

RESOLUTION NO. 18-10750

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS FORMING A POLICY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF URBAN RENEWAL AREAS OR DISTRICTS (URD) IN THE CITY.

WHEREAS, MCA, Title 7, Chapter 15, Part 42, Section 51 declares: General powers of municipalities in connection with urban renewal. Every municipality shall have all the power necessary or convenient:

- (1) To carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of this part and part 43;
- (2) To undertake and carry out urban renewal projects within the municipality, to make and execute contracts and other instruments necessary or convenient to the exercise of its powers under this part and part 43, and to disseminate blight clearance and urban renewal information;
- (3) To organize, coordinate, and direct, within the municipality, the administration of the provisions of this part and part 43 as they apply to such municipality in order that the objective of remedying blighted areas and preventing the causes thereof within such municipality may be most effectively promoted and achieved and to establish such new office or offices of the municipality or to reorganize existing offices in order to carry out such purpose most effectively;
- (4) To exercise all or any part or combination of powers granted in this part or part 43; and

WHEREAS, the City of Billings reviews and adopts Urban Renewal Plans for each of its Urban Renewal Districts, and those Plans specify goals for each Urban Renewal District; and

WHEREAS, the City of Billings may establish local policies that guide the establishment, operations, funding and governance of urban renewal districts; and

WHEREAS, development of TIF (Tax Increment Financing) Policies would be in the best interest of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS, MONTANA:

That the City Council now makes and adopts the following TIF Policy:

CITY OF BILLINGS TAX INCREMENT FINANCE POLICY

1. **PERMITTED USES OF TIF FUNDS.** TIF funds may be used for costs outlined in MCA, Title 7, Chapter 15, Part 42, Section 88. Urban Renewal Plans adopted by the City may limit what TIF funds may be spent on in any Urban Renewal District. Eligible costs may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Land acquisition and assemblage, demolition and removal of structures, relocation of occupants, analysis to determine needs of an urban renewal area, administrative cost for redevelopment activities.
 - b. Public infrastructure, including, but not limited to: streets, storm drains, parking, public buildings, water and sewer lines, sidewalks, utility connections.
 - c. Private infrastructure with public benefit, including, but not limited to, building façades, windows, doors, fire suppression or alarm systems, storm drainage, environmental remediation, parking, and ADA access.
2. **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH TIF.** All financial assistance must be approved by the City Council prior to any activity receiving funding. Financial assistance should be requested prior to beginning construction. All activity (design and construction) must be completed prior to issuance of TIF funds from the City Finance Department. Financial thresholds and assistance tools are as follows:
 - a. A minimum of \geq \$5 of private investment for every \$1 of public investment is the preferred threshold to be met for each TIF application. The City Council reserves the right to approve any application that does not meet this minimum. The City Council also may make exceptions for projects of less than \$100,000, and for publicly owned projects, properties or facilities.
 - b. Grants may be made for uses listed in Part 1 above benefitting any government owned-land or buildings and for profit and non-profit businesses.
 - c. Bonding may be available at the discretion of the City Council.
 - d. All TIF grants will be formalized by a development agreement that must be signed by the grantee before the City will reimburse eligible expenses.
3. **URD MANAGEMENT.** Each URD in the City of Billings will be managed as follows:
 - a. Each URD should maintain a non-profit advisory board to make recommendations to the City Council regarding TIF expenditures. Unless specifically authorized by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) referenced in 3(b) below, a majority of board members must own or lease property within the district, or must represent such owner or lessee, and may include representation from residential or commercial property owners or lessees. Advisory Boards must carry insurance for their members and provide proof of insurance to the City.
 - b. A MOU must be executed between the advisory board and the City Council that defines the board's roles, responsibilities, authority, and processes, including for hiring and maintaining board support staff. The MOU must

contain language addressing conflict of interest situations for board members whose property may directly benefit from a TIF expenditure and for board support staff. The MOU also must include language that if there is the appearance of a conflict of interest the issue will be reviewed by City legal staff before moving forward.

- c. Training for all URD advisory boards will be conducted biannually in coordination with City staff and URD support staff. The training must include, but is not limited to: review of URD and TIF laws, Administrative Rules, ethics, conflicts of interest, meeting management, and maintenance of minutes and records.
- d. URD financial reporting will be consistent across all URDs and be set by coordination between the City Finance Director and the Planning and Community Services Director, and URD support staff.
- e. TIF application review and City Council staff report preparation will be conducted by the Planning and Community Services Department Director, in coordination with the Assistant City Administrator, Finance Director, and URD support staff.

PASSED by the City Council and APPROVED this 9th day of July, 2018.

CITY OF BILLINGS

BY: William A. Cole
William A. Cole, Mayor

ATTEST

BY: Denise R. Bohlman
Denise R. Bohlman, City Clerk

