

RESOLUTION NO. 16 - _____

**RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO ADOPT
THE 2016 CITY OF BILLINGS GROWTH POLICY.**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 76-3-601, et. seq. of the Montana Code Annotated, the governing body may adopt by resolution a Growth Policy for all or part of the jurisdictional area of the Yellowstone County Board of Planning. The 2016 City of Billings Growth Policy applies only to the City of Billings which lies completely within the Planning Board's jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, the Growth Policy contains those elements listed in subsection (3) §76-1-601, MCA;

WHEREAS, on the 28th day of June, 2016, a public hearing was held by the Yellowstone County Board of Planning for the purpose of receiving public comments on the proposed Growth Policy;

WHEREAS, The Yellowstone County Board of Planning by Resolution 16-02, recommends the adoption of the proposed Growth Policy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,

It is the intent of the Billings City Council, to adopt the 2016 City of Billings Growth Policy. The City Council hereby gives notice by Resolution of Intent that it will act on the Resolution to Adopt on July 25, 2016. By approving this Resolution of Intent, the City of Billings City Council acknowledges the Growth Statement and Guidelines for the City of Billings, Montana:

City of Billings Growth Policy Statement

In the next 20 years, Billings will manage its growth by encouraging development within and adjacent to the existing City limits, but preference will be given to areas where City infrastructure exists or can be extended within a fiscally constrained budget and with consideration given to increased tax revenue from development. The City will prosper with strong neighborhoods with their own unique character that are clean, safe, and provide a choice of housing and transportation options.

Growth Guidelines

Essential Investments (relating public and private expenditures to public values)

- The safety of all users and the connectivity of the transportation system are important criteria to consider in roadway designs and transportation plans
- Public transit and commercial air service are critical to ensure access to and around the City
- Planning and construction of interconnected sidewalks and trails are important to the economy and livability of Billings
- Developed parks that provide recreation, special amenities (community gardens, dog parks, viewing areas), and active living opportunities are desirable for an attractive and healthy community
- Natural landscapes are important because they define the uniqueness of Billings and help protect the environment
- Landscaping of public rights-of-way and entryways makes Billings more visually appealing to residents and visitors

- Public health and safety and emergency service response are critical to the well-being of Billings' residents, businesses, and visitors
- Infill development and development near existing City infrastructure is most cost effective
- Accessible, friendly and cost-effective government are important public values
- The history and heritage of Billings are cornerstones of our community
- Neighborhoods that are safe and attractive and provide essential services are much desired
- Infrastructure and service investments that stabilize or improve property values, secure future utility costs, consider maintenance costs, and improve our environmental quality far into the future (ie energy efficiency and renewable energy) are desirable
- It is important to factor in maintenance costs when programming public spaces and infrastructure
- Integrated, long range water planning that better utilizes existing resources and treatment options, and when necessary acquires new ones, is vital. Water conservation can assist in mitigating the need for expansion
- Regulatory compliant water and wastewater treatment plants that provide sufficient capacity will help sustain community growth
- A supportive school system that inspires, motivates, and prepares students for meaningful employment is important for ensuring a high quality, competitive community
- A cost/benefit study is important to make cost effective land use decisions

Place Making (Enhance, maintain, preserve, and improve existing public places)

- A multi-use community recreation facility is desirable
- Enhancement and maintenance of public spaces and buildings through City stewardship is integral to a vibrant community
- Park master plans and transportation plans are important to facilitate the preservation and improved public access to the Yellowstone River and the Rims
- Public and private partnerships are valuable for creating enhanced entryways into Billings
- The preservation of prime agricultural farmland through public programs and/or public/private partnerships will help sustain agriculture and locally grown food
- The history and heritage of Billings are cornerstones of our community
- Natural landscapes are important because they define the uniqueness of Billings and help protect the environment and beautify neighborhoods
- Encouraging the installation of art in public spaces enhances the places and showcases the talents and diversity of the community
- Enhancing public buildings and spaces to be more efficient in their uses of energy, money, and space is important to having a vibrant and livable City
- Improve the aesthetic appearance of the city entryways and streetscapes in order to complement the Yellowstone Valley's natural beauty

