

****ATTENTION****

The City Council meeting will be held in a hybrid format that includes both in-person AND Zoom. Councilmembers may choose to attend the meeting virtually or in person at the **Billings Public Library Community Room**. In order to honor the Right of Participation and the Right to Know in Article II, sections 8 and 9, of the Montana Constitution, the City of Billings and City Council are making every effort to meet the requirements of the open meeting laws.

Citizens are invited to:

- Review the Agenda Packet on the City's website at: www.billingsmt.gov and click on "Your Government," "City Council," and "Agendas & Minutes".
- View the meeting:
 - On Community 7 TV - Channel 7 or Channel 507 -- Spectrum Cable. *(On evenings when there is a conflict with School District No. 2 Board meetings, the City Council meeting will be broadcast on Channel 8 - Spectrum Cable.)*
 - Online at www.comm7tv.com and click on the "Watch Live" icon. Community 7 also has links to their Facebook page and YouTube channel.
 - On the City's website at www.billingsmt.gov and click on "Watch Meetings Online" on the homepage.
 - In-Person -- capacity is limited to approximately 15 spectators with overflow available in the lobby. Mask and social distancing requirements will be enforced.

Citizens may submit public comment via the following methods:

- Mail: City Clerk, P.O. Box 1178, Billings, MT 59103
- Email: Council@billingsmt.gov.
 - Emails received after 3:00 PM on the day of the meeting, may be posted on the Council's webpage the following day for public viewing.
- Attend the meeting in person - capacity is limited to approximately 15 spectators with overflow available in the lobby. Mask and social distancing requirements will be enforced. Speakers may be asked to exit after speaking to comply with social distancing protocols.
- Attend the meeting virtually by registering at Zoom.us and "join a meeting", enter the Webinar ID and Passcode indicated below. Click on *Zoom Meeting Instructions* and *Zoom Hybrid Meeting Details* below for more information. Attendees are asked to register by Noon the day of the meeting. After registering, a link into the meeting will be sent to the attendee. The link will allow you to attend, view and participate in the meeting on your computer, laptop or smart phone. (You must have the Zoom App on your device [Click Here to Download Zoom App](#)) To provide public comment at the appropriate time, click on the "raise hand" icon located at the bottom of the screen and the moderator will unmute your device.
 - **Don't have a smart phone, computer or laptop?** That's okay -- you can attend a Zoom meeting using your **landline phone**. Call the Zoom phone number, **1.253.215.8782** to join the meeting and follow the operator's instructions. Want to give public comment? Simply "*raise your hand*" by pressing *9 and the moderator will give you permission to speak when it is your turn. **Note this is a long distance toll number and charges may apply depending on your plan.*
- Click Here for [City Council Zoom Hybrid Meeting Details and Schedule](#)
- Click Here for [Zoom Meeting Instructions for Attendees \(as guests\)](#)

Webinar ID: 828 5477 4558

Webinar Passcode: 431753

Or join by phone: US: +1-253-215-8782

The practice of receiving phone calls to a specific Public Comment telephone line has been discontinued.

Future delivery methods may be explored as best practice is learned.

Please contact Denise Bohlman, City Clerk, at bohlmant@billingsmt.gov, or at 406.657.8205, with any questions.



VISION STATEMENT:
"The Magic City: A diverse,
welcoming community
where people prosper and
business succeeds."

WORK SESSION AGENDA

June 21, 2021

5:30 P.M.

Billings Public Library and remotely via Zoom. Please see coversheet for details and instructions for viewing and participation.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Cole

- 1. Stormwater Utility And Service Levels.**
(Presented by: *Debi Meling, Public Works Director*)
- Public Comment
- 2. Coronavirus Response Initiative Project - VISTA Report.**
(Presented by: *Tam Rodier, CD Program Coordinator and AmeriCorps VISTA members*)
- Public Comment

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

PUBLIC COMMENT on "NON-AGENDA ITEMS". Speaker Identification required. (Restricted to ONLY items not on this printed agenda. Comments are limited to 3 minutes or as set by the Mayor. Public comments during the meeting may be made in-person or remotely by registering as an attendee through Zoom.us as outlined in the Agenda coversheet.)

ADJOURN:

Note:

- This meeting is an "informal" meeting of the City Council. The content of the Agenda is subject to change at the meeting.
- In the event there is a Closed Executive Session at the end of a Work Session, the sole purpose is to discuss litigation strategy. The other parties to the case(s) discussed are not public bodies or associations as described in Section 2-3-203(1) and (2), MCA. The meeting is closed, as allowed by Section 2-3-203(4)(a), MCA, "to discuss a strategy to be followed with respect to litigation when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the litigating position" of the City of Billings.

