

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
February 1, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor/Council (please check) Hanel, Cromley, Yakawich, Cimmino, Brewster, McFadden, Friedel, Swanson, Sullivan, Clark, Brown.

ADJOURN TIME: 8:30

Agenda

TOPIC #1	Finance CAFR Report
PRESENTER	Loren Stensland – Junkermier, Clark, Campanella, Stevens
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Pat Weber, Finance Director: talks about building fund reserve being over allowed amount but no fines because the dept. has a plan to spend the excess. Introduces Loren Stensland, auditor from JCCS.
- Loren Stensland: clean audit except one audit adjustment and one finding: compensated absence liability and tax settlement receivable from last year's audit. Both have been corrected.
- **Public comments:**
- Tom Zurbuchen: 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT - 109-110 and 117-118, GF and PSF itemized. \$26 million tax collected, \$26.5 million reserves. Added \$1.8 million to reserve in this year.

TOPIC #2	Quarterly Updates
PRESENTER	Various
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- **EBURD:** Marty Connell: president of BIRD Inc. no staff for past 1.5 months. introduces Tim Goodridge as new TIF coordinator. developed a plan for ped crossing on Exposition near Metra. developer buying 3 blocks property. MSU architecture students in competition again. \$4.2 car wash, waiting for EPA clearance.
- Hanel: lots of positive change.
- McFadden: what kind of ped crossing? want to finish a study first.
- Yakawich: street work finished. everyone loves the lighting and it can spread to other areas.

- **DBP:** Greg Krueger: development director of Downtown Billing Partnership presents. #1 priority is to fill vacant spaces. business plan competition upcoming.
- Cimmino: district expiration in 22 years? yes, but it could be sooner.
- Yakawich: CLDI project? looking at Crane building for housing and training site.
- Sullivan: boarded building resolution? working with property owners to redevelop them.
- **SBBURD:** Steve Zier: powerpoint presentation on activities. Midland Rd improvement could be next big infrastructure project. Newman Lane great project.
- Cimmino: \$25k charge from planning. Optimist Park master plan is a collaboration with City Council and with SBBURD. PRPL will RFP soon for the planner.
- Friedel: November Orchard Ln design changed, will meeting be repeated? Why a new pool? PWE is sending letter describing the changes from 1st public meeting. Billings Aquatic Club rents Rocky pool but it's not big or deep enough.
- Yakawich: Sewer construction to include road improvement? street replacement is part of project.
- Clark: wants to see letter on Orchard Ln.
- Tina Volek: will take questions on next several items: budget, health fund, initiatives
- Sullivan: leave volunteer recognition funding on the list until FY 17 budget is done.
- Brewster: Inner Belt Loop initiatives from Pitman status? Volek: in discussion with Morledge family, getting new appraisals and their attorney is looking at the documents.
- Cimmino: ethics report was reported but concerned that the issue drops if not acted upon.
- Volek: Legal will draft an ordinance in March.
- Cimmino: would like map showing IBL route
- Volek: strategic plan presentation: description of how plan was developed and how it works from strategies to goals to action plans. Continue the discussion about forming a coordinating committee on economic development. Babcock Theater comes back to city in 1 year. Need to start looking at how it will operate. Suggest a City Council ad hoc committee to investigate. Brewster will chair, Clark will be a member, send contract to Council.
- Volek: neighborhood task forces funding and staffing to continue.
- Sullivan: why 3 year plan when Council turns over in 2? Volek: norm is 4-5 years.
- Brewster: suggest that Councilman propose an initiative to amend selected portions of the plan.
- Mike Whitaker, Parks Director: Park updates and presentation.
- Sullivan: Stewart park traffic study and improvements schedule? study this summer but improvements are 2-3 years away and up to the Council.
- Hanel: private sector helping improve parks.
- Cimmino: should have been another funding source for removing 6th Avenue rock/fall.
- Yakawich: restroom cost? South park assoc. may want a 2nd restroom. \$50,000 equipment costs plus labor and etc.
- Cimmino: which park restrooms are being improved? Burlington, Centennial and Coulson.

