but stated that he was concerned with there being 35 meetings regarding subdivision development in Yellowstone County and 13 meetings regarding subdivision development in Billings. Mr. Ulvestad stated that the subdivisions in the County would conform to County regulations and standards, rather than those of the City. Mr. Ulvestad stated that the differing standards could lead to potential issues if the developments were later annexed into the City. Mr. Ulvestad stated that the City needs to work with County Commissioners to plan further developments. Councilmember Yakawich asked Ms. Millar whether there have been efforts to form some type of board or commission for the City and County to work on planning issues. Ms. Millar stated that the Planning Board is interested in examining higher development standards for the areas immediately outside of the City limits. Councilmember Yakawich asked how to move forward with this process. Ms. Millar stated that the Planning Board will move forward and begin conversations with the County Commissioners.

There were no further speakers, and the public comment period was closed.

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned into a work session at 5:57 pm.

CITY OF BILLINGS

BY: 
Thomas W. Hanel, Mayor

ATTEST:

BY: 
Billie Guenther, City Clerk