City Council Work Session

Date: 06/21/2021
Title: Stormwater Utility
Presented by: Debi Meling
Department: Public Works
Presentation: Yes

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that City Council gives direction on the desired level of public involvement in further development of the stormwater utility and feedback on the Phase 1 results.

BACKGROUND (Consistency with Adopted Plans and Policies, if applicable)

In May 2020, Council authorized Staff to begin Phase I of the preliminary evaluation to form a dedicated stormwater utility. It was the intent of that initial evaluation to gather preliminary information on the existing storm system regarding operations, deferred maintenance, capital projects, and how the current revenue collected compares to current and desired level of services.

The City of Billings currently assesses a fee for stormwater for all city properties. The fee is based on zoning and square footage of the property. By creating a stormwater utility, the following benefits can be realized: formalized rules and regulations, a rate structure that is more equitable than the existing fee system including system development fees, proactive management of the infrastructure, and concentrated city resources to support a critical function.

Within the Phase I evaluation, it was found that the City owns approximately 300 miles of storm drain pipe, 9,300 inlets, 89 miles of open drains, and 26 acres of detention ponds. Furthermore, during the evaluation it was found that about 65% of existing stormwater system has little to no known information on material type, size, or age, and due to availability of maintenance personnel, much of the system does not receive annual maintenance. Phase I also explored the current City stormwater fee structure. The City fee structure was compared with other communities and against desired service levels.

Phase I identified six major categories that encompass a stormwater program:

- Deferred Maintenance
- Operations and Maintenance
- Capital Improvements
- Flood Protection and Risk Assessment
- Regulatory Water Quality Compliance
- Program Management and Administration

Phase I developed preliminary costs for each of these major categories. Four levels of service were explored in Phase I that directly relate to these preliminary costs and the anticipated timeframe to complete those activities; e.g. status quo, bronze, silver, and gold level of services. A higher level of service reduces the amount of time to complete deferred maintenance and construct capital projects.

Phase II will validate the information collected in Phase I and provide additional data not originally planned in Phase I. Within Phase I, it was found that major components of the storm system (boulder pits, open drains, outfalls) have no information collected and receive no ongoing maintenance. Phase II will further identify remaining system components and assign ongoing and deferred maintenance costs. In addition, Phase II will explore in much greater detail the regulatory water quality requirements and methods and costs to achieve compliance. Based upon Council's direction and input, Phase II will identify a cost upon which a rate or fee structure can be developed based upon the desired level of service. One of those rate structures may utilize the amount of impervious surfaces on a property. If a new rate structure is selected by Council, Phase III will implement the new rate and processes identified in Phase II.

ALTERNATIVES

The presentation is primarily informational to update Council on the Phase 1 storm utility findings. The levels of services, costs, and rate alternatives will be analyzed further and fleshed out in Phase 2 and brought back to Council for direction. However, if Council currently has strong opinions regarding these issues, it would be helpful to obtain that feedback prior to the Phase II analysis. Staff is seeking specific direction from Council regarding the level of public involvement desired by Council in the development of the storm utility as we proceed into Phase II.

FISCAL EFFECTS

There are no direct fiscal impacts to directions given at this meeting. After Phase II, there will be opportunity for the

City Council to determine the final rate or fee structure.

City Council Work Session

Date: 06/21/2021
Title: Coronavirus Response Initiative Project - VISTA Report
Presented by: Tam Rodier
Department: Planning & Community Services
Presentation: Yes

RECOMMENDATION

Staff does not have a recommendation for this item as it is information only.

BACKGROUND (Consistency with Adopted Plans and Policies, if applicable)

The Community Development Division spearheaded coronavirus response initiatives to assess community need and coordinate / mobilize community resources. This effort included recruiting two AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) members through the Billings Metro VISTA Project. The overall goal of the **Coronavirus Response Initiative VISTA Project** is to reduce the number of community members testing positive for COVID-19 by providing access to healthcare, education, prevention, and intervention strategies in relation to COVID-19 in Yellowstone County. The project required a community assessment, the creation of reports and materials, strategic planning, and outreach activities.

In the fall of 2020, two surveys designed to gather feedback from community members and social service agencies were conducted regarding how they have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coronavirus Community Member Survey resulted in 3,512 responses and the Service Provider Survey resulted in 26 responses. AmeriCorps members Amber Nichols and Blake Matthews reviewed and analyzed survey responses, drafted the **Coronavirus Response Initiative Report**, took it through a 30-day public comment period, then published the final report (billingsmt.gov/coronavirusreport).

Blake Matthews and Amber Nichols will present the report's key elements, share identified service gaps, explain options for the use of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding (CDBG-CV), touch on the CDBG-CV application process that is bringing recommendations to Council on June 26, and update the City Council on their individual efforts to fill service gaps to date.

ALTERNATIVES

Information only.

FISCAL EFFECTS

AmeriCorps VISTA financial support is provided through the Billings Metro VISTA Project.
