

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BILLINGS CITY COUNCIL

April 4, 2011

The Billings City Council met in special session in the Council Chambers located on the second floor of the Police Facility, 220 North 27th Street, Billings, Montana. Mayor Thomas W. Hanel called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and served as the meeting's presiding officer.

ROLL CALL: Councilmembers present on roll call were: Ronquillo, Gaghen, Pitman, Cimmino, Ruegamer, McCall, Ulledalen, Astle and Clark. Councilmember McFadden was absent.

SPECIAL AGENDA:

1. Legislative Review with Lobbyist Ed Bartlett

Mr. Bartlett began his presentation. He said a few weeks ago the legislature had over 550 bills in process and currently there were less than 250.

- HB43: Employers' rights to test and discharge employees related to medical marijuana use. Returned to the House with Senate amendments.
- SB423: Medical marijuana regulation and control. Passed Senate last week. House affirmatively voted to accept on a 100 to 1 vote, which did not mean the House liked the bill but thought it was worth consideration. Hearing set for Wednesday in House Human Services Committee.
- HB161: Straight repeal of medical marijuana. Some supporters hoping to hand-deliver it to the Governor's Office on Wednesday. Governor has 10 working days to decide what to do.
- HB230: Transfer of Board of Crime Control from Justice Department to Department of Corrections passed out of committee that day on a 12 to 7 vote.
- HB307: Sprinklers in single-family residential. House rejected Governor's amendments 66 to 34 that day. Will now go to Senate to consider Governor's amendments.
- HB495: Freezing entitlement payments at current level for next two years and then setting a new formula. Set for hearing in Senate Financing on April 6th.
- HB439: Bonding bill – Increased from \$89 million to \$97 million. Hearing set for tomorrow in Senate Finance & Claims.
- HB334: Workers Compensation – In Governor's hands. High expectation it would be supported by Governor. One of the most important bills for the session.
- HB560, HB561, HB562: TIFD bills – Set for hearing on April 6 in Senate Local Government Committee. Bills amended heavily. Recommended continuing opposition but not actively.
- SB91: Post Office bill – allowing a new city to incorporate even if it did not have a post office. Passed legislature and being transmitted to Governor. Companion HB426 was signed by Governor the end of last week.

- SB234: Solid Waste bill – Passed the House and being returned to the Senate with positive amendments.
- HB106: DUI bill – 24/7 sobriety plan. Passed House and Senate.

Ms. Volek: Article in paper indicating the Governor predicted vetoing HB2, Budget Bill, if it came to him in its current form and asked if Mr. Bartlett had any updates.

Mr. Bartlett: Said the Conference Committee on HB2 would meet for the first time the next day at 3:00 p.m. Statements and positions indicated that unless things were added to the bill, the Governor would likely veto. Still rumors the legislature might recess a few days early and save those days in anticipation of a veto. The soonest the bill would get to Governor would be the end of the week, but most likely a week from now. Serious discussions still going on.

McCall: Asked if SB423 were to get to the Governor's desk, if there was any notion on the Governor's response.

Mr. Bartlett: Governor's Office offering some support, but Governor himself had not indicated how strongly he felt about it. Very much still up in the air.

There were no further comments or questions for Mr. Bartlett.

PUBLIC COMMENT on Agenda Item #1 ONLY.-- Speaker Sign-in required.
(Comments offered here are limited to one minute per speaker. Please sign up on the clipboard located at the podium.)

The public comment period was opened. There were no speakers, and the public comment period was closed.

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.



CITY OF BILLINGS

BY: Thomas W. Hanel
 Thomas W. Hanel, Mayor

ATTEST:

BY: Cari Martin
 Cari Martin, City Clerk