

RESOLUTION NO. 10-18925

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A NOVEMBER 2010 BALLOT PROPOSAL BY THE YELLOWSTONE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SEEKING VOTER APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF A CITY-COUNTY PLANNING DIVISION MILL LEVY INCREASE OF 1.0 MILL TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY PLANNING AND COUNTY GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS SERVICES (GIS) AND INCREASE COMMUNITY ACCESS TO CERTAIN MATCHING FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FUNDS. THE CITY OF LAUREL AND THE LAUREL PLANNING JURISDICTION ARE THE ONLY AREAS OF THE COUNTY NOT INCLUDED IN THIS BALLOT MEASURE

WHEREAS, the City of Billings and Yellowstone County continue to experience population growth, increasing demands from the community for growth management and land use planning, and the continued support of efficient use of public resources, protection of public safety, preservation of property values and sound land use planning. GIS services are also a vital tool for land use planning and also provide public safety, mapping and land analysis information to the City and County; and

WHEREAS, the community planning is currently funded $\frac{1}{2}$ by Federal Transportation Planning funds, $\frac{1}{4}$ by fees, and $\frac{1}{4}$ by a County-wide 1.22 mill levy. Revenue from fee-based services is unpredictable while demand for community planning services is increasing, which has resulted in less community planning and a loss of local funds to match Federal Transportation Planning funds for the City and County.

WHEREAS, the demands for exceptional City and County land use planning and growth management exceed the current financial resources available for community planning, and without additional funding, a reduction in community planning services will continue. An additional, permanent 1.0 mill levy providing resources for community planning and increased access to Federal Transportation Planning funds will be of great benefit and will help ensure quality, long-term growth management and land use planning for both the City of Billings and Yellowstone County, Montana; and

WHEREAS, it is currently projected that an additional 1.0 mill levy will cost taxpayers \$1.53 per year for a house valued at \$100,000 or \$3.06 per year for a house valued at \$200,000. Combined with the current 1.22 mill levy, the total estimated cost for a house valued at \$200,000 is about \$6.79 per year. The City Council believes that this minimal cost to the taxpayers will result in exceptional community planning services that are sustainable and will ensure continued public involvement in the growth and development of the City of Billings and Yellowstone County; and

WHEREAS, the authority to place such a ballot issue before the voters is conferred upon the Yellowstone County Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS, MONTANA, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

The City Council hereby declares its support for a ballot proposal which would require a permanent County mill levy increase from 1.22 mills to 2.22 mills, a total increase of 1.0 mills, specifically to fund community planning and County GIS services. Such a mill levy increase also will result in the City of Billings and Yellowstone County have access to increased Federal Transportation Planning funds. The City Council strongly encourages the Yellowstone County Commission to submit this issue to the registered voters of Yellowstone County, Montana, including the City of Billings. This mill levy increase would not apply to the City of Laurel and the Laurel Planning Jurisdiction.

Passed and approved this 12th day of April, 2010.



THE CITY OF BILLINGS:

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

ATTEST:

Cari Martin
Cari Martin, City Clerk