Community Fabric (attractive, aesthetically pleasing, uniquely Billings)

- Developed landscape areas in commercial areas encourage more pedestrian activity and vibrant commercial activity
- Attractive streetscapes provide a pleasant and calming travel experience in urban and suburban neighborhoods
- Outdoor public spaces provide casual and relaxing gathering areas for people
- Planning and construction of interconnected sidewalks and trails are important to the livability of Billings

- Developed parks that provide recreation, special amenities, and active living opportunities are desirable for an attractive and healthy community
- Natural landscapes and parks are important because they define the uniqueness of Billings and help protect the environment
- Landscaping of public rights-of-way and entryways makes Billings more visually appealing to residents and visitors

Strong Neighborhoods (livable, safe, sociable and resilient neighborhoods)

- Zoning regulations that allow a mixture of housing types support diverse neighborhoods
- Walkable neighborhoods that permit convenient destinations such as neighborhood services, open space, parks, schools and public gathering spaces foster health, good will and social interaction
- Safe and livable neighborhoods can be achieved through subdivision design that focuses on complete streets, pedestrian-scale street lights, street trees and walkable access to public spaces
- Neighborhoods that are safe and attractive and provide essential services are much desired
- Zoning and subdivision regulations that utilize Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies result in safer neighborhoods
- Implementation of the Infill Policy is important to encourage development of underutilized properties
- Public safety and emergency service response are critical to the well-being of Billings' residents and businesses

Home Base (healthy, safe and diverse housing options)

- A mix of housing types that meet the needs of a diverse population is important
- Implementation of the Infill Policy is important to encourage development of underutilized properties
- The Housing Needs Assessment is an important tool to ensure Billings recognizes and meets the demands of future development
- Common to all types of housing choices is the desire to live in surroundings that are affordable, healthy and safe
- Planning and construction of interconnected sidewalks and trails are important to the economy and livability of Billings
- Public safety and emergency service response are critical to the well-being of Billings' residents
- Homes that are safe and sound support a healthy community
- Accessory Dwellings provide an important type of affordable housing options
- Energy efficient housing can reduce energy consumption

Mobility and Access (transportation choices in places where goods and services are accessible to all)

- Connecting people to places with transportation choices is vital to the well-being of Billings' residents, businesses and visitors
- Safe and accessible transportation systems benefit everyone's quality of life
- Transit routes to popular destinations and extended route hours are much desired
- Development oriented to transit routes will provide more transportation choices and is preferred

- “Safe Routes to Schools” promotes physical health and reduces vehicle trips, earning parents more time and less costs for transportation
- Planning and construction of interconnected sidewalks and trails are important to the economy and livability of Billings
- On-street bike facilities promote predictability for all users
- Expanded air service ensures that Billings remains a competitive and an accessible destination
- Technology can reduce congestion and facilitate emergency vehicle travel at railroad crossings

Prosperity (promoting equal opportunity and economic advancement)

- Predictable, equitable City taxes and assessments are important to Billings’ taxpayers
- A diversity of available jobs can ensure a strong Billings’ economy
- Successful businesses that balance living wages with economic growth benefit the community
- Community investments that attract and retain a strong, skilled and diverse workforce also attracts businesses
- Retaining and supporting existing businesses helps sustain a healthy economy
- Continued workforce training benefits the community and helps attract and retain businesses
- Strategically placed industrial parks will encourage a more diverse city economy, reduce pollutants and preserve air quality

APPROVED AND PASSED by the City Council of the City of Billings this 11th day of July, 2016.

THE CITY OF BILLINGS:

BY: _____
 THOMAS W. HANEL, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BY: _____
 TONI KEEHNER, DEPUTY CITY CLERK