

Billings City Administration Weekly Report

June 7, 2019

- 1) **Remaining Budget Schedule**
 - a. Monday June 10 – 4:00 to 5:30 pm. Continue budget wrap up discussion and provide direction in anticipation of budget adoption June 24, 2019
 - b. Monday June 17 – Regular City Council Work Session. If necessary, continue budget wrap up discussion from June 10 in anticipation of June 24, 2019 budget adoption
 - c. Monday June 24 – Budget adoption

- 2) **South Billings Urban Renewal Association (SBURA)** – the board voted unanimously to provide \$1,000,000 toward the police evidence building. Board members appeared to be split on their support to cover future debt retirement payments on the remaining ~\$2.5 million for the project.

- 3) **MSUB** – Chancellor Edelman and I held our quarterly meeting this week. He expressed appreciation for our work with MET helping students commute between City College and the MSUB campus. We also discussed future collaborative efforts including: internships, class projects to help the city assess peer community data and the hiring of mechanics. The success of MSUB, Rocky Mountain College & City College are critical to a brighter future for Billings.

- 4) **Rimrock Foundation** – Lenette Kosovich, CEO of Rimrock and I met to discuss issues related to addiction and mental illness. She was heavily involved in the community's successful MAAP program. Lenette and her colleagues are a key to our success of any program to curb addiction. She reminded me of the Community Innovations Summit held in October 2014; the summit included an impressive line-up of best practices speakers from around the US. I've reached out to former city administrator, Tina Volek to better understand how best to get our MAAP program back on track. Lenette and I graduated from Leadership MT together in 2014.

- 5) **Vuecrest Situation** – Yesterday I met with Gary Davis, President of the BBWA Ditch, Debi Meling, Deputy Mayor Yakawich and one of the homeowners in their neighborhood on Vuecrest. Gary helped us understand what appears to be happening with the saturated soil in the area and the ditch company's responsibilities with seeping water. Our infrastructure is being compromised, but not nearly as severely as a few of the homes along Vuecrest. The bottom line may be that the city and homeowners have very little recourse. We will continue to work with the ditch company to understand the risks associated with a ditch failure. We have also asked KC Williams, Yellowstone County Disaster & Emergency Services Director to see if our emergency plans include flooding resulting from a ditch failure. We want to be proactive in our preparedness rather than reactive.

- 6) **Food for Thought** - Last night's Food for Thought event at the Library was fantastic. The Library Foundation raised money for the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Campaign as well as other great causes. The city is fortunate to have such a vibrant group of community volunteers helping

to make Billings great.

- 7) **Citizen Police Academy** – My graduation was marred with a disproportionate amount of absences. I missed too many classes as a result of budget work sessions and Tuesday council meetings. If anyone would like to join me in the fall, I will be attending the three sessions I missed (K9 & Undercover Drug Investigations, Crime Scene Investigations & SWAT). I'll let you know when the fall schedule is released. Billings is fortunate to have such a professional dedicated team of officers serving our community. This is a fantastic program!

- 8) **Chamber Retreat** – Last week I attended the Billings Chamber of Commerce Retreat. The 24 hour gathering was a great opportunity to get to know some of our local business leaders as well as participate in discussions determining the Chamber's priorities for the next year.

- 9) **Meetings/Task Forces/Presentations etc.**
 - a. Tuesday I will be discussing "Council Responsibilities" during the Chamber's Candidate School from 9:00 to 9:30.

Have a great weekend!