

Legislative and Local Affairs Joint Council Committee

June 19, 2024

Committee Attendance: Denise Joy-Ward 3 Mike Boyett-Ward 5 Roy Neese Ward-2 Arrived at 4:11

Staff: CA Chris Kukulski, Jessica Fust,

Public: Mike Yakawich, Steve Simonson

Public Comment: Steve Simonson commented: The Governor's Taskforce on Housing has released a report, and they expect to have the report adopted.

The Billings Chamber of Commerce is putting together a legislative candidate forum. Additionally, the Chamber is surveying members for legislative priority's list. The Billings Association of Realtors has participated in the update of the subdivision regulations and expressed concern about requiring street lighting.

Topic #1 Legislative Candidate Mike Yakawich was present to discuss the committee's discussion on legislative priorities.

Mr. Yakawich suggested bills that have a fiscal component are more difficult to adopt and require many hearings. Additionally, fiscal bills that do not include "benefits" for the entire state are more difficult.

*Medicaid Expansion-The committee should consider taking a position on this issue.

*Mental Health Funding-Ms. Fust has created and will refine a one-page explanation and outcomes brochure to use for interested parties, including our lobbyists.

*Infrastructure Investment (West End Reservoir)-The city should consider reviving our pursuit of funding. Consideration may include the outcome of the Governor's race.

*Study Bill for Traffic Cameras-A study bill may be a good direction to take to study the state's more unsafe intersections on Shiloh Rd. Any study bill needs to be drafted early in the process for better chances of success.

Topic #2 Updates from committee/staff N/A

Topic #3 Ongoing Business

*Legislative Priorities to be discussed in July

*Legislators to invite to committee N/A

*Future Agenda Topics- Public Art Policy with presentation from coordinating committee in July. Entitlement shares between the city and country with regards to the Library and our agreement.

Adjourned 5:02