

**BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
140 WEST PINE STREET  
MISSOULA MONTANA  
March 14, 2012, 1:35 pm**

**Members present:** Marilyn Marler President; Caitlin Copple, Adam Hertz; Alex Taft; Mike O'Herron, Jason Wiener; Dick Haines; Cynthia Wolken; Dave Strohmaier; Bob Jaffe.

**Members absent:** Jon Wilkins.

**Others present:** Mayor Engen, Brentt Ramharter, Dee Andersen.

**I. Administrative Business**

**A. Approve committee minutes dated: Minutes will be submitted at a later date.**

**B. Public Comment on items not listed on the agenda**

**C. Remove items #1 and 2 from Held items list. REMOVE FROM AGENDA**

**II. Regular Agenda**

**A. Quarterly Budget Report discussion. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Adam Hertz) (Referred to committee: 03/05/12) REMOVE FROM AGENDA**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY- NO MOTION**

Mayor John Engen said the [FY12-2nd quarter summary](#) is posted online for all to review. He was present to answer questions and suggested a quarterly Budget Committee of the Whole meeting be scheduled for regular discussion.

In summary, he said expenses are in line, and everything is tracking as budgeted.

We are working with consultants on how we can continue to manage the health plan, which continues to become more expensive each year.

OPG revenue is down considerable from last year, despite the increase in fees for FY12.

Caitlin Copple asked if that was related to the economy.

Mayor Engen said it was largely due to the economy.

Mike O'Herron asked if we save money by being self insured.

Mayor Engen said we believe we do save money and we control our destiny and we are not subject to the whims of a carrier. It's relatively inexpensive for our employees to cover their families.

Adam Hertz thanked the Mayor and supported a quarterly meeting. He wanted to know if Property Tax Protests have affected revenues.

Brentt Ramharter said it hasn't taken a big dive, our property tax receipts are pretty much as we levy them.

Alex Taft requested the parking commission revenues be split so he can see meter, lease and lot separately.

Bob Jaffe said he will forward Mr. Taft reports from Anne Guest that will help him see those revenues.

The committee discussed permit revenue and Mr. Ramharter said there has been a shift in the types of permits issued. Remodels are big right now and OPG is not as involved in that process.

Mr. Jaffe mentioned that credit card fees really add up and may be something to look at.

Mr. Hertz asked if there is a way to keep the health plan expenditures down

Mr. Engen said one way is our wellness program and health screenings.

Mr. Ramharter stated that we are \$1.1 million ahead of last year. At this point the plan is stabilized.

Mr. Taft asked about the gap between -the revenue of \$96 million and expenditures of \$120 million

Mr. Ramharter said we appropriate all resources to be spent so that large gap is our fund balance.

The Mayor showed the committee where the monthly [financial reports](#) on located on the City website.

### III. **Held in committee**

1. Mayor's presentation of the FY 2012 Budget. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Brentt Ramharter) (Referred to committee: 03/21/2011)**REMOVE FROM AGENDA**
2. Approve a resolution on the preliminary budget for FY 2012 inclusive of the FY 2012 capital improvement program. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Brentt Ramharter) (Referred to committee: 04/25/2011)**REMOVE FROM AGENDA**

### IV. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Dee Andersen*  
Administrative Secretary