

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

April 11, 2025

1. **Legislature** – We continue to amend HB 231, HB 155, HB 528 or any other bill that lowers the value of a mill. Our 1st choice is to have any of these bills amended in such a way that the State would backfill our financial loss. The 2nd choice is to amend these bills in a way that would force the city to live under the State's tax revenue rules found in 15-10-420 like every other city and county (except us and Sunburst). The 3rd preference is that if options 1 or 2 fail, we want these three bills to die. Our preference for tax relief is to use a tool like SB 90.

SB 539 was introduced and passed through the Senate within just a couple days last week. The bill will cause significant problems for our street maintenance and possibly our storm water, street lighting and parks maintenance assessments. Changes include who pays and the requirement for voter approval. The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday morning on the House side.

2. **Heights Water District** – our wholesale master meter was tested this week to ensure its accuracy. HWD and the city share a concern regarding future development along the new interstate interchange. Water and sewer utilities need to be extended to the area to ensure future development maximizes the property in the area. Some board members also believe a TIF District should be created to assist in infrastructure upgrades that are also needed in the Heights.
3. **Budget & Finance Committee** – a majority of committee members voted to make several recommendations to the city council as follows:
 - Street Assessment - 0%
 - Water – 0%
 - Wastewater - 0%
 - Stormwater – 32% (\$2.13/ERU)
 - Solid Waste – 0% residential
 - Eliminate car allowances
 - All votes were 3/2 except storm water which was 4/1
4. **Skyway Dr.** – Staff met with BSED to share info and prep for our meeting with Ward 1 and Ward 4 representatives. Several planning efforts are being coordinated including utilities, neighborhood plans, Skyway/Highway 3 Corridor and the city's overall growth plan. BSED is being asked to share their economic development expertise.
5. **Building News** – Please see the March 2025 Building Division Statistics.
6. **Library News** – Attached please see the document about CO+LAB open at Billings Library.
7. **Board and Commission Annual Report** – Please see the attached Human Relations Commission Annual Report to Council.

8. 2024 Council Meeting Schedule – Please review the attached draft agendas and provide any feedback regarding the order of business, modification of agenda items, or other changes to the consent or regular agendas. City code requires a specific order of business as it relates to certain items on meeting agendas, e.g., placement of public hearings first on the regular agenda, so your feedback will be incorporated with those code requirements in mind. ([BMCC 2-214](#)) Work session agendas are more flexible and can also easily be modified by the mayor with the consensus of Council during those informal meetings.

9. Next Week's Meetings/Task Forces

- a. Westend Task Force, Tuesday, April 15th 7:00 PM, Connections Church, 56th St. West & Grand Avenue.
- b. Budget and Finance Committee, Wednesday, April 16th 9:00 AM, Rimrock Conference Room, 316 N. 26th Street, 5th Floor.
- c. Legislative and Local Affairs Committee, Wednesday, April 16th 4:00 PM, Rimrock Conference Room, 316 N. 26th Street, 5th Floor.
- d. Southside Task Force, Thursday, April 17th 6:00 PM, Hope Center, 425 S. 28th Street.
- e. Central Terry Task Force, Thursday, April 17th 7:00 PM, Topline Hair, 1331 Central Avenue.

BUILDING DIVISION STATISTICS

MARCH 2025

TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED = 447
TOTAL VALUATION = \$19,802,558

Building Permit Applications Submitted 115

Building Inspections Completed 977

New Construction 33

- Single Family = 16
 - Total Valuation = \$5,051,398
- Duplex = 12
 - Total Valuation = \$3,926,952
- Commercial = 4
 - Total Valuation = \$4,738,297

Addition and Remodel 36

- Residential = 11
 - Total Valuation = \$938,478
- Commercial = 25
 - Total Valuation = \$2,414,806

Miscellaneous 105

- Residential Exterior = 71
 - Total Valuation = \$1,206,233
- Comm Fence/Roofing/Pool = 8
 - Total Valuation = \$305,551
- Solar = 25
 - Total Valuation = \$669,711

Top Commercial Projects Issued:

First Interstate Bank - \$2,000,000
Tidal Wave - \$2,000,000
Starbucks - \$800,000
Prairie Tower - \$795,000
Big Sky Office Park - \$698,296

Permits Issued Calendar Year to Date:

	2025	2024
<u>New Construction</u>		
New Single Family	35	44
Commercial Townhome	0	6
Duplex	23	12
Commercial	7	6
Garage/Carport	3	6
<u>Additions/Remodels</u>		
Residential Addition/Remodel	33	86
Commercial Addition/Remodel	103	60
<u>Miscellaneous</u>		
Residential Exterior	136	176
Comm Fence/Roofing	9	11
Solar	74	121
Foundations	1	1
Total	424	529



CO+LAB opens at Billings Library

*Article by Stephanie Hobby
Photos by Jamie Blotske*

In a world where the click of a smartphone button can bring a doorstep delivery within hours, making things for yourself has become something of a lost art. But recent years have seen an uptick in DIYers, and there has been a shift toward original creations and embracing your inner craftsman.

