

CERTIFICATE AS TO RESOLUTION AND ADOPTING VOTE

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting recording officer of the City of Billings, Montana (the "City"), hereby certify that the attached resolution is a true copy of a Resolution entitled: "RESOLUTION CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF THE BILLINGS MONTANA DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT PLAN TO APPROVE CERTAIN PROJECTS AS URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS" (the "Resolution"), on file in the original records of the City in my legal custody; that the Resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City at a regular meeting on September 27, 1999, and that the meeting was duly held by the City Council and was attended throughout by a quorum, pursuant to call and notice of such meeting given as required by law; and that the Resolution has not as of the date hereof been amended or repealed.

I further certify that, upon vote being taken on the Resolution at said meeting, the following Council members voted in favor thereof: Unanimous; voted against the same: none; abstained from voting thereon: none; or were absent: none.

WITNESS my hand and seal officially this 27 day of Sept, 1999.

(SEAL)



Marita Nersold
City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 99-17513

**RESOLUTION CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A
PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF THE BILLINGS MONTANA
DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT PLAN TO APPROVE CERTAIN
PROJECTS AS URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS**

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council (the "Council") of the City of Billings, Montana (the "City"), as follows:

Section 1. A public hearing is hereby called and shall be held on October 25, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council chambers on the proposed modification of Billings Montana Downtown Redevelopment Plan. The City proposed to fund certain projects in the Downtown Redevelopment District (the "District"). The proposed modification is the approval of the following projects as Urban Renewal Projects.

1. Urban Design Recommendations. The Downtown Framework Plan identified and described the downtown core and the areas that surround it. Each area has distinct characteristics and the areas should develop and redevelop to emphasize the most desirable uses and design elements. Property and business owners in these areas need guidance about the appearance of signs, building facades, landscaping and other elements of their property. This project will develop specific design recommendations for each downtown area. Property and business owners will work with local design professionals to develop the recommendations. The Downtown Billings Partnership, Inc. will assemble the recommendations and use them to guide future owners or developers on the desired uses and appearance of properties in those areas. Funds are needed to hire group meeting facilitators and design professionals. The budget has been established at \$30,000 for this phase of work and other sources of funding will be pursued.
2. Montana Avenue Sign and Awning Incentive Program. Signs and awnings dramatically effect the appearance of historic buildings. Montana Avenue merchants petitioned for special sign regulations and helped develop guidelines that will preserve the area's historic appearance. This program would establish financial incentives to remove non-complying signs and awnings and help pay for new ones that follow the guidelines. Owners would be eligible for up to \$1,000 for removal and up to \$1,500 at 50% match to install new signs and awnings. \$30,000 would be allocated to for the one-year program. A committee will be established to award the incentives to owners that meet or surpass the guidelines.
3. Downtown Shuttle / Trolley. Parking and difficulty of travel for people living in and around Downtown Billings and/or engaging in other activities in Downtown continue to be two frequently identified complaints about the community's densely populated core. Because Billings has a relatively large downtown, pedestrians can be intimidated by the distances that they have to travel and residents and visitors without vehicles, or with a desire to leave their vehicles in one location are at a great disadvantage when they want to move around Downtown. As a result, cars are used for short trips, which further compounds the traffic congestion and exacerbates parking problems. Increase business activity and reduce congestion, if it's reliable and convenient. Present public transit operations are unable to address this need because the current system is already at its route capacity. A downtown shuttle/trolley could also be a visitor attraction as well as providing daily transportation for shoppers and workers. The system is envisioned as a public/private partnership and would operate for at least three years using a combination of tax increment funds, Montana air quality grants, federal dollars and other public and private support from both local and national sources. The tax increment funds would be used for to pay for capital expenditures and equipment and other allowed services under tax increment fund guidelines. The total tax increment cost would be \$150,000 over a period of three years. These funds would be used primarily as matching funds to obtain additional funding for this project and would be expended only if other sources of funding necessary to do this project are secured.

4. The Yellowstone County is looking to purchase additional property around the Youth Center for future expansion. The estimated cost of this project is \$200,000. The monies to be utilized would be future revenues from tax increment funds that become available.

5. The Yellowstone County has requested that remodeling project for the Courthouse be included as a project within the Urban Renewal Plan with the preliminary estimate of \$1.5 million. The future tax increment revenue that become available for allocations to the County would be used along with additional funds from the County for the project.

6. The Billings Public School District 2 has requested that Garfield School be added to the Urban Renewal Plan for improvements to upgrade ceilings and wall repairs, foundation and drainage repairs, improvement the accessibility of the disabled and improve and upgrade the building systems. Anticipated future tax increment revenues that become available and revenues from the School District will be utilized for this program.

Section 2. Notice of the public hearing shall be published in The Billings Times on October 14, 1999 and October 21, 1999 in substantially the form attached as Exhibit A hereto.

PASSED this 27th day of September, 1999.



Charles F. Tolley

Mayor

Attest:

Marita Herold

City Clerk