

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
June 6, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

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

ADJOURN TIME: 8:20 pm

Agenda

TOPIC #1	911 Funding
PRESENTER	Bruce McCandless, Assistant City Administrator
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Bruce McCandless: presentation and overview of funding and fees. Discussed Public Safety Answering Services (PSAPs). Council supports letter opposing the funding formula change. Councilmembers may want to co-sign the letter.
- Mayor: clarification on stranded fund proposed uses: 5 million to update technology and software, 350k statewide plan on next gen implementation, 80k assess statewide GIS capabilities
- Sullivan: legislators? Interim committee is Senator Driscoll and Representative Zolnikov
- Cromley: proposal to change funding seems random. Group advocating change? Second hand information from dispatch. Discussion been happening since 2005 on redistribution. Wanted a more straightforward funding formula, but creates substantial loss.
- Yakawich: What are Billings numbers compared to smaller counties? Can get numbers.
- Swanson: Can Council be a part of discussion? Communicate with interim committee regarding how changes will affect Billings.
- Brewster: are numbers in our favor now? Yellowstone County and Billings make up about 15% of state population and receive 11% of funding. Already short changed.
- Brown: goal to beef up smaller communities? Upgrade will be expensive, but don't see any info on why smaller PSAP's need more money. Tina Volek, City Administrator: other counties seeing hits as well. County Commissioners support signing and sending letter as well.
- Brown: clarification on 25% back? 25% fee for grants to local governments that provide services to 911, Billings would be eligible. Proposal is that change is not warranted and formula is unacceptable.
- Cimmino: where is more info? Internal links in documents, may need to search for it a bit. Can take your time and investigate, but City needs to respond that funding formula change is unacceptable.

- McFadden: already short changed, may need to file an injunction. Mr. McCandless: No final action has occurred yet.
- Mayor: do not like this idea. Opposes changes unless see some benefits City.
- Cimmino: don't like the term "next generation" need more info, but doesn't seem like a good idea.
- Sullivan: election year and legislators need some solidarity issues.
- Mayor: has League had any comments? Montana Associations of Counties (MACo) and League of Cities and Towns are not actively involved in this issue due to representation of both small and large counties. Funding formula creates winners and losers and organizations don't want to get involved. Advisory Council expressed concerns about larger PSAPs saving money and not using for operating costs. Don't understand that money must come from somewhere.
- Hanel: any strong objection to providing letter of opposition. None. Mr. McCandless: could draft letter and anyone that wants to sign it can do so.
- **Public Comment:** none

TOPIC #2	FY 17 budget changes
PRESENTER	Tina Volek, City Administrator
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Ms. Volek: discusses proposed changes from the City Administrator recommended budget.
- Hanel: how many attended volunteer event last year?
- Cimmino: why use Council Contingency last year, but not this year? Council requested
- Yakawich: Support doing it again, don't want it to disappear. 80-90 attended out of 300+- members on boards and commissions.
- Cimmino: if want to continue to honor volunteers, make need to split the difference.
- Brown: would like to keep it as contingency
- Brewster: agree with CM Brown
- Friedel: agree with CM Brewster
- Mayor: deserving event, but question amount.
- Yakawich: if honoring other departments with 10K, \$2500 not that much. Needs to be annual event, reduction could mean it disappears.
- Sullivan: continue event, keep \$1000 and discuss amount each year. Hold budget steady and leave as general budget.
- Cromley: Don't budget out of contingency.
- Cimmino: if Council doesn't spend it, it goes into GF.
- Ms. Volek: continues presentation. Senior Center made generous parking lot offer. Estimated value \$420K. Asking City to pay \$200,000 to pave lot.
- Brewster: support
- Friedel: good idea to purchase it and then own property.