Thanks to YouTube channels and Pinterest boards, finding the “how” to bring your idea to life has never been easier. However, finding the necessary equipment can be more problematic. A new maker space, CO+LAB, at the Billings Public Library offers various gear and hands-on classes to help generate more creativity in the Magic City.

“There has been a resurgence of doing more hands-on, creating your own work, and stepping away from reliance on big businesses,” said Taylor Arnold, CO+LAB Librarian at Billings Public Library. “A lot of this equipment is very approachable, and folks can just come in and learn to use emerging technologies and kind of goof off and play around and get an idea about how things work.”



While approachable, much of the gear is an excellent introduction to more complex ideas associated with STEAM, or science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. To get started, patrons need to take an in-person class, or use the online platform Moodle, to get certified on a specific machine. Once you've earned your badge for a particular piece of equipment, and signed the user agreement, you're all set to work on your project at CO+LAB. Makers aged 12-18 can use the space independently after completing the introductory course and equipment certifications, but must have a parent or guardian sign the check-in agreement before each session.

At CO+LAB, you'll find Snapmaker and Prusa 3D printers, a Glowforge, which is a laser engraver and cutter that can etch wood, leather, glass, and more, a Cricut Venture that produces

die-cut fabric, vinyl, and paper, and sewing machines and a serger. There's a media production sound booth where users can record music, podcasts, or videos, with professional-grade software and equipment. CO+LAB also has a Charlie Cart, a mobile kitchen for hands-on culinary workshops, where students can learn about food science and healthy cooking. Although patrons can work independently, a librarian is always present to ensure that all equipment is used safely.

For those that prefer to do projects at home, the library offers a growing number of kits through CO+LAB2GO that can be checked out for two weeks, including a podcasting kit with a sound board and microphone, a vlogging kit, a Toybox 3D printer kit, a Cricut Joy and Cricut Joy Xtra kit, a movie night kit with a projector and screen, and a party kit with a karaoke



machine and disco lights. For more DIY fun at home, your library card gives you access to Creativebug.com, similar to YouTube, but focused on craft instruction for sewing, crochet, journaling, watercolor, or drawing.

In-person classes and drop-in hours are a great way to learn the basics of the machines, but checking them out for home use can take your knowledge to the next level. “You might get to try out the 3D printer during drop-in hours, but you’re limited to your reservation time. You could check out the Toybox and use it for two weeks and make all sorts of projects,” said Teen Librarian Sierra Hoy.

The library provides supplies for initial use while you learn, but patrons must provide their own compatible supplies with the equipment for subsequent reservations or large projects.

Housed in the former Teen Tech Lab, the space got a colorful makeover with large geometric shapes on the walls and innovative lighting. The space still caters to teens, but now has a broader reach. Word is still getting out about the newly renovated space, and librarians say they’re seeing increased interest and more use as people get certified, so they’re already making plans to expand.

“We are absolutely planning to grow. There are already things we have in mind that we want to add in the future,” Hoy said. “With the CO+LAB2GO kits, we have drones and VR headsets that we want to include. There’s definitely more room to grow with both the kits and what’s available in-house for our equipment.”



Arnold said that will include in-person training sessions too. “We’d like to start incorporating more advanced classes and special guest workshops. A lot of the classes right now are things like Intro to 3D printing or Intro to Using the Glowforge. But in the future, we could offer more project-based or in-depth, like, how you actually render a 3D model or use the sound booth to create a podcast,” he said. “We could get folks from the community who are sound engineers or makers to lead workshops. That’s another kind of growth we look forward to.”

Hoy and Arnold say they’ve already seen amazing creations, including one from a woman sewing traditional Native American ribbon skirts for her daughters and another from a patron who built a birdhouse.

The CO+LAB was made possible by grants from two in-house organizations: the Friends of the Billings Public Library and the Billings Public Library Foundation. For more information, including certification requirements, drop-in hours, and workshops, visit www.billingslibrary.org/535/COLAB. **SLM**

STEPHANIE HOBBY IS MARRIED TO AN AWESOME BILLINGS GUY. THEY LOVE SKIING, HIKING, TRAVELING, AND OTHER ADVENTURES WITH THEIR TWO FUN KIDS AND CRAZY DOG.





