

BILLINGS CITY COUNCIL
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2024
Conference Room, First Floor, City Hall

CM: Ed, Tom, Bill, Scott (9:15AM), Jennifer (9:47AM)
Staff: Andy, Chris (9:40AM)

Call to Order (0:00:00) – 9:08AM

Approval of December Meeting Minutes (0:00:15)

Minutes reviewed and discussed

Motion / Second: Bill / Tom
Vote: All approved

Public Comment (0:00:45)

None

Topic #1 (0:00:55) – Review of FY24 2nd Quarter report

Discussion: Andy presented 2nd Quarter report. Andy has no concerns about significant amendments needed.

Motion / Second: N/A
Vote: N/A

Topic #2 (0:08:00) – Format for FY25 Budget Planning

Discussion: Andy requested feedback on which departments should present to the committee and what additional committee meetings may be required. Police, Fire, Parks, Public Works were suggested. Committee requested Planning, Facilities, IT/Admin (regarding chargebacks). Muni Court / Legal might be needed if FTE impacts from arraignment court.

Discussion on special meetings through budget season. Adjusted previous schedule to move May 29th to May 1st. Meetings will now be April 10, April 24, May 1, May 15.

Discussion of 5-year forward looking budget needs. Staff were asked to look at what a fully-funded department would look like and how would they phase it in over 5 years, ignoring existing restrictions. Question is how to present this to staff. Committee recommended including the “future budget outlook” as an addendum to the budget book with clear language stating that the outlook is for information only and not adopted or approved.

Motion / Second: N/A

Vote: N/A

Topic #3 (0:33:12) – City Hall update

Discussion: Application to Board of Investments for short term funding up to \$14.7M. Should be on next council meeting agenda. FIB submitted a proposal for tax credits and financing. Waiting on Historic Tax Credit Part 2 approval. If approved, will proceed with FIB and pay off Bol early.

Motion / Second : N/A

Vote: N/A

Topic #4 (0:42:35) – South Park Pool funding options

Discussion : Three different ways to do this project – (1) limited G.O. bonds (up to \$1.4M annual debt service...about \$16M), (2) voter approved G.O. bond, (3) new park district(s), (4) bond against Park District 1 (must have bonds issued before PD1 expiration), (5) mill levy, (6) lease back arrangements. A pro/con matrix of options would be useful. Would like aquatics study to understand what’s needed and what’s being proposed. To be discussed further during next meeting.

Motion / Second : N/A

Vote : N/A

Topic #5 (1:12:30) – Cost of Services Study presentation

Discussion : Deferred due to visit from AG Knudsen

Motion / Second :

Vote :

Committee Discussion (1:12:45)

Discussion with AG Austin Knudsen.

Motion / Second : Extend meeting for 15 minutes – Tom / Jennifer

Vote: All approved

Discussion on how best to roll out cost of services study. CoSS not ready to roll out to full Council. Staff still working through the model, reviewing assumptions/estimates, etc. Will put on agenda for April 10 meeting.

April 10 meeting: South Park Pool funding, CoSS, some department budget presentations, City Hall update, storm fees (?)

Adjourned at 11:15 AM (2:07:00)