

Joint Task Forces Subcommittee | Meeting 2 Minutes

The Bismarck Special Assessment Task Force and the Infrastructure Task Force Subcommittee met at 4PM on March 22, 2018 in the Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health Building at 500 East Front Avenue. Present were: Commissioner Steve Marquardt, Commissioner Shawn Oban, Commissioner Nancy Guy, Brent Erickson (North Bismarck Resident), Joe Ibach (Special Assessment Commission), Dustin Gawrylow (Manufactured Home Park Resident), Molly Herington (Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce), Sheila Hillman (City of Bismarck Finance Director), Mary Shelkey-Miller (Bismarck-Mandan Board of Realtors), Keith Hunke (City of Bismarck Administrator), Brian Ritter (Bismarck-Mandan Development Association/Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce), Mike Schmitz (BMDA), Gabe Schell (City Engineer) and Jason Tomanek (City of Bismarck Assistant City Administrator).

Discussion was held regarding Senate Bill 2326, the law that limits a city's ability to collect taxes to property tax and sales tax only. Mr. Hunke shared with the group that he had met with Senator Laffen from Grand Forks and was told that the Bill was in response to concerns with communities struggling to remain competitive with fuel prices and the potential to create a "gas war" in communities where a similar tax does not exist. Mr. Hunke stated that Senator Laffen encouraged cities to develop language to support the tools needed to fund and sustain street maintenance and infrastructure. Mr. Ritter added that in his conversations with Senator Cook from Mandan, he too echoed Senator Laffen's comments and also encouraged communities to develop a coalition of communities and approach the Greater North Dakota Chamber to help build support and consensus. Mr. Hunke noted that City staff will work with the City Attorney to help develop supportive language necessary to enable changes with State law. Mr. Hunke also stated that City staff will work with the North Dakota League of Cities to ensure a collective voice is carried forward. The general consensus of those present was to support the creation of a statewide coalition, to engage the North Dakota League of Cities for support and to identify State leaders willing to carry the draft bill language forward during the 2019 session.

Gabe Schell provided an update on the City's 5-year capital improvement plan (CIP) with regard to asphalt and concrete maintenance work. The initial list of 14 arterial roadways considered for expansion projects was truncated to consider those projects that could be completed in a five-year timespan. The shortened list of projects includes Ash Coulee from Cornice Drive to Washington Street, South Washington Street from the drainage ditch to Burleigh Avenue and 43rd Avenue from Montreal to State Street. The estimated project costs are \$34,400,000 for those three projects with the assumption that there will be little to no funding from the NDDOT or the Federal Highway Administration.

The members of the two task forces agreed that there should be a city-wide vote to cap the existing 25-mill property tax buy-down at the 2018 rate.

MOTION: Joe Ibach made a motion, with Brent Erickson providing the second, a recommendation to the Board of City Commissioners to cap the 25-mill property tax buy-down at the 2018 rate and to ask voters for an additional ½-cent sales tax to be used for roadway maintenance and infrastructure with the understanding that the additional ½-cent sales tax would have a 10-year sunset. The motion passed unanimously with support from Mike Schmitz, Brent Erickson, Brian Ritter, Joe Ibach, Molly Herington, Dustin Gawrylow, Mary Shelkey-Miller, Commissioner Marquardt, Commissioner Guy and Commissioner Oban voting in favor of the motion. Keith Hunke and Sheila Hillman abstained from the vote.

Keith Hunke indicated that he would work with City Attorney Charlie Whitman to develop draft ballot language that would be distributed to the Joint Task Forces Subcommittee for review. The general

understanding of the members present is that the proposed ballot measures would be placed on the November 2018 general election ballot.

Gabe Schell provided an update on the proposed 2018 street improvement districts and noted that the protest period for the districts will end on March 23, 2018 with a final report provided to the Board of City Commissioners at the March 27, 2018 meeting.

Next Meeting. Commissioner Guy suggested a policy change to the existing special assessments policy pertaining to new construction. The change would eliminate special assessments for new residential construction projects which would allow developers to include the infrastructure costs into the price of the lot/home and allow for the owners to include those costs in the home's mortgage instead of a special assessment. Keith Hunke stated that the utility rate study will also consider this funding policy. This topic will be placed on the next agenda of the Joint Task Forces Subcommittee.

The agenda having been completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:15PM.
Reported by Jason Tomanek.