

BILLINGS CITY COUNCIL
Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Conference Room, First Floor, City Hall

Call to Order (00:00:00)

Committee Members present: Ed Gulick, Mike Boyette

Staff Present: Andy Zoeller, Chris Kukulski, Donna

Approval of February Meeting Minutes (00:00:00)

Minutes from February meetings are still in progress. January timestamps for minutes were not kept; needs to be resolved.

Public Comment (00:01:30)

No members of the public present.

Review of FY23 Council Budget Amendments (00:01:45)

Members discussed what to do about Council amendments that have had little to no progress:

- Low Barrier Shelter: Limited reimbursement requests filed. Andy will reach out to find out what's going on
- CRU: some project components not moving forward due to some legislative issues, contract moved to May 1 Council agenda. Vehicle has been purchased. Hiring process is underway for 2 FTE from City.
- \$75K to MRM: Contract still under negotiation. Funds will not be spent by end of FY. Will need to address reprogramming total amount, reprogramming that which won't be spent or holding unspent funds in reserve to expend in FY24. If reprogrammed, could make first \$100K payment on Stillwater from Council allocation of MJ revenues – one year early.
- \$75K for crime prevention: largely unspent; Chris will bring a strategy by March 29.
- \$50K for domestic violence needs: funds mostly expended, used for strangulation training
- New FTE for Park Planner: still working to fill position. Likely large reserves in Park Personnel line item, may be an opportunity to reprogram and do a planned study. Note that some personnel dollars will go to paying out leave, etc.
- \$100K small parks grants – unclear exactly how much is left, Parks will report at March 6 work session.
- Highland park – underway
- \$25K for CPTED - \$11,000 committed for training; Chris will consider options for remainder.

Chris will explore options for reallocation of funds and bring back to Committee. Discussion about Council intent for amendments. Brief discussion of possible SWOT study for Parks Department.

FY24 Budget Preparation (00:49:50)

Andy reviews major anticipated budget issues: rising employment costs, insurance costs, inflation. Possible 20-29% increase in General Fund due to property reappraisals – could be \$3.2M for GF, may see higher amounts in Public Safety fund.

Policy questions for FY24 Budget: allocation of MJ/MH money, IT infrastructure needs, Stillwater, Parks, Public Safety, Inflation, Stormwater, utilities for IBL, switch from seasonal workers to FTEs in Public Works.

Budget presentation schedule:

- Work sessions – May 1, May 9, May 15, 16. Wrap up on June 5
- Budget available for Council and public - April 28
- June 12 – open budget for amendment & adoption if possible; if not, June 26 for final adoption

Andy will discuss Budget Committee review schedule with staff and report back. Goal is to align with work session presentations.

Council Amendment process: Best to begin drafting and filing Council amendments early. Recommend that they all be in writing, with specific amounts included. Staff can help with review and technical assistance.

Committee Discussion (1:41:00)

None.

Discussion of Future Agenda Items & Meeting Schedule (1:41:07)

March 15: IT, insurance, topics that are ready for May 1 work sessions, budget presentation.

March 29 – FY23 Council amendment changes, PW issues

Adjournment (1:49:30)

Next meeting: March 15, 9 a.m.