

City Council Work Session

REVISED 10/30/17
5:30 PM
Council Chambers
October 16, 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor/Council (please check) x Hanel, x Cromley, x Yakawich, x Cimmino, x Brewster, x McFadden, x Friedel, Swanson, x Sullivan, x Clark, x Brown.
CM excused: Swanson

ADJOURN TIME: recess to executive session at 7:40 p.m.

Agenda

TOPIC #1	City Administrator Semi-Finalists Selection Process
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Councilman Larry Brewster: describes City Administrator Committee selection schedule and hiring process. Discussed process regarding closing portions of the meeting with City legal staff. October 30, 2017 will meet to review approximately 15 applicants recommended by Mercer, will close part of the meeting for rights of privacy and to allow candidates privacy with current jobs. Will return to open meeting to discuss finalists and appoint/name 4-6 finalists. Requested Mercer discuss possibility of names being released with semi-finalists. If some finalists are not ok with name being released, may have to come up with another way to handle process. Council needs to be careful not to deliberate during closed portion of meeting. November 30, 2017 and December 1, 2017 finalist will be interviewed by Council and meet with staff and public. Potential for closed meeting during meetings if Council receives new information that includes right of privacy issues. Hiring decision will occur during open meeting on December 1.
- Cromley: how many applications? 36.
- Yakawich: request that the citizen committee be allowed to review the semi-finalists. Brewster: lots of reasons to not do that, including confidentiality for larger group of candidates. Need to remain confidential until finalists are chosen. Committee fulfilled their tasks as set out in the Council resolution. Yakawich: OK, but want that opportunity public to voice opinion on the finalists. Hanel: committee talked about it but majority rejected it. Council will have chance to meet the candidates along with the citizens during the meetings with the finalists.
- Brown: same agenda timeline as before? Brewster: slightly different, but similar timeline.
- Brewster: need questions from Councilmembers that they would like to ask candidates.

Public comments:

None

TOPIC #2	Noise Ordinance
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Brent Brooks, City Attorney: will take some time to get assistance from sound expert, will look at the 4 items Council asked to reconsider. DPARB and contractors will want to look at the construction start time and building mods. Probably come back to Council in December.
- **Public Comment:**
- Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, Montana: construction noise start time from 7 to 8? Lots of construction needs to start before 8.
- Hanel: good point during summer construction season. Brooks: noted conflict but will test idea with contractors and report to you.
- Sullivan: thanks for Mr. Nelson's comments.
- Connie Wardell, P.O. Box 21432, Billings, Montana: second what Mr. Nelson said. Concrete work needs to start at 6 am.
- McFadden: Elks tennis court contractor cited but had to start earlier than allowed.
- Friedel: any special consideration for necessary early start? Brooks: currently available. Also have permanent exemption options.

TOPIC #3	Quarterly Updates
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- BIRD UPDATE
- Tim Goodridge, BIRD: written report submitted on Friday. Car wash is open and encourage business. Any questions about other projects?
- Cimmino: properties involved in the street construction and lighting work? Goodridge: About 130 properties, 193 lights, large district, should be able to offer 50/50 price assistance.
- Cimmino: status of pedestrian bridge across Expedition? Goodridge: need more discussion but priority will rise if there is hotel development.
- Yakawich: update on housing study? Goodridge: should be ready this week. workforce housing for \$30k - \$70k income. Will have an open discussion and will invite Council.
- DOWNTOWN BILLINGS PARTNERSHIP UPDATE
- Greg Krueger, Downtown Billings Alliance Development Director: website is up and running and should contain all recent development and meeting information last quarterly report before retirement.
- Sullivan: TV says that grocery store will close. What's the plan? Krueger: housing plan could be key to attracting retail and food stores. 2 people interested in opening smaller stores.

- Yakawich: replacement for you? Krueger: advertise it tomorrow, narrow by end of November and hire before I leave the position.
- SBURA UPDATE
- Steve Zier, SBURA: thanks for attending annual meeting. 2 new board members. Midland Rd update – meeting with property owners going well, bid in February. Hallowell Ln project is safety issue. Engineering working on better function and storm water control. Sports facility study underway, first meeting is Wednesday. Radisson hotel group looking at redeveloping the convention center. Working on a market study. Meeting with Council later. Good budget position. Introduces 2 board members.
- Clark: Oct 18 meeting location? Zier: at BSED, 2nd floor Granite Tower, 10:00 am.
- Brown: family dinner project? Zier: America's Family restaurant, know it's open but haven't visited yet.
- Cromley: Radisson center project definition? Zier: looking at full reconstruction of 80,000 sq ft. Communication with OBSC? Aware of each other, but not aware of any communication.
- Friedel: other big development projects on the horizon? Zier: sports facility could be large generator, new interest in Miller Crossing, think that Midland Rd improvement will attract others.
- Cimmino: when was sports facility consultant hired? Zier: under contract for about 2 weeks. Cimmino: over \$30M investment? Zier: not defined at this point.
- Sullivan: expect TIF request if Radisson builds new convention center? Yes.
- Friedel: sports center study completion date? Zier: January or February. Friedel: how likely to be in Billings? Zier: we have more attractive locations, so should be here.
- Yakawich: Shawn Hanser doing better. Optimist Park parking lot and Hallowell improvements welcomed. Parking lot and street constructed at the same time? Zier: parking lot will be done before anything happens on the street.
- BUDGET AND HEALTH FUND UPDATES
- No presentation, available for questions.
- No questions.
- INITIATIVES UPDATE
- McCandless: Council questions about open initiatives?
- Yakawich: want the quarterly code enforcement reports to continue. McCandless: Council agreed to try two times. Tonight would be the last one unless another initiative to continue them. Monthly written reports on Friday packets.
- Cimmino: Code enforcement reports are included in written reports.
- Nicole Cromwell, Zoning Coordinator: spend about 8 hours per report.
- Sullivan: looking at the big problems and reporting is important.
- Brown: agree.

