City Council Work Session

5:30 PM
Council Chambers
December 7, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

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

ADJOURN TIME: 8:00 p.m.

Agenda

TOPIC #1	**BillingsWorks Work Force Council**
PRESENTER	**Brittany Sousa, Director of BillingsWorks**
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Sousa: presentation about shrinking workforce. Formalized structure to look at and address the problem. Survey businesses about workforce. 4 goals. Collaboration, resources for employers, education alignment and
- McFadden: working with veterans? Yes.
- Brown: low wage state, how do we overcome? Workforce flexibility, etc.
- McCall: fortunate to have Sousa as part of BSED.   Served on board for 8 years. $2500 donation to org is on the 12/7 agenda.
- Pitman: anyone representing the city? Yes.
- **Public comments: none**

TOPIC #2	**Community Innovations Funding**
PRESENTER	**Lisa Harmon, Director Downtown Billings Alliance**
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Harmon: MAAP program description
- Tony Nichols: learn about problems, data analysis to ID hotspots, work with merchants about public drinking, enforcement focus, San Diego program
- Matt Lennick: birth of ROC (Joel Simpson), MAAP description, based on San Diego model
- Joel Simpson: treatment vs jail options, collaboration required, addiction recovery counseling.

- Volek: staff recommendation for $25k to support program next year. Making progress. Will put contribution on a Dec. agenda if council agrees, may increase the funding in FY 17.
- Hanel: cost to taxpayers if we didn't have this program? $100/night, jail is crowded and had to write ticket instead of jailing, jail will help with real problems. One vendor stopped selling single serve containers. Restructured food/shelter programs.
- Pitman: impacting and improving downtown but problem may shift elsewhere. Can problems be addressed by these officers? They may need to wait for second ROC. Current ROC will stay downtown. Matt: east heights crime numbers are up in 2015.
- McCall: same question as Pitman, but citywide? Not really. Think that city needs to fund another ROC.
- Yakawich: seeing more vagrancy and drinking in N. and S. Parks in past year. Don't lose sight of displacement.
- Brown: cost of bad behavior, what do the treatments cost? Anticipated success rate?
- Lynnette Kosovich: Rimrock CEO: running on shoe string. Treatment is expensive. Board is behind the effort. Alcohol addiction is recurring, so multiple treatments aren't uncommon.
- **Public comments:**
- Gary Buchanan: 2429 Colleen Drive, Billings, MT - really bad last year, downtown safer now. PD supplements the downtown patrol, single servings still a problem, never seen better policing, need to continue supporting it.
- Travis Dimond: 3024 Kincaid Road, Billings, MT - DBA board member. Heard negative comments when program started. More positive comments now.
- Connie Wardell: PO Box 21432, Billings, MT - downtown businesses invest a lot, city needs to help protect those investments.
  Paul Shomer: 1223 Princeton Avenue, Billings, MT – positive direction.
- Sam Merric: 1219 Cottonwood Blvd, Billings, MT – supportive.
- Dana Bishop: 208 Pueblo Drive, Billings, MT - DBA board member. Invest in downtown.
- Clark Marten: 2606 Montana Ave, Billings, MT - business owner and downtown resident. Invested, excited about being in downtown and the changes.
- Harmon: Joel received letters from 3 clients stating how helpful this program is to them.
- Swanson: support
- McCall: give $75,000, Dec 21 council meeting
- Bird: agree
- Brown: agree. Want info about how PD would work the program outside the downtown.
- Crouch: invest in peoples' lives.
- Council consensus: put funding discussion on Dec. 21 agenda.

TOPIC #3	**Setting Speed Limits**

PRESENTER	**Deb Mehling, City Engineer**
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Meling: trying to address lots of questions, so presentation isn't as smooth as she would like. Introduces Erin Claunch. Overview, then signals and then speed limits. ID what governs what is installed and signed.
- Hanel: Naztec compatible with state system? Sort of.
- McCall: when system fully functional, how/when will it be monitored? Use it based on complaints and trouble shooting. Erin: use almost daily but not monitoring full time.
- Brown: CAD system notify technician. Yes, fully functional and have lots of alarm settings.
- Bird: un-warranted signals exist? Don't know about one, but conditions could change and may not meet warrants now.
- Hanel: pedestrian signal at YMCA? Claunch: follows federal guidelines
- Bird: real accident history or perception? All downtown has more accidents.
- Pitman: warrants for traffic circles? Yes, nearly the same as for signals.
- Yakawich: cost comparison? Big cost for roundabouts is land and now need ped signals, so capital cost is higher. Operating costs are usually less than signals.
- Brown: city responsible for adding pedestrian signals on Shiloh? Don't have to retrofit but improve as we work on them.
- Yakawich: how do you decide a signal or a roundabout? Cost & safety Street.
- Cromley: speed limits around parks? Reduction possible? Guidelines for schools but not certain that there are park guidelines.   When there are events, the speed is slow but avg day it may be higher.
- Bird: complaints about speeding around Sacajawea park? No specific ones.
- Pitman: why HAWK signals? Pedestrian warrants (only takes a few peds because 4th and 6th are so busy). Works where full time signal isn't needed.
- McFadden: are all signals programmable? no
- Brown: HAWK on 4th St. doesn't get used
- Yakawich: speed bumps around parks? City does not fund traffic calming devices.
- McCall: traffic calming works.
- **Public comments on 3 or 4:**
- Steve Ziere: similar questions around SBBURB, Debi and Erin were great with info.

TOPIC #4	**Traffic Signals**
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- **Notes included under topic #3.**

TOPIC #5	**Council Discussion**
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- **None**

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

- **None.**

Additional Information: