

BILLINGS CITY COUNCIL
Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2023

CM Present: Mike, Ed, Jennifer

Staff Present: Andy, Karla, Brandon, Debi & PW team

Call to Order (0:00:00)

Approval of May and June Meeting Minutes

Ed moves to approve, 2nd by Mike. Approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

None

FY23 Budget Amendments (0:01:00)

Five amendments for July 24 Council Meeting

-\$1.39M in transfers into Construction of City Hall fund

-\$8.3M City Hall Construction contract

-\$107,000 in Sick and Vacation payout for Fleet services for 2 employee departures

-Insurance fund premiums – comes from fund balance & internal service charges

-EBIRD project incentives – excess of what was budgeted

May also be an amendment to address the final pay period that splits between fiscal years.

Ed moves to recommend the amendments to Council for approval (0:09:38), seconded by Mike. Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Cemetery Rates (0:10:00)

Brandon provides a presentation on fee increases. Also proposes additional revenue proposals. Will have a Veterans Day Race.

Would like to see an amendment to ordinance to allow monument companies/funeral directors to advertise at cemetery.

Committee discusses including the proposal for a Spreading Garden in the CIP.

Staff recommends 10% increase per year for 5 years.

Mike moves to recommend staff proposal on fees to Council, as well as fee options for second rite of internment, green burials, monument maintenance, and vault fee. (0:37:43), seconded by Ed. Motion adopted on unanimous voice vote.

Insurance (0:39:46)

Karla presents on insurance rates. Property insurance came in a little lower, liability might come in a bit lower as well.

Committee discusses whether City could do anything to control insurance costs better. City work comp is low, we use private insurance for property. Hail is driving costs – we need a few years without hail to see rates stabilize.

Discussion only; no action.

Stormwater Presentation (0:46:25)

Public Works team presents on work on stormwater system that began in 2021.

Significant Issues – unmanageable deferred maintenance, capital project backlog, regulatory non-compliance, emergency response and ratepayer claims. Program is mostly reactionary, crisis driven.

Current situation is not sustainable.

\$73.8M in deferred maintenance
\$99.3M in deferred capital

Committee discusses presentation and asks questions. More discussion needed. Debi will provide more detail/slides if CMs wish.

Committee Discussion

None

Discussion of Future Agenda Items & Meeting Schedule

Return to stormwater discussion in September.

Adjournment (1:31:57)

Next meeting: August 16, 2023 @ 9 a.m.