- Sullivan: when will pigs come back to Council? Brooks: wrestling with “grandfathering” pigs when they’re not currently allowed. Looking at Denver ordinance. May return to Council in 2-3 weeks.
- Brown: looking at more than grandfathering? Brooks: no, because that’s the specific initiative. Brown: ones that left won’t come back? Brooks: one we know about is a landlord tenant issue and won’t legally return to the city.
- Cromley: possible to have a ordinance allowing 24-hour amnesty period for registration? Brooks: will look at it.
- Clark: initiative to finance three parks returning? McCandless: November 6th
- STRATEGIC WORK PLAN UPDATE
- McCandless: thanked Ms. Volek for volunteering and completing update.
- Sullivan: need to schedule first few meetings.
- Cimmino: majority are complete except for Police Evidence Building. McCandless: will send out email with specifics. Scheduled for December 4th. Status of RFP regarding purchasing, building new or leasing? Spoke with purchasing agent, they are complete and will send out to committee for final review.
- Sullivan: need to talk about updating long term strategic plans. Did we allocate money? Discussed putting it in FY19 budget, nothing in FY18.
- McCandless: Ms. Volek scheduled Saturday, January 20th for Strategic Planning session. Council can change if needed.
- CITY WIDE PARK DISTRICT 1 UPDATE
- Mike Whitaker, Parks Director: review of projects.
- Sullivan: lack of coordination between Parks and PW on the METRA trail through the sewer plant property?
- Brown: work at Stewart Park? Will email details.
- Hanel: replacement for Jon Thompson? Mike Pigg, Parks Supervisor promoted to Superintendent, now trying to fill Mike’s former position.
- Yakawich: same contractor at South Park and at the Airport? Pipes not properly placed? Yes. Had to do some re-work and problem getting parts.
- Yakawich: inspected work? CTA is doing the inspection work.
- Sullivan: what did we budget for South Park Splash Pad? About \$1M and have not approved any change orders, so it’s on budget.
- Cimmino: Comprehensive plan done? When can we look at it before action? Whitaker: scheduled for Nov. 13. Plan is on the PRPL website.
- Sullivan: email the study? Whitaker: will send Councilmembers a link.
- CODE ENFORCEMENT UPDATE
- Nicole Cromwell, Planner: review of cases.
- Clark: anyone enforcing code over the weekends? Safety concerns can be handled by PD, but otherwise, no enforcement.

- Brown: how successful is snow buddies program? 78 major violations, 21 in process but all the rest are resolved? About 12-20 people volunteer for snow buddies for whole city but try to dedicate someone to all city areas. Yes, all but those have been resolved.
- Cimmino: snow removal phone number? 237-6146. Leaves need to be in paper bags if taking to landfill.;
- Yakawich: thanks for report. Puts numbers into context. Like the report, makes staff think about solutions, helps us work better/smarter.
- Hanel: thanks. Cromwell: Thanks to staff.
- **Public Comment:**
- Connie Wardell, P.O. Box 21432, Billings, Montana: support quarterly CE reports. TIF districts report on ROI is useful. Heads up that RV industry is booming and people looking for storage places and not finding them. Brown: METRA used to accept storage. Still doing it? Not aware.
- Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, Montana: all 3 districts use a different format for financial reporting. Use the same one for comparison and to understand better? AT&T building lost lots of value. Brewster: value of equipment changes. McCandless: intangible value method changed in 2017.
- Clark: contract up? Last contract approved 2011, annual renewal with no termination. Discussed getting new on developed to make 3 districts more consistent with each other.

TOPIC #4	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Yakawich: Evergreen near Alkali creek needs to be graded.
- **Public Comment:**
None

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

- Brooks: update on medical marijuana postponed due to litigation. Clark: current ordinance stays in place? Yes, maintain current status quo.
- Tina Walker, 4100 Murphy Avenue, Billings, Montana: medical marijuana storefronts and dispensaries not well defined and may include deliveries. Is that accurate? Brooks: will talk individually. Please call office.
- Dustin Williams, 1118 Howard Avenue, Billings, Montana: plea for medication, State voted for it and we need it in Billings.
- Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, Montana: commercial businesses were biggest violators of weed ordinance. Encourage better effort?

Recess to executive session at 7:40 pm.