

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
October 17, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

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

CM excused:

Mayor Hanel: proclamation on Pack the Place in Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Introduces: Vicki Karl, Susie Paddock, Tracy Kangas

ADJOURN TIME: 8:20 pm & reconvene into executive session

Agenda

TOPIC #1	Local Option Authority
PRESENTER	Brian Brown
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Brian Brown, government affairs liaison from Chamber of Commerce. Describes (ACT) Authorized Community Transformation. Begins the presentation. Video shown. Available on the ACT website.
- Karen Fagg: statewide effort. Completes the presentation – process, taxable vs non taxable, local process. Asking for endorsement from Council before legislative session starts.
- Yakawich: property tax relief example – if I paid \$1000 property tax, what would relief be?
- Fagg: up to each city.
- Brewster: sponsor for legislation?
- Fagg: interested parties. Want rural and urban legislators to co-sponsor.
- Cromley: long time supporter. Gov. candidates are negative; any legislative surveys?
- Fagg: talked with legislators and got great input.
- Swanson: on Red Lodge Council when resort tax was approved. Tough to do first time but worthwhile.
- Fagg: Whitefish resort tax revenue is \$2M/yr.
- Cimmino: who would decide how money is spent?
- Fagg: Council appoint the panel, council would approve projects and put item on ballot.
- Clark: property tax relief – how would it work?
- Fagg: property tax relief could impact schools and public safety, so need to be careful. Complicated.
- **Public Comment:**
- None

- Brewster: want to see it come to council for endorsement.
- McFadden: oppose it.
- Cimmino: how does this impact our lobbyist.
- Ed Bartlett, City Lobbyist: probably doesn't have impact except local option in some form will probably be part of the Council's legislative priorities.

TOPIC #2	Quarterly Updates
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Tim Goodridge, EBURD: Report is same as in the Friday packet.
- Cimmino: who will be paying for the Exposition pedestrian crossing? Hope developers will see the need.
- Brewster: intend to bring forward initiative regarding TIFF issues.
- Greg Krueger, Downtown Billings Alliance, Development Director, presentation on DBA/DBP projects. Past projects and future project review.
- Sullivan: how much available for projects after One Big Sky Center (OBSC)?
- Krueger: \$1.3M, after 2 lean years while OBSC is being built.
- Yakawich: pleased about sidewalks around Behner building.
- Lisa Harmon, Downtown Billings Alliance, Executive Director: discuss incapacitation bill, community innovations.
- Sullivan: thanks for downtown activity reports. Some calls/incidents are up; why?
- Harmon: many reasons.
- McFadden: AA program downtown – inebriates could use them.
- Friedel: what are ROC qualifications?
- Harmon: will have to ask for specifics from Rimrock Foundation.
- Cimmino: does Rimrock foundation have exclusive contract for the ROC? Yes.
- Yakawich: how can community innovations work more with MRM? Have volunteered in the past. Will stay engaged.
- Steve Zier, SBURA: SBBURD accomplishments, ongoing plans and future plans.
- Cimmino: funding for Midland Rd improvements?
- Clark: Orchard looking good.
- Tina Volek, City Administrator: discussed budget report and health plan.
- Cimmino: health plan 1 million less this year? Yes, Council asked staff to use reserves. City and employees were not given an increase for services. Reduction used to reduce reserves. Increase next year.
- Brewster: affordable care penalty? Bruce McCandless, Assistant City Administrator: Delayed to FY18, discussion about another delay.
- Clark: South Park spray next spring? Volek: may start this year if weather holds.
- Cimmino:
- **Public Comment:**

- None

TOPIC #3	Council Discussions
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Volek: add 2 items to the agenda for discussion at the end of meeting.
Montana infrastructure coalition: level of membership and fee: non-voting associate for \$500 or voting for \$5000. Community conversations: meeting format.
- Brewster: will bring forward initiative for policy on how city can assist with trees impacting neighboring properties.
- Volek: MT Infrastructure coalition; 2 membership levels; guidance from Council? City has been unable to get infrastructure funding. 2 tiers of meetings according to membership. Meetings are Friday in Bozeman.
- Clark: input under the 2 levels?
- Volek: input vs voting.
- Cromley: other \$5,000 members? Bozeman, Colstrip, Helena, Sidney, Dawson County, Fallon County and private entities.
- Cromley: think we should be voting member
- Hanel: agree we should be voting member. Lack of infrastructure is detrimental to state.
- Brewster: most infrastructure is in this part of state
- Brown: what is the advantage of being voting member?
- Cimmino: Chamber, BSED are voting members? Consultants and contractors
- Friedel: \$500 and wait to see what the group does.
- Swanson: what does staff recommend?
- Volek: \$5000 city will have more influence but \$500 is acceptable.
- Sullivan: city needs to have a leadership role.
- Yakawich: annual fee? Yes. Who is accounting for the money? Would like to see it. Consultant and planning costs. Who should represent the city? Tina will attend next meeting.
- Hanel: Clark is the representative from Cities and Towns and should attend.
- Swanson: should consider a 3 year commitment. Should pay for at least 1 year at \$5000 level.
- Brown: infrastructure bill and city role? Will know more on Friday.
- Cimmino: Planning dept. (MPO) should be involved.
- Community conversations:
 - Conflict for the meeting on the 27th and may reschedule for following week
 - Possible format change – more interactive
- Thursday 10/20, 3-5 pm meeting with Council and Tina
- Thursday 10/27, 6:00-8:00 pm volunteers recognition

- McCandless: discuss citizens survey and open ended questions. Voting method using dots and prioritizing topics, dots equal dollars and are limited. Public safety, transportation, parks or none of the above.
- Swanson: a lot of effort for very little participation. How can we get more citizens to come? Task force, hot topics could help.
- Brown: possibly look into webinar?
- **Public Comment:**
- none

TOPIC #4	Public Comment
PRESENTER	

- None
- Recess at 8:20 and reconvene in executive session in court hearing room.