

BILLINGS CITY COUNCIL
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2024
Conference Room, First Floor, City Hall

CM: Gulick, Owen, Aspenlieder (departed 10:48), Rupsis, Kennedy (arrived 9:04, departed 10:29)

Staff: Zoeller, Kukulski, Meling, Duray, Sarah Lane, Tyler Westrope

Public/Guest: Dan Brooks, Kristi Drake

Call to Order (9:00:00)

Approval of May 1 Meeting Minutes (0:00:00)

Discussion: Minutes reviewed and discussed

Motion / Second: Aspenlieder / Owen

Vote: All in favor (no Kennedy)

Public Comment (0:00:30)

Dan Brooks - Encouraged good collaboration amongst Councilmembers

Kristi Drake - Encouraged support for funding of the Stagecoach Trail

Topic #1 - Update on City Hall (0:01:35)

Discussion: No significant updates. Still waiting on clarification on NPS recommendations.

Topic #2 - Milestone dates on budget amendments (0:02:30)

Discussion: CM forms have been sent out. Anything completed by May 29 will be in Council packet for June 10. Budget amendments have to be introduced regardless of whether or not amendment forms are submitted.

Topic #3 - Budget Presentations (PW/Stormwater) (0:03:30)

Discussion:

Stormwater: Reviewed water, sewer and stormwater System Development Fee (SDF) structure. Stormwater SDF estimated to be \$1,000. Currently working on developing the recommended stormwater SDF amount. Reviewed change to rate structure...moving from zoning/SF to ERU (equivalent residential unit). For residential, will use 1 ERU for all residential. 60% of revenue will be from commercial properties. Question on impact of SDFs on affordable housing. Question on frequency of methodology review. Reviewed levels of service, annual costs, and associated rate profiles. Recommended rate starting at \$5 and ramping up to \$16.61/month over 10 years. Reviewed community engagement history and upcoming events. SDF will be implemented later in 2024 or at start of next fiscal year.

Public Works: Reviewed FY25 budget levels. Questions on entitlement share going to PW and upcoming grant opportunities. Question on opportunities to pull contracted work in-house. Question about cardboard recycling. Question about consistency of pickup on the new routes. Discussion on PW challenges. Some street light districts need to be recreated to allow for light replacement and not just maintenance...will be working on this over the next year. Continuing challenge over numeric standards in wastewater regulations. Have been fighting for 15+ years. Would be an \$80M cost to the city. Facing potential cost increases on West End reservoir...maybe \$10M. Concern over having to fix homeowner side of lead service mitigation. Alleys are not maintained by PAVER program. Will look at potential alternatives to sidewalk funding. Will update plan for non-maintainable / unpaved streets. Beginning overall transportation master plan.

Committee Discussion (1:53:20)

None

Future Agenda Items & Meeting Schedule (1:53:30)

Next meeting May 29. Budget committee recommendations, DBP project priorities.

Adjourned at 10:57 AM (1:56:30)