

Billings City Administration Weekly Report

January 18, 2019

Good afternoon, happy Friday and Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend observance.

- 1) **Legislative Session** – We are starting to weigh in on bills that could affect Billings. Yesterday Mayor Cole, CC Ronning & Cromley, Iffland and I participated in our first Chamber Legislative Videoconference. I voiced my concerns regarding SB 103 sponsored by Senator Webb. The Bill requires all municipal utilities who serve more than 50,000 customers to be regulated by the Public Service Commission (PSC). I'll reach out to Senator Webb this weekend to see what is motivating his bill. I have deep concerns about this bill stripping authority from local elected officials. I'm also concerned that since only three cities serve more than 50,000 citizens that others may not appreciate just how problematic this could be. The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon at 3:00. Because of scheduling conflicts, David Mumford and I plan to give our lobbyist talking points to represent us during the hearing rather than traveling to Helena.

We are looking for feedback from the council and directors on which bills we should support, oppose, or watch (Wynnette sent the list yesterday).

Please email Wynnette and I a list of any state legislators you have a particularly close professional relationships. The purpose of this list is to tap into these relationships when needed throughout the legislative session. To this point – do any of you have a close relationship with Senator Webb?

- 2) **One Big Sky** – Late this morning we received the updated Economic & Fiscal Impact Analysis and Financial Plan sections of the updated OBS Plan. Andy, Kevin and I are wading through it this afternoon. We have decided to move the OBS Plan consideration from the January 28th to the February 11 city council agenda. This will allow the staff and council to have a reasonable amount of time to review the document and get questions answered leading up to the public decision.

OBS Calendar

January 22 – 25 - Deliver OBS Plan and Legislative Packet to City Council

January 25 – OBS overview meetings with Council members and strategy partners

January 28 – Breakfast w/Bob Dunn, strategy partners and city council (Location TBD)

January 29 – Legislative evening reception hosted by BSED/Chamber/City in Helena

February 11 – City Council OBS Plan review/adoption

- 3) **Frontier Airlines Announcement – Confidential** - Tuesday morning, an announcement will be made regarding new Airline service starting in Billings on May 30. Frontier Airlines, a true low cost carrier, is coming back to Billings with Denver service on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. They are calling it seasonal service for the summer, similar to what they did in Missoula and Bozeman although I think they are operating year round in Bozeman now.

Kevin will forward the media notice to the City Council and the Aviation and Transit Commission so they can show up for the big announcement if they like. Looks like we are starting off 2019 on the right foot. Remember, mums the word until Tuesday. Thanks.

- 4) **Council Compensation** – Staff was asked to identify when the council members compensation was last adjusted. Our accounting records indicate that in January of 1998 Council and Mayor Compensation was adjusted from 300 to 600 for councilmembers, and from 400 to 800 for the mayor.
- 5) **Spa/message business license ordinance** – After sharing our final draft business license ordinance with our legitimate spa/message business owners, we have decided to hold a face to face meeting with them prior to the city council work session. Therefore, we have moved this to the February 19 work session.
- 6) **Task Forces** – I had the opportunity to attend the Pioneer Park, Rimrock, and Central/Terry Task Force meetings. Hot topics during these meetings were: crime, development projects, traffic, alley garbage pick-up, Zimmerman Trail/Molt Road connection to Highway 3.