

Billings City Administration Weekly Report

March 15, 2019

I apologize for last week's delay in receiving the Friday Newsletter. I disconnected my computer from the docking station too quickly after hitting send and it sat in que waiting to be reconnected.

- 1) **406 Impact Districts (LC1182)** – The hearing is scheduled for Thursday March 21 @ 9:00 am. The Mayor has completed the letter for your signatures however, after talking to our lobbyist; we determined that your letter of support can be delivered on Tuesday having the same effect as being presented this weekend. We are also waiting on the bill # - we expect to have either this weekend or Monday. Part of the delay in assigning a bill # is that our lobbyist team are working the hallways for additional bill co-sponsors. The more co-sponsors the better. We will bring the letter to Monday's council meeting for each of your signatures. If you will not be attending Monday's work session, please let us know so we can get your signature Monday.
- 2) **MOU's with TIF** – Yesterday we met with representatives from the BIRD. They made several changes to the MOU that could not be digested before the council packet needed to be completed yesterday. We plan to bring the three TIF MOU's, to the council, together in April.
- 3) **Legislative Session** – SB 315 and HB 2 both have direct implications for Billings relative to public defender costs being shifted from the State to Billings and Yellowstone County. A fair amount of time has been spent by the city attorney's office and administration correcting miss-information. Billings is being accused of "locking up" open container violators dramatically driving up the cost of the public defender's office. Thankfully, two former public defenders are now prosecutors for the City and they are helping us refute this misinformation. It is unfortunate just how much time is being spent correcting misinformation.
- 4) **Heights Water District** – Wednesday night Council Members Ewalt, Neese and I attending the Heights Water District meeting. We have not received a response from our January 14 letter asking the district to pay the city to resolve our billing dispute. We agreed to sit down to resolve the situation over the next few months. We also brought to their attention the need to update the agreement that exists between the entities. The agreement has not been updated in several decades.
- 5) **Montana Rescue Mission** – Wednesday I toured both shelters at the MRM with Matt Lundgren. I was thoroughly impressed by the mission's work. We discussed several ways we can work together to serve our community by building bridges between service providers.

Have a wonderful weekend