- Cromley: if approve in budget, not approving purchase? Has staff seen agreement? No Concerns about reversion rights. Ms. Volek: Not a purchase, but donation. Council would be approving surfacing lot.
- Mike Whitaker, Director of Parks: Proposal sent to staff, agreement would have to be approved. Verbal estimates have been received.
- Hanel: would like to see some info and estimates. Awkward that just came up now.
- Ms. Volek: Council can remove from budget if they wish.
- Mayor: leave it in.
- Ms. Volek: The recommended budget has changed to include 3 changes and will be presented to council in this form next Monday. Requires council action to approve or to remove from approved budget. Number of mills and impacts.
- Hanel: surprised how little the \$ change from 109 to 104 mills.
- Sullivan: support easing into max mills.
- McFadden: support. Similar to easing into fees for services over 2-3 year period.
- Ms. Volek: continues presentation impacts on the tax supported funds. Code enforcement position.
- Yakawich and Hanel: clarify the proposal and support.
- Sullivan: don't add people this year but work on codes and on helping elderly or poor with compliance.
- Millar: lead worker would take over day to day supervision and work on hard cases.
- Hanel: how much time does Ms. Cromwell spend on this?
- Candi Millar, Planning & Community Services Director: zoning coordinator is a full time position and growing. Will revise zoning ord next year.
- Ms. Volek: concludes with streets and with Arterial fee increase options.
- Friedel: can the mills be separated and reduced on one and not on the others?
- Pat Weber, Finance Director: 74 are general mills so reductions can be separate. Don't think that you can take selectively from the voted levies.
- Ms. Volek: may be able to reduce the voted levies, but can't exceed them.
- Sullivan: Library gets money from private donations. Do not support taking away mils from Library and County.
- Brewster: number of mills is not as important as value.
- Brown: snow removal. Money doesn't worry me but logistics do. We're not conditioned for it.
- Dave Mumford, Public Works Director: thinks that the logistics can be handled. Will buy graders with gates on the blades.
- Friedel: need to notify people differently what streets will be plowed and like the 3rd option (contract it).
- Yakawich: OK with budgeting \$1000 for volunteer appreciation dinner and willing to ask for more if additional people attend. Also OK with \$1,500. Council is ok with \$1,500.
- Cimmino: go with option 3 for residential street plowing. \$425,000. Street maint budget.
- Ms. Volek: no PIO? No.
- Ms. Volek: No code enforcement this year? Brewster: not gaining that much for the money. Yakawich: support the position. Brown: think that CE does a great job, concerned about hard to solve issues, guess that I support adding the position. Sullivan:

should not add staff. Cromley: premature to fund new position. Beef up ord first. Cimmino: support position. Mayor: support position. Appearance of City is very important. Swanson: support. Sullivan: need position, but need to focus on fines. Council consent: put in budget.

- Cimmino: library bond interest 4 million? Mr. Weber: over the course of the 20 year loan.
- Brown: arterial fee increase is so city can accumulate more money? Ms. Volek: explains how the fee was set up and what the increased revenue would do. Mr. Mumford: \$5 million/mile const cost. bring projects to full mile instead of $\frac{3}{4}$.
- Brewster: real reasons were street lights and that fed money was declining. Hard to support the large increase.
- Sullivan: when was last increase? Mumford: about 2% - 3% per year.
- Sullivan: if we've been increasing fee, how did we get behind and need to now levy 25%? Mumford: regional const cost increases, ours have been higher.
- Hanel and Yakawich: like to see other options for lower increases. Ms. Volek: can bring other numbers to Council. Yakawich: like the idea of finding lesser amount.
- Ms. Volek: total # of mills?
- Hanel: don't levy the max. 109. OK with 104.
- **Public Comment:** none

TOPIC #3	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

McFadden: will PRPL place more tables at parks/spray pad. Mike Whitaker, Director of Parks: recently purchased 90 tables and will be placing them soon.

Brown: compliments on parks appearance – Poly-Vista.

Hanel: special needs ball fields funding? Whitaker: working with Kiwanis.

Yakawich: compliments on police presence at the task force meetings.

Hanel: update on Mustangs contract? Ms. Volek: waiting on revised language from owners.

Cimmino: School Resource Officers going on patrol? Ms. Volek: yes.

Yakawich: reminder - March against Violence Saturday at 11:30 am.

TOPIC #4	Public Comment
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

Ellen Lefler, 926 N 22nd, Billings, MT: code enforcement problems – no action on burned abandoned house on my block. Disappointed about CE enforcement. Run around by other departments. Mowing is the only thing being done by city. Abandoned vehicles in back yard.

Reporting program is difficult to use. Uninhabited for over 10 years. Fire marshall says it's up to CE to act. Been working since last summer with CE and property continues to decline.