

**BILLINGS CITY COUNCIL**  
**Budget Committee Minutes**  
**October 11, 2023**

CM: Mike, Ed, Jennifer  
Staff: Andy, Chris

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

**Approval of August Meeting Minutes** (0:00:014)

Ed moves to approve minutes as presented, Mike seconds. Motion passes on a unanimous voice vote.

**Public Comment** (0:00:34)

None

**FY25-29 Capital Improvement Plan** (0:00:57)

CIP is in staff development. Final draft started yesterday.

Parks bond is assumed in budget, will need to be dispersed over fiscal years.

\$4M solid waste facility not included yet in CIP. Master planning for that parcel is underway. Probably need to include some kind of marker as a reminder.

25<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge costs increased dramatically – was a little more than a million, is now well over \$5M. Discussion of this project along with Expo Drive Bridge – do some early Expo drive planning.

Discussion about showing Park bond costs equally split over 5 years, due to uncertainty about specific project timing.

Discussion about artificial turf at Dehler which would allow for more multi-use (less risk of damage). Field repairs pushed out to allow for discussions and funding. Cost will likely exceed \$1M.

Timeline: work session Nov 6, draft copy Friday before. Back for adoption in December. Could continue on Nov. 20 work session if necessary. Council discussion for Nov 6 should leave bond projects aside and focus on other Parks.

### **Continuum of Care Budget Request (1:25:10)**

Committee discusses budget proposal. Request is not timely. Concerns about Rimrock's request for CRU funding. Even if funding was available, this proposal was not well prepared or vetted within the coalition.

Banfield will come report on CRU in early November.

Recommendation to Council: Insufficient funds this year, proposal not well developed. Need alignment between both SAC and CoC for funding. Proposal in its current form would not be recommended for next year either. We need to see proposals much earlier. At this time, we are fully committed for at least FY25.

### **Reserve and Investment Policy (1:40:05)**

Reserve Policy was established in 2010 – Resolution 10-18914. 2010 AO set the specific percentages for each fund.

Public Safety Reserve is set at 0% - used to be because so much came from GF. Even though less is coming from GF, relying on the GF reserve still makes sense (rather than transferring more from GF just to create a PS reserve).

Based upon historic cash flows for last 10 years, could potentially raise GF reserve requirement a bit (above 29%). Could also raise to account for emergencies. Andy recommends a slight increase – 29% is bare minimum for cash flow, not accounting for emergency. Rocks falling off the Rims is an ongoing issue.

Discussion of budget controls and a budget analyst. Focus more on budget execution (not just accounting).

Continue this discussion in November.

### **Committee Discussion (2:10:07)**

Cost of services is underway.

New City Hall – historic tax credits (\$4M - \$5M) are being finalized. We will borrow \$12M to \$15M to cash flow – paid back by sale of current building, NHTC, MJ revenues, etc.

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

November: CIP review after council discussion, reserve policy, Q2 financial report

**Adjournment** (2:13:04)

*Next meeting: November 15, 2023 @ 9 a.m.*