

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
May 2, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

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

ADJOURN TIME: 9:15 pm

Agenda

TOPIC #1	Budget Overview
PRESENTER	Tina Volek, City Administrator
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Volek: overview from presentation.
- Brown: explain inter-fund transfers. Volek: explains GF to PSF transfer and GASB
- Yakawich: what is \$ amount of 99 mills? Volek: don't have taxable value yet, won't have until August, budget is always an estimate. Exp exceeds rev because we saved the \$ for projects.
- Sullivan: interfund transfer is \$ neutral? Yes.
- McFadden: is 6% debt too high (thought that this meant we paid 6% interest on debt)? Pat Weber, Finance Director: no, pretty low debt for our size city.
- Cimmino: explain \$17 exp exceeds revenue. Volek: we saved for the expenses.
- Hanel: 9-1-1 center cost estimate is higher than previously discussed. Volek: we have the cash and money coming in so we don't have to bond for it. Dual power feeds. Probably will be less than this est. – maybe \$4 million.
- Cimmino: since PD bought 2 new cars earlier this year, so does that reduce the 9 cruisers scheduled for replacement? No, the 9 are in need of replacement.
- Brown: where do the replacement guidelines come from? Mr. Weber: committee sets them.
- Clark: should review the car replacement schedule because vehicles are lasting longer than they used to. Mr. Weber: balance of maint cost and replacement cost.
- Volek: discussed water rates, arterial fees, landfill fees
- Brewster: increased these rates almost every year? 10% in one year is high. Volek: yes. Council wanted smaller increases each year. Dave Mumford, Public Works Director: past council asked to implement 3 year rate increase with lower % in early years and higher in late.
- Clark: questions where the money will go Mr. Mumford: up to Council

- Cimmino: page 104 shows assistant chief addition. Volek: shows decrease in deputy chief position, addition to asst chief which is a lower level job.
- Hanel: talk about bond refinancing. Mr. Weber: saved over \$6.5 million in interest costs over past 4 years.
- Yakawich: bond counsel? Mr. Weber: Dorsey-Whitney
- Yakawich: what are the city's rentals expenses? Included in previous reports
- Hanel: what jobs do the added people in police and fire perform? How many are uniformed patrol officers? Rich St. John, Police Chief: 95 in patrol
- Sullivan: \$1.6 million fines seems low. Volek: code enforcement, just want to fix problem, not go to court. Municipal Court, part goes to the state.
- Yakawich: how much in reserves in each fund? Volek: reads some numbers.
- Sullivan: GF needs \$970k to balance budget but $2.4 \times 3.8 + 3.8 + 3.8$ if we don't levy 109 mills? Yes.
- Hanel: reserves being used to balance Engineering? Mr. Mumford: this is money that we didn't spend last year.
- Clark: used or added to reserves in FY 15 and 16?
- Clark: tax collection in FY 16 is 99 mills and 109 for FY 17 budget? Yes
- Yakawich: could we use FY 15 values to est tax for various valued property at 99 and at 109 mills?
- Brown: est. of when PS election could occur if stay at 99 mills?
- Clark: FY 16 est revenue vs actual? Mr. Mumford: will collect more tax than planned due to increased value even at 99 mills.
- **Public Comment:**
- Tom Zurbuchen: 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT - asked about crime rates by neighborhood but info not used this year. Budgeting the same as we did last year even though Cherry Creek calls for service are much higher than other courts. Last page is public nuisance statute and Cherry Creek meets the definition.
- Kevin Nelson: 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, MT - SID revolving fund isn't council's money, it belongs to people in the SIDs. AT&T doesn't have tax ID #, so isn't paying assessments. Needs to be corrected and how many more are there? \$ amount of unpaid fines? Many people missed their chance to appeal last year and there will be more appeals this year. Thinks the law will be amended next session.
- Volek: municipal court uses a collection agent to try recovering the \$. SID revolving fund was started with City \$2.3 million so refunding to the GF is recapturing some of this money.
- Sullivan: \$ amount of fines/forfeitures in collection?
- Cimmino: warrant roundup
- Connie Wardell: PO Box 21432, Billings, MT - protested taxes this year, good explanations from DOR staff, worked at resolving questions. Thinks future protests will be handled quickly.

