

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING - SPECIAL  
JUNE 13, 2005  
TIME: 6:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Frank Manus, Helen Gardner, Glenn Tebbe, Ken Dornich, Larry Bower and Gary Herbert.

RE: Billings School for New City Hall.

Mayor stated the Council has never really been able to sit down and discuss their feelings and thoughts. After Council has a chance to discuss, then anyone attending can speak. The option that Steve Barth came up with to demolish the building, as far as the Mayor is concerned, is NOT an option and believes that a figure to renovate would be around \$1,500,000. The City Utilities, Clerk-Treasurer and BAZ/Plan Director have records in several different locations, are out of space and the present City Hall is not ADA accessible. The original company that put in the elevator lift in the current City Hall is now in Canada and the Mayor has not been able to get any answers or returned phone calls.

Council members gave their opinions.

Ken Dornich took a walk through on Saturday and tearing the building down is not an option. There are six new rooms on the East end. Just thinking out loud, could divide the building off and use the newer section, fix for the time being and bring the building up to code. Tiles can be glued back down and the gym could be used for the meeting room and also as an evacuation center.

Larry Bower has been in support of using this building. We should decide what we can afford and then appoint a committee to work with departments and the contractor to see what can be afforded.

Helen Gardner feels to see what can be afforded and go back to the departments and see what they really need.

Gary Herbert believes the building is a sound structure. Disagrees with the cost to renovate and does not feel the entrance needs to be changed. Would like to see how much room the departments really need. Need something functional, what can be afforded and

need to get in the building. The people in the basement at City Hall definitely need more room. Some furniture may need to be bought. Gary stated that he has talked with people and they have said that they will pay something extra on taxes.

Glenn Tebbe stated he came here tonight to be able to discuss this with other Council members and considered this format as not conducive to discussion and deliberation among the Council members. The City needs to really looking at a long-term usage of this building for City Hall. Having a wish list is not foolish, it gives some perspectives. We knew it would be plenty of space and could serve for a long time and maybe be used for multi-purposes. Glenn has several questions and thinks there needs to be a process and figure out how/what we can use the space for. Does not feel we have to make quick decisions.

Mayor Manus does not see the building as all that bad and was over at the new learning center Saturday and they spent quite a bit of money on renovating that room and it looks like a learning center.

Mayor feels that the City needs to get going on this building and we need to have some guidance.

Barbara Manus told the Senior Center had eight people on their committee and worked with Mr. Barth and did not go over what they had budgeted.

Bud Ryle remarked that the Council has made a smart investment in buying the Billings School Building and there is plenty of room for City expansion. The big issues are the utilities, heat, air-condition and windows.

David York stated that the building would need to be brought up to code and check out the 107 or so windows. You could move into tomorrow and call it City Hall. Dave did not want to see the building torn down and wanted the Council to assure everyone that it would not be torn down.

Mayor asks for a motion that the City would not tear the building down. Helen Gardner moved that the city would not demolish the building and Ken Dornich originally seconded the motion. Ken Dornich stated that he felt this is a silly motion when they have stated that they would not tear the building down and withdrew his second of the motion. Gary

Herbert then seconded the motion. Ken Dornich, Larry Bower and Glenn Tebbe all voted nay to the motion. Helen Gardner and Gary Herbert vote aye. Motion not carried.

Ken Dornich made an apology to Mr. Barth on comments that were said at the last Council meeting.

Mrs. Herbert questioned if the building really needed to be renovated to a big degree.

Ken Dorich said that there is seven years left on the roof warranty.

Larry Robbins told Council that with that being a flat roof, you will never get the water away.

City Attorney Steve Taylor that if they are wanting information, that could be done at no cost or very little cost and a couple council members could gather the information and bring it back.

Mayor Manus ask for Donna Lecher Water Office Manager, Kathy Reynolds BZA/Plan Director and the Clerk-Treasurer June Ryle what is really needed.

Steve Barth told the tunnels were used to bring in the air and that all the plans he produced were OPTIONS ONLY.

Mayor Manus stated that he could appoint a committee. City Attorney Steve Taylor commented that the committee should look at the whole and then project it down into phases. The Council would rather see what the quotes are and what revenue sources would be.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER \_\_\_\_\_

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ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk-Treasurer