

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BILLINGS CITY COUNCIL
January 3, 2012

The Billings City Council met in special session in the Council Chambers located on the second floor of the Police Facility, 220 North 27th Street, Billings, Montana. Mayor Thomas W. Hanel called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and served as the meeting's presiding officer. Mayor Hanel gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL – Councilmembers present on roll call were: Ronquillo, Pitman, Cimmino, McFadden, Bird, McCall, Ulledalen, Astle, and Crouch. Councilmember Cromley was excused.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS - TINA VOLEK

Ms. Volek advised she had no Administrator's Report, and no items were filed in the ex parte notebook.

PUBLIC COMMENT on "NON-PUBLIC HEARING" Agenda Items: 1 & 2 ONLY.

Speaker sign-in required. (Comments offered here are limited to one (1) minute. Please sign up on the clipboard located at the podium. Comment on items listed as public hearing items will be heard ONLY during the designated public hearing time for each respective item. For Items not on this agenda, public comment will be taken at the end of the agenda. Please sign up on the clipboard located at the podium.)

The public comment period was opened. There were no speakers, and the public comment period was closed.

SPECIAL AGENDA:

1. **Oath of Office for Municipal Court Judge Sheila Kolar.** Mayor Hanel administered the oath of office to Judge Kolar, and Judge Kolar signed her oath of office. Mayor Hanel congratulated Judge Kolar on behalf of the City of Billings and the Billings residents and wished her the best of luck as Municipal Judge. Judge Kolar introduced her family members and friends who were in attendance and thanked everyone for their support and help through her election and appointment. She said she was so honored and so proud to be the judge for the City of Billings.
2. **Oaths of Office for Councilmembers Becky Bird, Ken Crouch, Jani McCall, and Denis Pitman.** Judge Sheila Kolar administered the oaths of office for Councilmembers Bird, Crouch, McCall and Pitman, and each councilmember signed his/her oath of office. Each councilmember introduced family and friends who were in attendance. Mayor Hanel congratulated the newly-elected and re-elected councilmembers and introduced current Councilmembers Ronquillo, Cimmino, McFadden, Ulledalen, and Astle. He also recognized Yellowstone County Commissioner Bill Kennedy who was in the audience.

(Note for the record: Newly-elected Councilmember Brent Cromley was unable to attend the meeting and was scheduled to be sworn in by Judge Kolar on Thursday, January 5, 2012, at 2:00 p.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENT on Non-Agenda Items -- Speaker Sign-in required. (Restricted to ONLY items not on this printed agenda; comments limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. Please sign up on the clipboard located at the podium.)

The public comment period was opened.

- **Spencer Stone, 1101 N. 22nd Street, Billings, MT**, thanked the Council for approving the resolution creating the park district at their meeting on December 19, 2011. He said as a cyclist and a user of the multi-use trails, he felt the parks and trails were in need of repair.

There were no other speakers, and the public comment period was closed.

COUNCIL INITIATIVES

- **Ulledalen:** Said there were realtors talking about pursuing changes in state laws in the next legislature. Councilmember Ulledalen MOVED that (1) staff and the realtors work together to get some guidance so they were on the same page; and (2) staff look at specific city policies relative to park dedication for things that worked, did not work, and if there were things that needed addressed. He said a lot of the park policies did not make sense and it would be an opportunity to fix the whole thing collectively. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hanel. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.
- **Ronquillo:** Asked for an explanation on the sheriff's auction for the Field of Dreams property since the City owned it. City Administrator Volek advised the City owned a portion of the property, which they leased to Field of Dreams in return for the provision of some trees on an annual basis. She said she believed Field of Dreams owned the rest of the land, and she had asked the legal staff to make sure the people conducting the sale were made aware that the City was a partial property owner and that the city's land should not be disposed of with the rest of the property. City Attorney Brooks said they were preparing a letter to send to the individual doing the foreclosure stating not all land involved was owned by Field of Dreams. He said the letter would have a property description to distinguish which part of the property was owned by the City. He said he was confident the person conducting the foreclosure was already aware of it, but they were sending the letter as a precautionary measure.

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

CITY OF BILLINGS



BY: Thomas W. Hanel
Thomas W. Hanel, Mayor

ATTEST:

BY: Cari Martin
Cari Martin, City Clerk