

Council Committee
Legislative & Local Affairs

DATE: Wednesday, January 29, 2025
TIME: 4:00 PM
PLACE: Rimrock Room
316 N. 26th Street
Billings, MT

Mayor/Council: Kendra Shaw, Mike Boyett, TJ Rogers

Staff: Chris Kukulski, Wyeth Friday,

ADJOURN TIME: 5:03

Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEM (3 Min.)

TOPIC #1	City lobbyist representation- Chis Kukulski
	Chris stated that Jessica Fust is the single person who talks to our state lobbyist and we all should continue to go through her. He also stated that the order of progression is staff, lobbyist and council members. The lobbyists feel that we get the most acknowledgment from the state legislators if a council member speaks, rather than a staff member. Jessica visits with our Crowley lobbyist regularly.

TOPIC #2	Federal Funding - possible temporary halting of funding to local governments
NOTES/OUTCOME	We do have two lobbyists in Washington DC, Greg and Jim. We will be caught up with any changes that can occur with the government's change in policy for monies flowing to agencies such as, airport, transit, HUD and victim's agencies.

TOPIC #3	BILLS, BILLS, BILLS
NOTES/OUTCOME	HB 313/LC 1533 repairs for aquatic facilities. Kendra has volunteered to testify to this item. Infrastructure SB 1 Support SB 2 Oppose SB 3 Support LC 808

	<p>Commercial building heights, we will monitor</p> <p>SB 117 both John Ostlund, county commissioner from Yellowstone County and Mike Yakawich are opposed to this item.</p> <p>SB 133 Oppose</p> <p>We agreed to let Mike Yakawich know that we the Legislative Committee would like him to proceed with a bill to raise the municipal limit from \$25,000 to \$50,000. This would help us not to go to District court over issues we could handle in house.</p> <p>Wyeth will see if he can find any examples cases that this increase would be to show our need to raise the amount.</p>
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TOPIC #4	Topics of General Discussion/Topics for Future Agendas
NOTES/OUTCOME	We are hoping the folks from Crowley Law will be at our next meeting.