

**BILLINGS CITY COUNCIL**  
**Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**May 24, 2023**

CM Present: Mike Boyette, Ed Gulick, Jennifer Owen  
Staff Present: Andy Zoeller, Chris Kukulski

**Call to Order (0:00:00)**

**Approval of May 10 Meeting Minutes (0:00:01)**

Mike moves to approve Minutes as presented; Ed seconds. **Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.**

**Public Comment (0:00:30)**

None

**FY24 Budget: Recap (0:00:39)**

Q&A will go out in this week's CA weekly. No council amendments filed yet.

Committee reviewed staff responses to committee questions.

Ed is bringing an amendment on planning funding.

a) Review of Council Questions

b) Additional Committee Questions  
None.

c) Council Amendments

Staff proposals: elections – County Administrator estimates the City needs to budget higher. Additional educational information for bond/levy parks. Staff will also propose a reallocation of FY23 dollars into FY24 – probably fire deferred maintenance only. Also need to deal with the court efficiency analysis.

Ed proposes a Committee amendment on planning. Need to understand what the state expects on growth plan and how they intersect with updated Heights/West End

Neighborhood Plans. Chris will talk with Wyeth about Heights plan scope and report back. Growth Policy update will require resources to meet State timelines.

## **FY24 Budget: Major Policy Issues (00:36:00)**

### SUD/MH and Marijuana revenues

MJ allocation for FY24 is \$650,000. \$200,000 previously allocated by Council to New City Hall. Total: \$887,571 if 2 mill and MJ are combined and after taking out portion for City Hall.

Opioid allocation is an additional \$65,000 and unspent 2 mill reserves are about \$350,000

FY24 budget reserve increases are due to unspent funds in FY23. Could take some reserve to fund *Hauser*. Need to understand settlement parameters. Andy recommends \$1.5-\$2M from FY23 into GF Reserves.

### Settlement

Need more clarity on timing for funding the settlement and when it has to be paid.

### Public Safety

Committee discussion about what more could the City do on PS, if the County Commission is not ready to move forward on jail expansion.

### Parks/PD1

Could we eliminate PD1 and move everything to the GF? Committee discusses bond, PD1 future, future O&M.

### Total Mills/Property Tax Appraisals

Committee agrees with allocating \$1M for public safety facilities in partnership with the County.

Committee agrees with idea of eliminating PD1 and raise mills equally.

Discussion about logistics and timing of Council amendments & Staff amendments. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, people should have amendments ready.

Mike moves to recommend to Council eliminating PD1 and raising levy to equal \$3.8M, Ed seconds. **Motion passes on a unanimous voice vote.** (1:58:06)

Discussion about bond for parks. Committee not ready to make committee amendment. Need more information on settlement timing. (2:01.16)

Mike moves to recommend to Council forming an informal committee on public safety focused creating a temporary Misdemeanor holding facility that is run by Sheriff by funded by city through contract and to allocate \$500,000 from MH/SUD/MJ funds. Ed seconds. **Motion passes on a unanimous voice vote.** (2:03.21)

### **FY23 Budget Amendments (2:06:30)**

None now. Possible for two trail project amendments. May be able to resolve in existing budget.

### **Committee Discussion (2:08.02)**

Audit RFP was issued; three proposals submitted – one from current auditor, one from Eide Baily and one from a PA company. Committee recommendation is Eide Bailey. Budget resources are provided in FY24 budget.

### **Review of tasks for Budget Adoption (2:10:00)**

- CK to discuss with Wyeth planning/neighborhood plans, Growth Policy updates.
- CK to discuss internally the idea of a holding cell
- AZ to follow up on settlement timing
- AZ to work on June council meeting schedules
- SAC plans on opioid settlement application

Mike asks for an update on LBS. Andy indicates that they are working on providing one. City will not pay final amount until we get a report.

### **Discussion of Future Agenda Items & Meeting Schedule (2:12:50)**

Review of how budget discussion is going & review of any pending amendments. Revisit information on action items. Stormwater proposals will be on July 12 committee meeting.

### **Adjournment (2:15:43)**

***Next meeting: June 14, 2023 @ 9 a.m.***