

BELGRADE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
July 21, 2014
7:00 PM

Mayor Russell C. Nelson called the meeting to order. Mayor and Council Members in attendance were: Russell C. Nelson, Brad Cooper, Kristine Menicucci, Mark Criner and John Youngberg. Others in attendance were: City Manager Ted Barkley, City Attorney Rick Ramler, Finance Director Phyllis Wernikowski, Kathleen Wood, Ed Roe and Wade Pehl.

Council Member Criner moved to excuse Council Members Koentopp and Smith. Council Member Menicucci seconded the motion.

All voted aye, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE July 7, 2014 MEETING

Council Member Menicucci moved to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2014, meeting. Council Member Cooper seconded the motion

All voted aye, motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Nelson called for public comment three times. There being none, public forum was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items for public hearing.

REPORTS

Mayor Nelson reported that he would be absent from the next Council Meeting scheduled for August 4, 2014.

City Attorney Ramler had nothing to report.

City Manager Barkley reported on the traffic congestion on Frontage Road. Barkley indicated he had spoken with MDT and had been advised of current and upcoming traffic restrictions. The crews were planning to work 7am to 5pm but delays would be expected between 6am and 6pm due to setup and tear down time. Barkley also indicated being advised of planned one-way traffic for some time, until MDT gets the south part of the Gallatin Field Road intersection done.

Barkley reported he had met with Dowel HKM and Williams Civil Construction late last week, noting their plans to restart the Ryen Glenn Subdivision. The preliminary plat had expired, but they were planning to come in with Phase 1 consisting of 107 lots yet this year. Total in the initial preliminary plat was 357 lots, which they didn't expect to change by much.

Barkley reported making a request of MDT to do a speed study from City limit to City limit on the Frontage Road/Main Street all the way. Barkley indicated that, particularly in the context of the new interchange, we should have urban speed restrictions out as far as Airway Blvd rather than higher highway speeds allowed right now.

Barkley reported that a Summary Report was received from North Western Energy showing the number of new accounts for Electric and Gas services within the various regions. He reviewed the statistics for the Council, pointing out the obviously higher growth pace in the general area in and around Belgrade and Bozeman.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

CONSIDER Resolution 2014-9 Intent to Adopt a Permissive Medical Levy and Set Date for Public Hearing

City Manager Barkley reviewed the proposed Resolution. He pointed out the City had been authorized for this since about the year 2000, however, the first time it was used was 2011, which made that the City's Base Year. Barkley indicated the task of keeping up with the increases in health insurance premium costs over the past several years had been daunting. The Permissive Mill Levy option would help defray these costs and avoid using funds intended for other purposes.

Council asked general questions about the allowed amount of increase from year to year.

Mayor Nelson called for public comment, there being none, public comment was closed.

ACTION: Council Member Youngberg moved to approve Resolution 2014-9 to consider additional mills to be levied for the Group Health Insurance premiums for FY14-15 and set public hearing for August 4, 2014. Council Member Criner seconded the motion.

All voted aye, motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER Resolution 2014-10 Intent to Increase Street Maintenance fees and Set Date for Public Hearing

City Manager Barkley reviewed the Resolution. He noted the start of the District in 1996 with various districts being combined in 2012. The current fee of \$35 per year, per parcel, was noted as being approximately half the amount assessed by other cities, and was not sufficient to maintain current needs. Maintenance projects should be happening every year, not every 3rd year. Barkley reviewed the proposed increase from \$35 per year up to \$71 per year per lot, which

would be phased in over the next 3 years. This would represent an overall increase of approximately \$1 per month per lot increase over the 3 years. These fees would fund maintenance only, not improvements.

Mayor called for public comment, there being none, public comment was closed.

ACTION: Council Member Criner moved to approve Resolution 2014-10 to consider increase in Street Maintenance Fees and set public hearing for August 4, 2014. Council Member Youngberg seconded the motion.

Council asked general questions about how the increase amount was calculated and if there were any specific projects being targeted. City Manager Barkley indicated the 3 year period worked well with spreading the increase out to ease impact on property owners. Barkley also spoke about the chip seal and overlay maintenance projects currently being deferred.

All voted aye, motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS Preliminary Budget Funds 2190 through 2550

City Manager Barkley discussed dates for possible discussion of the Budget relating to the General Fund at a time when all Council Members could be present. He suggested setting a special meeting if needed. Council Members agreed that August 18th was generally accepted for the date of this part of the General Fund Budget review.