- Clark: Descro park plan still usable? Funding for turf and irrigation? plan is usable but hasn't been updated. Several funding sources available
- Volek: cell phone stats in packet.
- Hanel: encourage PD to enforce and write citations.
- Sullivan: are the phone citations secondary or primary?
- Cimmino: encourage officers to write fewer warnings and more citations.

Public comments:

- Terry Odegard: 2101 Lake Hills Drive, Billings, MT - want an enclosed public pool facility.
- Kevin Nelson: 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, MT - Items A, B, C and strategic plan: 3 TIF districts spend lots of money for administration. \$700,000 to administer the districts. RTIC taking testimony on abuses. Example: Northridge LLC taking money, Cabela's \$4.5 street bonds, Floyd Martin benefited from Newman Lane.
- McFadden: thanks for info.

TOPIC #3	Montana Public Section Collective Bargaining & Labor Relations
PRESENTER	Bruce McCandless, Karla Stanton and Tina Volek
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- McCandless, Assistant City Administrator: presentation on bargaining.
- Karla Stanton, Human Resources Director: presentation on types of bargaining and changes over last several years.
- Brewster: question outcomes from the bargaining. Want a list of issues. Stanton: wages
- Sullivan: copy of official notes from negotiation – police esp?
- Cimmino: does Bozeman pay their officers longevity? Yes.
- Volek: presentation on bargaining.
- Sullivan: need an initiative soon if Council wants to again consider a contract bargainer.
- Yakawich: maybe spend more money to negotiate contract but save money long-term?
- Volek: don't know what - if any cost savings might be.
- Brewster: not interested in contract negotiator but want more input during the negotiating process. Volek: sessions are open to the public and Council unanimously approved it.
- Hanel: as a union negotiator, would have preferred an outside negotiator. Union members could possibly accomplish more during negotiations if dealing with a "stranger"
- Cromley: could councilmembers comment while negotiations are actively underway? Volek: input but no public comments.
- Cimmino: how many hours do negotiations take? Volek: approx. 100 hours per group.
- Sullivan: City Administrator contract says she negotiates contracts. Not sure he wants to give up authority and accountability for the CA. Council could state what it wants in open session without revealing final negotiating positions.
- Brewster: stakeholders includes taxpayers and they haven't really had representation.
- Sullivan: another work session inviting public and all can express their wants. Probably will sponsor an initiative next meeting.

Public comments:

- Tom Zurbuchen: 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT - negotiating sessions are not open because meetings aren't announced in advance. Why compare wages with Bozeman because the cost of living is so different. City can't spend more and more money.
- Terry Odegard: 2101 Lake Hills Drive, Billings, MT – safety levy may not get passed because taxpayers are not getting raises. Lawsuits are costing people a lot of money and wonders if staff is holding employees accountable. Volek: language allowed in Fire Depart. Contract's led to litigation and now individuals in the Police Dept. have filed a similar lawsuit.

TOPIC #4	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Clark: need to appoint PCC rep, MLCT rep and Mayor pro-tem.
- Volek: mayor has accepted the MLCT invitation to sit on the board. Others are being put together by Wynnette and will bring those forward.
- Cromley: celebration for outgoing CMs?
- Volek: checking on dates and locations. Library is less expensive.
- Swanson: vote for less expensive.
- Yakawich: good celebration last time at the library.
- Yakawich: March 8 or 9 3:00-5:00 to review CA's performance, City Hall Conference Room. Willing to continue leading this but wanted to throw it out for discussion.

TOPIC #5	Public Comment
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Kevin Nelson: 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, MT - is it necessary for a police officer to attend the regular council meetings? Ethics – if Councilmember recuses themselves then they need to do it at the beginning and not discuss or vote. Need to state why there is a conflict. Water plant expansion needed for the city's actual growth rate, or is \$55M new plant based on something else? Volek: waste water treatment is based on federal and state requirements.
- Volek: remind Council that they are gathering for Council photo – Feb 8 at 5:30.