

**BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
140 WEST PINE STREET
MISSOULA MONTANA
May 2, 2012, 2:05-4:00 pm**

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

Members absent: Caitlin Cople, Jon Wilkins.

Others present: Mayor Engen, Rod Austin, Ellen Buchanan, Brentt Ramharter, Bruce Bender, Scott Paasch, Dee Andersen.

I. Administrative Business

A. Approve committee minutes dated: Will be submitted at a later date.

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

II. Regular Agenda

**A. Approve the preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2013 inclusive of the Fiscal Year 2013 capital improvement program, the TBID and BID budgets and work plans, Park District #1 and Road District #1. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Brentt Ramharter) (Referred to committee: 04/16/12)
HOLD FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**

Mayor John Engen said the idea of enhancing the Neighborhood Liaison position came forward a year ago through the Neighborhood Advisory Panel report. The report also recommended changing the position from an administrative to a professional position that will be recruited for. The position title would change to Neighborhood Advocate and needs to be located near the Mayor's Office and Staff. In the near future he will bring forward a job description, organization chart and work plan. Presently he would like to proceed with creating the physical space within the Mayors office to make room for the position.

The committee discussed the impact of this project on the current year budget and how the position would be re-vamped.

Mr. Hertz asked what the down side is to keeping it in the City Clerks Office and reworking the position.

Mr. Engen said it would be too disconnected. He thinks it should be in proximity to Communications Director, Ginny Merriam.

Marilyn Marler asked if the cost was \$50,000.

Mr. Engen said he thought that would cover the whole project. He hasn't heard from the Attorney's Office for a request.

FY13 Budget Discussion:

Brentt Ramharter, Finance Director, offered a different way of thinking about the General Fund programs in relation to other programs in the budget and provided a number of levels of detail for the committee to review and discuss. He showed a pie chart of where all the money comes from and where the money goes to.

Alex Taft wanted to know where the urban transit funds were represented.

Bruce Bender explained the Urban Transportation District is separate like the school district; the City of Missoula doesn't pay into that.

The committee and the Administration discussed the sewer user fees, transfers from other funds and the gas tax, and reviewed the Street Department Chart.

Bob Jaffe suggested going through tab by tab and getting an overview.

Mr. Taft suggested transferring funds from other sources to fund Urban Forestry, he said the budget seemed rigid and expressed concerns about his constituent's who feel we should spend more to provide more services.

Mr. Bender explained that you have to be careful as many funds are specific as to what they can be used for like MPC, MRA, Impact fees. Even the road and park district funds are only used for new services and enhancements. What can be done is a tree maintenance district.

The committee discussed the 5 FTE's for the police department that were originally funded by a grant and now will be funded out of the General Fund.

Mr. Taft commented on how we are down 17 FTE's total and that equals a loss of services.

Mr. Bender stated that some reductions are due to decline in development.

Mr. Wiener suggested using the *Statement of Activities* report located in the City Comprehensive Annual Report [CAFR](#). This shows the complete scope of what is going on.

Mr. Taft requested more information on the HIDTA program.

Mr. Jaffe wanted to know how we itemize out the civil forfeitures compared to the criminal forfeitures

Mr. Ramharter said we can ask the Police Department to talk about this.

Mr. Taft wanted to know which revenues are not supported by the tax levy and what other things can we gain revenue from to maintain the quality of life here that would not affect the local tax.

Mr. Ramharter said typically when we expanded revenue we look at grants. Without taxing our residents it's difficult, because its revenue for services provided.

Mr. O'Herron discussed public and private partnership for trees and stated it has been done in other communities successfully.

Ms. Marler asked if a pie chart could be created to show where the money goes by department.

Mr. O'Herron wants a basic summary of what the tax payers get for the increase

Ms. Marler suggested Mr. O'Herron review the [Mayor's Introduction to the Budget](#).

Rod Austin gave a brief report on the BID's ratepayer's breakfast. It went well; they had good feedback and less negative comments. The clean team is well received. He discussed expanding the BID's boundaries down Orange Street to Food Farm; there is one more property that has to sign.

Mr. Jaffe commented on emergency snow removal in the downtown area.

Mr. Austin said they were looking at ways to improve it.

III. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Andersen
Administrative Secretary