April 9, 2025

Human Relations Commission Annual Report

- Commissioner details:
 - 2024 Chair: Susan Jurovich, Vice-Chair: Erin Tate, Secretary: Darrell LaMere
 - 2025 Chair: Susan Jurovich, Vice-Chair Carissa Welsh, Secretary: Darrell LaMere
 - We currently have one open position on the Commission, to fill the unexpired term of Kelly Gardner.
- Goals for 2024:
 - Increase our presence in the Billings community and educate community members about our Mission.
 - One avenue to achieve this goal was, and will continue to be, to attend community events with HRC members in order to disperse educational materials and have conversations with individuals and families about the HRC, as well as hear feedback regarding discrimination concerns and issues. The HRC attended 3 community events in 2024 - 406 Pride, the Mexican Fiesta and Boo at the Zoo. Attendance at these events allowed us to interact and educate with an estimated 7,500 participants.
 - Another avenue was to increase our social media presence. We struggled with this initially due to difficulty identifying the original managers of the Facebook and Instagram pages but now in 2025 have designated a Commissioner, Carissa Welsh, to manage our social media. We have noted a significant increase in our FB page followers over the last year, a sign that we hope indicates increased knowledge and engagement in the Billings community.
 - Educate ourselves about like-minded organizations in the community and initiate discussion and collaboration to promote HRC's Mission.
 - We met with representatives from Lutheran Family Services of the Rocky Mountains, and Nations to Neighbors. We initiated communication with Tumbleweed and the Alzheimer's Association.
 - Promote positive community engagement.

- Initiated discussion with Public Works to promote community involvement to name the West End reservoirs.
- Created the *City of Billings Social Impact Award*. This is designed to honor an individual, group or organization that is making a significant social impact by promoting diversity and inclusion in our community. We envision the award to be given annually, with nominations accepted from the community. (For 2025, we have selected the Mayor's World Languages Dinner Committee and would like to present the award at this year's event on May 2.)

2025 goals:

- Maintain and expand on 2024 goals.
- Finalize the nomination process for our annual award to highlight positive stories on behalf of the HRC.
- Request a budget line item of \$1000.00 annually to fund the City of Billings Social Impact Award annually moving forward and provide funds for community outreach and education. The materials for community outreach and education would include, but may not be limited to, rack cards, event registration fees and event supplies.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Jurovich

Human Relations Commission Chair

UPCOMING DRAFT AGENDAS FOR COUNCIL / LEADERSHIP

Please review the draft agendas below and provide any feedback regarding the order of business, modification of agenda items, or other changes to the consent or regular agendas. City code requires a specific order of business as it relates to certain items on meeting agendas, e.g., placement of public hearings first on the regular agenda, so your feedback will be incorporated with those code requirements in mind. ([BMCC 2-214](#)) Work session agendas are more flexible and can also easily be modified by the Mayor with the consensus of Council during those informal meetings.

Thank you for your feedback!

April 14, 2025 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

CONSENT:

1. BID AWARD: Dehler Park Protective Netting
2. BID AWARD: Airport Overlook Drive Overlay
3. BID AWARD: WO 25-08: Rose Park Trail
4. BID AWARD: WO 25-25: Culvert Replacement
5. West end hangar lease w/ TFES 1167
6. MOU w/ Yellowstone County – Law Enforcement data processing
7. PCC recommendation for Local Federal Funding Priority – Grand Avenue
8. Amendment 2 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
9. Amendment 5 to PSA for old City Hall w/Honaker Realty, LLC & JWT Capital, LLC.
10. North Parking Lot Lease with Honaker Realty, LLC
11. Donation to Parks from TrailNet
12. Donation to Planning from TrailNet
13. Donation to Police Department from various donors
14. Final Plat - Ridgeview Subdivision
15. Resolution Notifying Election Administrator of Mail Ballot
16. Resolution for South Tax Increment Bond
17. 2nd Final/Rdg. ORD – Ward Boundary Expansion Annexation 25-01 – Wilson Park
18. 2nd Final/Rdg. ORD – ZC 1060 - Text Housekeeping Amendments
19. 2nd Final/Rdg. ORD – ZC 1061 – Wilson Park
20. 2nd Final/Rdg. ORD - ZC 1062 – Missions United
21. 2nd Final/Rdg. ORD – ZC 1063 – 4500 Block – King Ave. W

REGULAR:

1. PH of Consolidated Plan Findings
2. PH and Resolution approving tax benefits - Rocky Vista University LLC
3. Resolution to Adopt Eastern Montana Region Hazard Mitigation Plan and Yellowstone County Annex
4. EBURD Tax Increment Assistance - 2115 2nd Avenue North - Air Controls Billings, Inc.
5. SBBURD Tax Increment Assistance – Amend Park Ice Rink – Yellowstone Ice

6. SBBURD Tax Increment Assistance - Torgerson's LLC - 3508 South Frontage Road

April 21, 2025 - WORK SESSION

1. Amend Rec. Center Updates
2. Water and Sewer Rates
3. Aspenlieder's Initiative – Purchasing Policy
4. Legislative updates

