

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
October 15, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor/Council (please check) Cromley, Yakawich, Brewster, Ewalt, Joy, Friedel, Gibbs, Ronning, Clark, Brown.

CM excused: None

ADJOURN TIME: 8:45 pm

Mayor: Refresh the Rims cleanup on October 20th. Meeting at the Senior Center.

Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator: provided Chris Kukulski with draft contract, negotiations progressing forward.

Agenda

TOPIC #1	Opportunity Bank Tax Abatement
PRESENTER	Patrick Klugman, Big Sky Economic Development (BSED)
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Klugman: overview of Opportunity Bank, financials and remodeling plans.
- Friedel: how is this project abatement? Klugman: existing building being demolished, re-construction on site.
- Mayor: valuation of old Rimview Inn? Klugman: will find information.
- Brewster: abatement based on evaluation of vacant lot? Klugman: assume Department of Revenue based on vacant lot.
- **Public Comment:**
- None

TOPIC #2	NorthWestern Energy Street Lights
PRESENTER	Debbie Singer, Northwestern Energy
NOTES/OUTCOME	PowerPoint presentation

- Singer: PowerPoint regarding Statewide project and City street lights. Introduces Steve Schmidt, overseeing construction.
- Schmidt: shows samples of lights, plans start in January.
- Mayor Cole: cost savings go to? Singer: \$15,000 per month (total) passed back to property owners about 1 year later.
- Cromley: Commercial customer options? Singer: aggressive LED rebate program for Commercial customers.
- Bruce McCandless, City Administrator: options for some lighting districts feel over lit or under lit. Singer: open to change if notified. Call (406) 655-2550.

- Clark: average residential costs go up or down? Singer: could go up with new lights, partially offset by energy savings.
- Brown: rate case recovered and costs go away? Singer: as long as lights are there will be paying. Lower maintenance could help costs go down. Can only recover costs of actual lights.
- Ewalt: City lighting district costs ever paid off? Singer: City capital provided by property owners through SID. NW provides all capital, no money collected up front.
- Mayor Cole: when is City going to switch out? McCandless: City has been doing LED for 5 years.
- Yakawich: notification? Singer: letters will be sent, but don't know costs.
- Friedel: benefit to customers? Costs will actually be higher. Singer: street lighting, safety. LED is the way the industry is going. New standard. Energy savings. Friedel: could City take over NW lights? Singer: NW would remove lights and City could install their own.
- **Public Comment:**
- Leo Barsanti, 3316 Pipestone Drive, Billings, Montana: 80% is ownership fee for lights. Filed suit in 2009, original costs never go away. Would like to see a letter of support from City.

TOPIC #3	Ron Hill Protest of City Assessments
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	Not to be considered tonight.

- Bruce McCandless: Per Ron Hill request, please remove from agenda.
- **Public Comment:**
- Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, Montana: hand out spreadsheet on different property and assessments.

TOPIC #4	Quarterly Updates – MOVED TO #5
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- a. **-BIRD, Tim Goodridge:** overview
- b. **-Downtown Billings Partnership, Masie Sulser:** overview.
- c. **-South Billings Urban Renewal Association, Steve Zier:** overview.
- d. **-Budget, Andy Zoeller, Finance Director:** overview.

- e. **-Health Fund, Bruce McCandless:** No presentation.
- f. **-Initiatives, Bruce McCandless:** summary in packet. Overview of progress.
- g. **-Strategic / Work Plan, Kevin Iffland:** no presentation.
- h. **-City-wide Park District 1 Projects, Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent:** overview.
- i. **-Code Enforcement Update, Nicole Cromwell, Zoning Coordinator:** dirty dozen review.

Public Comment:

- 2. None

TOPIC #5	2018 Long Range Transportation Plan – PLACED AS ITEM 4
PRESENTER	Scott Walker, Andy Gliden
NOTES/OUTCOME	PowerPoint presentation

- Cromley: draft plan completed 3 weeks ago, when will council get the plan? Gliden: online BillingsLRTP.com pdf of draft
- Ewalt: how is school safety involved, how high priority sidewalks around Medicine Crow school? Gliden: Two components, crash safety research and identified issues. Gliden: Can look at Medicine Crow and get back to Council.
- Yakawich: any red flags, high priority infrastructure that needs to be addressed? Gliden: streets and highways, downtown. Yakawich: would like to see executive summary.
- Joy: reconcile goals, walkable, entice more people downtown.
- Cromley: Council input into plan.
- Clark: individual comments vs same people comments of 400 comments received. Gliden: half were online survey.
- Friedel: projects on plan timeframes. Gliden: recommended projects listed in Chapter 13.
- Ewalt: how will Medicine Crow be looked into? Gliden: look at details of area within TIP.
- Friedel: south side project (King Ave./Orchard) timeline? Gliden: committed project within Capital Improvement Plan.
- Clark: who pays for plan? how much does it cost? Gliden: \$200,000
- **Public Comment:**
- Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, Montana: bikes to work – mode shares, freight moved by rail.

Recess at 7:30 pm. Reconvene at 7:40 pm.

TOPIC #6	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Brown: thanks staff for alley work being done.
- Friedel: alley Lewis /15th Street alley to west needs to be graded.
- Yakawich: USS Billings Committee meets 2nd Wednesday at 1pm at Chamber of Commerce.

TOPIC #7	Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Patricia Harn, P.O. Box 2324, Billings, Montana: would like to see huge increase in spay/neuter clinics by Yellowstone Valley Shelter. Current clinic cannot help all the people and should not have to prove low income.

Recess to Executive Session at 8:45 pm.