

Council Legislative & Local Affairs Committee

DATE: Wednesday, February 14th, 2024 - TIME: 4:00 PM

PLACE: City Hall Conference Room - 210 N. 27th Street, Billings, MT

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor/Council: X Kendra Shaw – Ward 1; X Roy Neese – Ward 2; X Denise Joy – Ward 3;
X Mike Boyett – Ward 5

Staff: Debi Meling, Chris Kukulski, Wyeth Friday, Jennifer Owen

Public: Steve Simonson, Henry Jagodzinski, Christina MacIntosh

Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENT

(Public comment is limited to three minutes or as set by the presiding officer. Please sign in on the roster provided Comments are to be directed to agenda items and items within the scope of this committee)

Event 2/15/24 - Know Your Community - Billings Hotel & Convention Center 8:30-12:30pm

TOPIC # 1 - 3:24

Election of Chair with new committee members

CM Neese

CM Nominated CM Shaw as chair; CM Boyett 2nd
Unanimous vote

NOTES / OUTCOME:

TOPIC # 2 - 4:13

Updated bylaws to reflect the Legislative & Local Affairs Committee rules.

CM Neese

Please review draft amendments and be prepared to make changes or adopt

CM Neese - motion to update rules and procedures as presented
2nd Boyett - seconded
Unanimous vote

NOTES / OUTCOME:

TOPIC # 3 - 7:11

Local labor

CM Joy

Discussion on including local labor law terms in city contracts

NOTES / OUTCOME:	<p>Debi Meling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Do give preference to local contractors *Local labor - certain % of labor done by local people *Prevailing Wages - currently incorporated on anything over \$25,000 (except for TIF); working on language for TIF projects *Apprenticeships *Accountability for workforce - city audits the prevailing wage of city projects *Preference to residents of Yellowstone County for workforce - Legal/policy decision (long-term outlook) How would that impact bids and city work? *Prevailing wage - Helena model for TIF
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TOPIC # 4 - 23:08	Short term holding facility
CM Shaw	<p>Kukulski will put on Tuesday's work session agenda</p> <p>CM Owen update - met with architects, police & police union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *pre-arraignment beds only *# of beds available for city use *amount of funds, including waiver of credit *liability waiver *insuring continued efforts to move forward with major expansion (not a substitute) *one-time money *no future charging for municipal stays *time clause on building - amount decreases afterward
NOTES / OUTCOME:	

<p>TOPIC # 5 – Ongoing business</p>	<p>Update and discuss plans of action on these State Legislative issues.</p> <p><u>Public Safety bills to revive:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Theft laws (SB96) *Pre-trial diversion <p><u>Public Safety concerns for future:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *OPD funding beyond the current biennium *Opposition to funding public defenders at local level *Family Justice Center - bill to define as “best practice” for state *Request state provide another DCI and/or DVI investigator *State legislative committee needs to study court communication <p><u>Action items for city legislative committee:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Study & expand capacity of mental health system *Look at other state’s incentive programs to encourage cities to support community-building programs like church, education etc.. <p><i>Economic Tools</i></p> <p><u>Action items for city legislative committee:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Participate - send committee member or lobbyist to interim local government committee & law and justice <p><i>Land Use & Housing</i></p> <p><u>Action items for city legislative committee:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Participate - send committee member or lobbyist to local government interim committee input on SB382 *Planning director meeting with legislators on three TIFs in Billings <p><u>Additional public safety items from the December 4th Council Work Session.</u></p> <p>Youth Court</p> <p>Issues to Bonding (i.e. no-money bonds and bonds by PFA victims.</p> <p>Issues with data across agencies (not just state-level issue...e.g., BPD)</p> <p>Go forward plan is to establish goals/objectives with staff and council and bring suggested legislative changes by this committee to Council in early 2024. Determine if there is alignment on the Council to pursue recommended changes. Once confirmed with Council work will start with School, County, Legislators, etc. to have policy/bills established.</p>
<p>NOTES / OUTCOME:</p>	<p>CM Joy - clarification on concern for additional DVI/DCI position (appointed now)</p> <p>Kukulski - ARPA money for public defenders; need to keep an eye making sure the state funds public defenders and DVI officers (get more info)</p> <p>CM Neese - carve out time in the future and invite Rep Yakawich</p> <p>Wyeth Friday - SB382 update; talked to revenue committee about TIF</p> <p>Kukulski - include school board in SB382 discussions; make an appointment</p> <p>CM Joy - upcoming legislative session - look at bills/have discussion with school district about needs/their priorities</p> <p>CM Shaw - appoint someone to this local affairs subcommittee</p>

Public Comment	CM Owen - evaluating partner-family assault statue
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Adjourn by 5:00 PM - 59:54	
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