

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

March 5, 2021

- 1. Legislative Update** – March 3 was transmittal deadline for General Bills to the other chamber and the last day to request Appropriation Bills. Two key public safety bills, HB 578 and HB584 are headed to the senate. Both bills help with jail overcrowding.
 - HB 578 is a bill “Revise laws related to commitment of defendants” sponsored by Terry Moore (R) HD 54 – passed the house 100-0
 - HB 584 is a bill “Requiring certain costs paid to detention center be based on actual costs” and is sponsored by Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R) HD 43. – passed 59-39.
- 2. Legislative Video Conference – Thursday, March 11th at Noon.** MSUB, College of Business MacDonald Hall, Room 163. The 4th of 7 in a partnership between the City, Chamber and MSUB. Please RSVP through wynnette.
- 3. Chamber Public Safety Forum** – yesterday, Yellowstone County prosecutor Christopher Morris and I spoke on the criminal justice challenges facing in Billings. My presentation focused on last years public safety mill levy, the Nat. Police Services Survey, and the Center for Public Safety Management analysis. The chamber is committed to supporting additional resources needed to reduce crime.
- 4. Proposed 2021`Budget Calendar** - Budget presentations to Council will begin in Late April or Early May. In the past, staff has presented department budgets to City Council at a meeting each week in May and June. This required special work session meetings on Tuesdays after regular meetings, and also limited any other topics on the other work session nights in May and June. In total, 5-6 meetings spread over a month were dedicated to the budget. This year staff would like Council to consider a different schedule. With the goal of providing a clearer budget picture, by presenting the budget in a more concise fashion, we would like Council to consider the following schedule:

Proposed FY22 Budget Hearings:

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Budget Overview

Admin Departments Budget

Monday, May 17, 2021

Public Safety Budget Presentations

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Department Budgets

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Department Budgets

Monday, June 7, 2021

Budget Wrap-up

Monday, June 21, 2021

Budget Adoption

By presenting the budget all together it may be easier to remain focused, It also provides more time between the budget presentations and the scheduled adoption. We are not proposing to spend less time on the budget. In the past 2 years, our typical budget work sessions have lasted from 2.5 – 3 hours, and we expect that would be the same under this schedule as well. **Finally, as we ask Department Directors to prepare their budget presentations, we would like your input on the following:**

What information in the past has been most helpful in understanding the City's budget?

What information do you feel has been missing from the budget in the past?

If you would like to provide feedback on either the schedule or provide input on the budget process, please e-mail your responses to Chris, Kevin, and Andy.

Have a good weekend!