

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
January 16, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor/Council (please check) Cole, Cromley, Yakawich, Brewster, Ewalt, Joy, Friedel, Sullivan, Ronning, Clark, Brown
CM excused: Brown

ADJOURN TIME: 8:43 pm

Mayor Cole and Councilmembers thanked CM Sullivan for his service.

Agenda

TOPIC #1	Economic Development Briefing - BSED
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Steve Arveschoug, Big Sky Economic Development: introduction and description about BSED and goals.
- Yakawich: what is a definitive P3 cooperation agreement. P3 is public, private partnership. A model that anticipates that there will be an agreement consistent to developments in Allentown and Rochester.
- **Public comments:**
- Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, Montana: everything in economic development is timing. It's time for City to support the convention center at the Radisson. South side BURD is the only TID that can support the growth. Have a developer that is ready to invest. Nothing is missing except City commitment to move forward.

TOPIC #2	TrailNet – Highway 3 Project
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Kristy Drake: Trail Net board, staff, mission, etc. \$378,000 donations to trails and bikeways. \$3.5M Skyline trail project. TrailNet spent \$91k for preliminary design.
- Cole: how much of total price can be raised within the private sector? Don't know, haven't started fundraising but may use creative methods.
- Ewalt: how does the Skyline trail connect with the Shiloh Rd. trail? Not a great way to do it.
- Yakawich: can the project be trimmed down or phased? Trail only is about \$2.5M, so amenities could be added later.
- Clark: underpass paid by MDT? Yes.
- **Public Comment:**

- None
- Cole: request that staff update Council on hiring alternative modes coordinator at meeting on January 20.

TOPIC #3	2017-2021 TIP Amendment #1
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Scott Walker, Transportation Planner: TIP is 5-year fiscal document, all federally funded projects. All changes are initiated by MDT, rescheduled projects due to funding sources and timing.
- Cole: what is the “freight program”? Relatively new program.
- Walker: continues with amendments.
- Friedel: lighting on Main St. complaints.
- Scott continues.
- Sullivan: I-90 bridge replacement in FY21-22, interest in Coulson Park development. Should park development be delayed until after the bridges are replaced? Bridge development will work well with property owners. Shouldn’t be any problems.
- Ewalt: Airport Rd and Main intersection should allow turns on Green arrows only to improve safety. MDT recently completed study and recommends a short term and long term project. Will send the completed study to entire Council.
- Yakawich: safety projects on Garden and S. Frontage Rd will do what? Only signage upgrades. May be able to get more detailed info and will send to entire Council.
- Cole: all improvements in TIP valued over \$300M; is there any trail development money? Only on specific projects such as Inner Belt Loop.
- Clark: worked with infrastructure coalition to get more gas tax; will State projects be moved up because the State will have more match money? Hard to tell but could be, depending on funding sources. Don’t know where new funds are dedicated.
- Brewster: encourage Council to vote for the amendments.

Public Comment:

Jeff Essmann, 3130 McMasters Road, Billings, Montana: want Council to ask for 2 safety projects; Blue Creek Rd and South Billings Blvd project, Riverfront Park entrance and Briarwood entrance need center turn lane. (Briarwood fire road is covered with snow and ice and is not a realistic route.)

Friedel: State route? Yes. Agree with Essmann comments.

Joy: cars parking along South Billings Blvd for events in Riverfront Park – very dangerous. Look at what events are held there and whether facilities can support the events.

Brewster: Riverfront Park is not located in the City, owned by City but located in County. State involved as well.

TOPIC #4	Cost of Services Study
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Wyeth Friday, Planning Director: study has been in Council priorities for several years. Examine impacts of different densities and types of development.
- Sullivan: needed study but expertise already resides within City staff. Have staff identify the costs, use consultant for the planning model.
- Clark: refers to previous attempt at cost of services study. McCandless: previous study determined cost of services, not how to work them into model. Due to illness, the project didn't go forward with company. This study different, will provide system to capture cost accounts to identify costs for providing services. Data will be used for specific model.
- Friedel: shared facilities possible? PRPL and PW talking about shared satellite facilities. Friday: Fire station on 54th has location for satellite police, not staffed.
- Cole: need community input and relevance to impact fees.
- Ewalt: check with other cities that have it figured out.
- Brewster: issue an RFP and will it have a scope of work? Yes. Council needs to review the RFP before issuance.
- Cole: Council wants to see the scope, costs, public engagement, who are the consultants that do this work, multi-dimensional.
- Joy: can't put a cost on them, but would also like to look at intangibles such as access to parks, recreation facilities, etc.
- Ronning: gets asked why we have human trafficking and car thefts. Good tool to help public understand why the City needs more police and levy to support them. Want to talk more about that on Saturday, during 1/20/18 work session.
- **Public Comment:**
None

TOPIC #5	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Cole: reminder of Council work plan meeting on Saturday 1/20 at 8:00 am at the community center.
- McCandless: will add staff items to list for agenda.

TOPIC #6	Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Dennis Ulvestad, 3040 Central Avenue, Billings, Montana: support CM Sullivan's statement about getting people involved in local government.

- Tim Goodridge: EBURD coordinator – ask Council to discount the Sanderson Stewart fee. BIRD recommended to ask for prepayment discount. Marty Connell approached Sanderson-Steward and got a 5% discount. A one-off event. Not a huge risk. Confines the decision because we're using TIF, not other City sources.