April 28, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1. BID AWARD: WO 25-26: WTP Sediment Hauling
2. Renewal in the Downtown Billings Improvement District (BID) 0001
3. Outsourcing of Custodial Services at Billings Operations Center
4. Outsourcing of Custodial Services at City Hall
5. W.O. 25-19 Transportation Corridor Plan, Contract for Professional Services
6. Amendment 27 with Morrison-Maierle, Inc. to Expand and Remodel the Airline Ticketing Area & Baggage Belt System
7. Amendment 28 with Morrison-Maierle for Engineering Services on the Runway 7/25 Reconstruction and Extension Project
8. Amendment 1 Billings Metropolitan Planning Organization FY25 UPWP
9. Rockman Building Electrical Panel Relocation
10. State Farm Grant to Fire Dept. for Rescue Technician Training
11. Compensation Agreement with LC Properties, LLC
12. Billings MPO FY25 UPWP Amendment 1
13. Public Sidewalk Easement from Tanner Bennion - Rim Pointe Subdivision
14. Perpetual Right-of-Way Easement for Multi-Use Trail from Griffin Automotive Enterprises, Inc.
15. Acknowledge Receipt of Petition to Vacate Carriage Lane in Annafeld Subdivision, 5th Filing
16. Preliminary Plat - Annafeld Subdivision, 7th Filing

REGULAR:

2. Five-year Consolidated Plan for FY2025-2029, the FY2025-2026 Annual Action Plan, and recommended CDBG & HOME Budget Allocations
3. PH and 1st Rdg Zone Change 1064 - Buffalo Crossing Drive
4. PH for Land Use Contrary to Zoning for Orchard School, 120 Jackson St.- Electronic Message Display Sign

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

5. Curb Cut Ordinance Update (Mac)
6. Transportation Corridor Plan (Debi)

May 5, 2025 - WORK SESSION (BUDGET ONLY)

1. Facilities Budget, include Org chart

May 6, 2025 - WORK SESSION Tues. (BUDGET ONLY)

May 12, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1. BID AWARD: 1302 Parkhill Drive Housing Rehabilitation Project
2. Preliminary Minor Plat - Yellowstone Valley Subdivision

REGULAR:

2. PH for LB Lofts Affordable Housing Development Project
3. PH and RES – Annexation 25-03, Mirco Circle

May 19, 2025 - WORK SESSION (BUDGET ONLY)

May 20, 2025 - WORK SESSION Tues. (BUDGET ONLY)

May 27, 2025 (Tues.) REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1. Compensation Agreement with LC Properties, LLC

REGULAR:

June 2, 2025– WORK SESSION

1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Annual Presentation (Elyse Monat)
2. Hazard Mitigation Plan (Debi)
3. Big Sky Senior Services – Adult Resource Alliance (Erika Purington)
4. Public Art Policy (Elyse Monat)

June 9, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

- 1.

REGULAR:

2. Budget Adoption

June 16, 2025– WORK SESSION

Executive Session 4:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

1. Snow Plowing Update

June 23, 2025 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

2. Budget adoption

July 7, 2025– WORK SESSION

July 14, 2025 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

2. RES Establishing a Procedure for the Disposition of Unclaimed Property (Has not be submitted into routing in AQ)

July 21, 2025– WORK SESSION

July 28, 2025 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

August 4, 2025– WORK SESSION

August 11, 2025 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

August 18, 2025– WORK SESSION

August 25, 2025 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

September 2, 2025 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION

September 8, 2025 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

September 15, 2025– WORK SESSION

Executive Session 4:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

September 22, 2025 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

October 6, 2025– WORK SESSION

October 13, 2025 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

October 20, 2025– WORK SESSION

October 27, 2025 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

CONSENT:

1. *Council Meeting Schedule for December

REGULAR:

November 3, 2025– WORK SESSION

November 10, 2025 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

November 17, 2025– WORK SESSION

November 24, 2025 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

December 1, 2025– WORK SESSION

Executive Session 4:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

December 8, 2025 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

December 15, 2025– WORK SESSION

December 22, 2025 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

CLERK'S NOTES

*Annual Items shown in Blue

January (First Work Session) after an election: Swearing in of new Councilmembers and Nominations and Elections of Deputy Mayor Pro Tempore

January: Amend Park Development Council Proposed Budget

January: Beartooth RC&D MOU

February or March: Legislative Updates (ODD years only)

March: Budget Calendar

March: Council Priorities

September: City Administrator's Annual Review

October: TRP, ERP and CIP

October: Council Holiday Schedule for December

November (First Regular Business Meeting) after an election: Nominations and Elections of Deputy Mayor