TOPIC #2	Police
PRESENTER	Rich St. John, Police Chief
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- St. John: presentation.
- Brown: realistic to get to 146 officers in this year? no. working on options
- Friedel: do organizations pay for police presence? Yes, but not everyone is required to pay – it's negotiable.
- Hanel: incentives for hiring officers? Yes but limited.
- Friedel: fines/fees proportional across state?
- Hanel: detectives? Authorized for 20. Each carrying 10-15 felony cases.
- Brown: can PD charge for frequent habitual responses? Alarm companies work hard to prevent and correct false alarms
- Sullivan: thanks for info. need to get on top of this staffing issue.
- Hanel: what % of calls involve visitors? Est. 10%-15% of calls.
- Yakawich: drug enforcement – what can we do other than increase # of officers?
- Cimmino: reaction to data presented by Mr. Zurbuchen about one Heights subdivision? Until changed, the policy is that we respond when called and not in a position to withhold service.
- Friedel: would like to see breakdown by subdivision/area of calls
- **Public Comment:**
- Tom Zurbuchen: 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT - agree that filling vacant positions is highest priority. No consistency in the effort. Different numbers of total personnel between info from Chief and CA. Municipal infractions are key. New beat - Put officer in the court and harass them.
- Brown: what can council do to help with recruitment? Money but don't want to disadvantage other depts..
- Swanson: ever have anyone outside look at the recruitment policy and improve it? Doing all contemporary things.
- Clark: how frequent do you have people resign before they serve? Maybe 1%. Also use the probationary period to advantage.
- Kevin Nelson: 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, MT - charter section 1.05 says money goes only to PS. Can't divert the levy dollars in the TIF districts. Ask that council stop diverting the money. Can't do it by charter.
- Connie Wardell: PO Box 21432, Billings, MT - support the PD. Could the city require private security for Cherry Creek?

TOPIC #3	Library
PRESENTER	Bill Cochran, Library Director
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Mr. Cochran: mothers, US flag and apple pie. Comments and questions are important. Introduced Michael Carlson, Assistant Library Director.
- Presentation was not on the server.
- Cimmino: newspaper story stated that Library provides 11 million worth of services. Mr. Carlson: checking out instead of buying books or movies. How many mills county pay? City pays 9.5 mills and county 3 mills. County gives Library more than obligated to.
- Mr. Carlson: cost/benefit analysis of retail value of library services.
- Sullivan: literacy to socio-economic disadvantaged neighborhoods? Mr. Carlson: need more community outreach, don't have funding. Doing an analysis, want to put more people in the schools and neighborhoods. Most efforts are done internally. Meeting with United Way
- Mr. Cochran: next year will have new data on how people use Library and help understand community needs. Introduced Library Board members. Fully funded and mediation settled.
- Yakawich: clarify need for security cameras. Mr. Carlson: have a lean staff, unable to see every area.
- Public Comment:
- Kevin Nelson: 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, MT - Mill levy for maintenance and Library needs only, need to uphold charter and fulfill terms contract with people and not allow them to be diverted into TIFD.
- Connie Wardell: PO Box 21432, Billings, MT – past survey showed people want to keep Library. Most important place in town.

TOPIC #4	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Brewster: will bring forth initiative for Cherry Creek Subdivision.
- Mayor: Virginia Street construction, access to residence.
- Clark: Re-visit Orchard Lane.
- McFadden: Progress on noise ordinance? Brent Brooks, City Attorney: will present some alternatives.
- Brewster: reconsider Orchard Lane at next meeting. Volek: have received a bid already, will see how far along it is.
- Cimmino: Clarify question Mr. Nelson brought up about Library and using TIFD money? Mr. Brooks: will look into it. Brewster: Outlined rules in Charter can be used only for specific services. If allocate part to TIFD, not whole value, in violation of Charter. Think pretty clear. Mr. Brooks: if inconsistent, Charter will prevail. Clark: Nothing to do with Interlocal agreement, can part of mills be diverted to TIFD? Brown: like to expand on our practice in general. Clark: those mills levied against additional taxes in tax increment district. Cromley: may depend on what state law says about TIFD.

TOPIC #5	Public Comment
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Tom Zurbuchen: 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT - transit, public safety, Library, all say \$ goes to specific purpose. Trailer in trailer court do not pay property taxes. Trailer court owners pay property taxes.
- Connie Wardell: PO Box 21432, Billings, MT - Friend offered half-price rent to police officers to get rid of felons.
- Kevin Nelson: 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, MT - Attended Heights Task Force Stefan Streeter gave presentation on asphalt millings available. Dennis Pitman asked for them to be used to complete Alkali Creek down to HWY 3. Visited Mr. Streeter who said will deliver millings and used for 6-inch layer. Mr. Streeter said offered millings to City for ball field parking lots, City said had policy to refuse millings in ballfield lots. States use 6, County uses 6, Mr. Mumford wants 16 inches of millings. Product good for all kinds of applications should be used. Will travel County road called a "double shot" polymer with chip seal. Would save money. McFadden: could use Zoo MT as experiment. Mayor: Heights ballfield could use it as well.