

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
October 19, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor/Council (please check) Hanel, Cromley, Yakawich, Cimmino, Pitman, McFadden, Bird, Swanson, McCall, Crouch, Brown.

ADJOURN TIME: 8:44

Agenda

TOPIC #1	Riverstone Community Health Center
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Mayor Hanel: Proclamation – Pack the Place in Pink, Tuesday October 20, 2015. Wear pink to support breast cancer awareness. Skyview High School volleyball game on October 20th will have a ceremony.
- John Felton, President and CEO Riverstone Health – Kristie Asay, Director Riverstone Health : construct new community health center. Reviews the present campus and building uses. Service model has changed – patient medical home. Teaching model has changed – residency program. Shows pod development in new building. Build new so that services are maintained during construction. \$11 million project. Pod building est. is \$8 million, have \$6 million in hand or available.
- Bird: how many juveniles served? How does pod concept function? Mental health services? 15-20% of patient population. No psychiatrist, but other professionals work in the area.
- McFadden: what happens to existing facilities? Take down Deering Clinic and renovate.
- McCall: sq ft added? 25,000 sq feet. School health center at Orchard School? Billings Clinic provides nurse and social worker to students and immediate family.
- Yakawich: how will you replace parking lot used for building construction? Riverstone Health owns lots around the area that will be used.
- Ms. Asay: feasibility study conducted by professional surveying firm. Request gift from City for the project. Yellowstone County granted \$25,000 and will consider same next budget year.
- Swanson: total goal for private funding? \$5 million.
- Crouch: start building? Best case is early 2016.
- Public comments:
- Terry Odegard: 2101 Lake Hills Drive, Billings, MT - supports Riverstone project.
- Tom Zurbuchen: 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT – doesn't believe the council should support foundations with taxes.

TOPIC #2	Spelling Bee Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Bird: wants Council to donate \$2000 to spelling bee. County funding down? Funding decreased in recent years, would like to see City contribute.
- Cimmino: grant funds for post 2015 bees.
- Brown: stepping on County's toes? Cromley – same concern.
- Hanel: discussion with county about funding and the bee. Do they need our help?
- Cimmino: timing good. Add this discussion to the city-county meeting agenda.
- Pitman: agreed.
- Public comments: none

TOPIC #3	Public Safety Hiring and Funding
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Pat Weber, Finance Director: 8 vacancies in police dept. 7 officers scheduled to go to academy. Talked about adding 6 officers in FY16. Add 1 Fire/EMS officer in January 2016 and 5 firefighters in FY17. Add 2 911 dispatchers in January and 2 more in July.
- Rich St. John, Police Chief: answers questions.
- Paul Dextrus, Fire Chief and Bill Rash, Assistant Chief: presentation.
- Pitman: do additional safety personnel relieve overtime, greater service, etc? Relief of short staff.
- McCall: recruitment? Nationwide and social media.
- Brown: consider different hiring schedule?
- Bird: personnel added from 2004 levy? Update station location study? Need to look at alarm study conducted in 2003. Updated study would be good.
- McFadden: adding staff at stations gives us? Quicker response times, additional equipment brought to scene.
- Cimmino: how many payments still due on firefighter lawsuit? 2 ½ years
- Mr. Weber: shows individual officer and O&M costs.
- Cimmino: council needs to make decision ASAP and can't imagine what more info council needs.
- Brown: don't like the numbers presented but want to do something.
- Volek: incremental hiring process.
- Public comments:
- Dennis Ulvestad: 3040 Central Avenue, Billings, MT - police standards are high and kudos to St. John. Agree that there's no room for error in hiring.

- Tom Zurbuchen: 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT - used public safety levy info and can't duplicate Pat's results for tonight's presentation. Don't need annual audits, only bi-annual.
- Terry Odegard: 2101 Lake Hills Drive, Billings, MT - concern about police morale and need personnel immediately.
- Dick Clark: 1207 25th St. West, Billings, MT - thanks Council for having the discussion and would like to see action.
- Paul Shulmar: 1223 Princeton, Billings, MT - need officers to have a safe city.

TOPIC #4	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Yakawich: volunteer appreciation dinner: Thursday, October 22 from 6 p.m – 8 p.m. at downtown community center. For all board and commission members. One guest allowed.
- Volek: Special thanks to Wynnette Maddox in administration for all of her work coordinating the event.
- Public comments:
- Dick Clark: 1207 25th St. West, Billings, MT - appreciate the dinner. Left out half of the Planning Board – county appointees. Will talk with Tammie tomorrow and ask they be invited.
- Mayor Hanel: Garden in the alley in the 1600 block of Ave E. bringing in dirt, etc. Need code enforcement to look into it.
- Mayor Hanel: Shawnee and Bench – used by trucks during summer construction, deep holes in gravel section. Probably will need additional gravel.
- Tina: announces 2 meetings - October 20, 2015 is Community Innovation meeting and October 21, 2015 is the Annual Community Leadership Joint meeting with the County, Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Billings Alliance and Big Sky Economic Development to discuss goals and opportunities.
- Crouch: Grand Avenue, past Shilo, near school. Will it be improved and widened? Volek – will consult with Dave Mumford and don't know county plans.

TOPIC #5	Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Tom Zurbuchen: 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT - no waiver to pay tax for Sheriff, over 50% of revenue comes from city properties. Jail costs. Inefficient, wrong system. City should get some of the money back. Discuss public safety services with county commissioners.

- Dennis Ulvestad: 3040 Central Avenue, Billings, MT - concerned about 501c corporations like St. Vincent's, Billings Clinic, Passages or Riverstone Health. They don't pay taxes but demands police services and everyone else pays.
- Terry Odegard: 2101 Lake Hills Drive, Billings, MT - salaries/wage increases. Social Security recipients not getting any increase. Will look carefully at what the city pays its employees. Appreciate the work city does on local option tax.