

Billings City Administration Weekly Report

January 11, 2019

Good afternoon, this is the first of what I plan to be weekly briefings to the city council. Though the audience is the city council, this report will also be sent to all department directors. My intent is to communicate the highlights of the past week and any critical issues coming up. Please, never hesitate to call me if you would like to discuss anything further or I've left something important out. Most of the time I will be sharing information just as an FYI but occasionally I will ask you for input and help. I will always try to highlight any action I need from you.

- 1) **Legislative Session** - Monday and Tuesday of the past week were spent in Helena for the kick-off of the legislative session attending Business Days at the Capital. Beyond the standard opportunities to listen to our elected leaders at both the state and national level, and networking with new and old friends. My focus was on getting to know my new colleagues around Billings and building bridges with community leaders around the state. Emphasizing the need to help one another throughout the legislative session both on bills that directly affect us as well as on bills that our friends need our support on. We need other communities to help us accomplish our priorities. We may be tested on this early in this session. The clearest example to me is with the "gateway tax" debate and One Big Sky District legislation. The gateway legislation concept expands the current local option resort tax laws to include only counties, cities and towns within counties that literally border a national park. Therefore, Billings will not immediately benefit, however I do believe that in the long run this will help Billings and we are asking others to support our OBSD legislation with the same result. We also presented the OBSD project to the Montana Chamber of Commerce Board.

There is no silver bullet, one size fits all solution to the challenges communities face, therefore we need the help one another develop creative and innovative ideas to strengthen the quality of life of all communities. When we stand alone, we fail!

- 2) **OBSD** – we received and read the 541 pg. DRAFT report mid-week (Kevin, Andy, Wyeth and I). It is a relatively easy read - full of critical data, pictures, graphs, and white spaces (I suspect it will be shortened through the review process). The strategy partners pulled together all of our comments for improvements yesterday and today to share with Landmark. More calls are scheduled for Monday to improve the document for public consumption.
- 3) **We need your help** – please email wynette and I a list of any state legislators that you have a particularly close professional relationship with. The purpose of this list is to tap

into these relationships when needed throughout the legislative session. We will be sharing this list with our lobbying team. Thank you!

Wynette is also trying to schedule a reoccurring meeting for the council, Kevin and I to meet in small groups either every month or two months so that we make sure we are communicating well with one another. **Please respond to Wynnette's scheduling email if you haven't already.**

- 4) **Moody's Bond Rating Call** – this afternoon we had a bond rating call with Moody's and our financial consultants to sell ~23,000,000 in bonds to expand the landfill. The call went well and we anticipate favorable interest rates and terms as a result of our excellent financial position. The bids for the bond sale will be opened on the morning of the 28th and the winning bidder will be awarded that evening. Project construction will begin during the 2019 construction season.
- 5) **Spa/message business license ordinance** – The 2nd iteration of our draft business license ordinance is completed and includes all of the feedback we received from industry insiders, law and legal professionals. Our internal team is working through the challenges of implementation. While in Helena, I had the opportunity to talk to Kris Carpenter one of our local legitimate spa owners who expressed strong support for our efforts. We will be in front of the city council January 22 for your feedback.
- 6) **Coffee w/ Pat LaPointe** – Pat is a colleague from Bozeman who is the Managing Director of Frontier Angels. Pat is very well connected, particularly in the investment and technology side of entrepreneurship and innovation. Pat is working closely with BSED on Billings' new entrepreneurship initiative and is a great contact for future investments in Billings.
- 7) **First mtg. w/Chancellor Edelman** – (this was actually last week) I firmly believe that the city's successful future is tied to all of our institutions of education. This was an introductory mtg. Many more will come. We will find transformational projects to work on together to improve our community in addition to the day to day partnerships.
- 8) **Next week** - I have my first RiverStone Health and MET Facility tours.
- 9) Attached is a New Year's Resolution for elected officials document I stumbled across last week. It's a 1 pager I think is thought provoking. Happy New Year!
- 10)

January 1, 2019

New Year's Resolutions for Elected Officials Who Want to Leave a Legacy That Matters

In electing me to office, my fellow citizens have entrusted me with the sacred duty of shaping the future of our community. Because I am committed to creating a future that is brighter and healthier and more beneficial to all citizens than when I was called to lead, I will:

1. Base my decisions on the next generation more than the next election, committed to the ideal that my loyalty must be to the entire community (both now and in the future) and not merely to those who got me elected.
2. Focus on mission, vision, and values as the benchmark for my decisions and recognize that my responsibility is the pursuit of the greatest good for the entire community and not the satisfaction of any particular group's agenda.
3. Make decisions based on fact-based evidence and not allow myself to be manipulated into bad decisions for the future based on the decibel level of critics.
4. Recognize that "it takes a smart person to know where he/she is stupid" and have the wisdom to be smart. Accordingly, I will value those who have the courage to tell me what they really think and will listen sincerely to those who disagree with me to truly understand their perspective, recognizing that understanding other perspectives makes me a better leader.
5. Embrace my responsibility to govern rather than to manage, recognizing that if I am doing staff's job, I am not doing my job, while also understanding and embracing the appropriately exercised governance role of holding staff accountable.
6. Place a greater emphasis on solutions than on problems, while refusing to offer solutions before I understand the problem.
7. Understand that mutual trust is the foundation for everything and that if I refuse to trust others they will be unable to trust me.
8. Protect the integrity of the process more than the rightness of my position; I will fight hard for my issue but then unify behind the governing body when the decision is made because the decision was made with the integrity of the process, even if I disagree with the outcome.
9. Understand that my deeply held beliefs, values, and positions will be strengthened, not compromised by courteous, respectful, and civil discourse. I will not treat someone as an enemy just because we disagree.
10. Treat everyone with dignity and respect because of who I am as a leader... not because of how they treat me or what I think about them.
11. Be a role model for civility. I will not treat my colleagues or staff in any way that I would be embarrassed if my five-year-old child treated someone the same way.

In 2019 may you lead in a way that your legacy will matter.