Barkley provided general explanations of the columns in the Preliminary Budget binder provided to each Council Member for Funds 2190 through 2550.

2190 Comprehensive Liability Insurance: Required amount was lower for the new FY due to positive experience levels

2210 Parks Cash in Lieu: Barkley explained some plans for recommended use of qualified funding for acquisition and maintenance of parks.

2225 Library: Barkley commented on some confusion in the community about how the Library is funded. He indicated that the City contributes 8.07 mills, the permanent levy is another 8 mills and this is in addition to the contribution made by the County. Donation forecasts were also noted as a significant part of the Library's proposed budget for the new fiscal year.

2250 Planning: Fund was showing a significant amount of income from real property taxes, it could be suggested to allocate more of these funds to the general fund. He also pointed out the expenses planned for professional services to support inspection services. As the pace of development increases, this will support the required services.

2320 Volunteer Fire Dept: Mirrors the agreement the City had signed with the Central Valley Fire. The Council asked general questions about operating costs with the Fire District.

2370 Public Employee Retirement System (PERS): Part of the budget process, but the funds come in and go right out again as they relate to payroll

2371 Group Health Insurance: Fund is fairly healthy with good projections but not available for use in any other way

2372 Permissive Mill Levy fund: Noted public hearing has now been set for this year's use
2373 VFD Relief Association: The fund was noted as being in better shape than in past years, but improvement was still needed. Barkley indicated that the services of an Actuary would be needed to determine the City's future funding needs. A request for an additional mill levy with built in escalators could be presented to the public in the future to maintain the level of services needed as it relates to Fire and Public Safety.

2390 Drug Forfeiture Fund: Barkley indicated the unknown aspects and difficulty in projecting amounts. The planned auction of a seized Corvette was commented on and Barkley explained the online auction service being used by Belgrade and other police departments in the region. All auctions would be publicized.

2392 and 2397 CDBG-Revolving Loan Fund: Tied to businesses actually participating in current loans. Barkley noted his goal to implement a better way of marketing this loan program through local financial institutions.

2394 Bldg Code Enforcement Fund: Pace is expected to increase in both expenses and income

2399 Impact fees: Barkley indicated that the Impact Fee Analysis Study needed to be completed. He noted that the study for services was being reviewed and researched in order to save money on the study process. The Committee was still lacking a member who was an Accountant. If an Accountant member could not be appointed, perhaps Phyllis Wernikowski would be asked to work on this project with the Committee. Barkley indicated this Study was supposed to happen every 5 years, but it had been 9 years for Belgrade.

2401 thru 2434 Lighting Districts: Council talked about consolidating these districts, also what was required for the amount being kept in the reserve funds. There was general discussion of the area around Airway Blvd as being a new area requiring City Lighting. Barkley indicated that the details of who is responsible for what is still in need of clarification. The property around Knife River could also become a Lighting District. Possible funding for new Light Districts was also discussed.

2550 City Wide Street Maintenance District: Barkley indicated this fund was usually accumulated for 2-3 years and then spent on larger projects. Three main items were planned for the new Fiscal year 1) Chip sealing project, 2) Cameron Street project near the Senior Center and 3) half the cost of a Bobcat Skid Loader which would help increase overall efficiency for Public Works projects and snow removal due to the versatility. As part of the Public Hearing scheduled for the August 4th meeting, a presentation would include the uses of money that would best support Belgrade's street system.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Youngberg moved to close the session at 8:17 p.m. in order to discuss litigation strategy. Session was re-opened at 9:15 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items for the Consent Agenda

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Council Member Youngberg indicated he had noticed that someone had placed a portable garage onto a property on Jefferson Street in the front yard, right against the sidewalk, too close to the property line, across from Minnesota and Iowa Streets.

Council Member Criner reported his attendance of the recent Fire Board Meeting and Bozeman's plan to possibly annex the golf course at Riverside, which would reduce the VFD's budget and possibly affect their plans for remodeling the Fire Station on the hill near the golf course.

Council Member Menicucci indicated the Library Board had starting their strategic plan, beginning in August with a Chamber Breakfast event and their Community survey planned for mid-September which should provide good feedback.

Council Member Cooper had nothing to report.

Mayor Nelson reminded the Council he will not be in attendance on August 4th meeting, and Council Member Koentopp would be asked to step in as Deputy Mayor.

ADJOURN

Council Member Criner moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 pm.



Anne E. Koentopp, Deputy Mayor



Susan Caldwell,
Administrative Secretary