

# 2019/2020 City Council Priorities

## Quarterly Progress Report

Adopted March 11, 2019 – Quarterly report 7-19-19

HIGH

### Improve the safety of Billings

- 1) Improve law enforcement capabilities (define the goal/set a standard) - *Changed service delivery model to improve coverage and response time (zones). Working with private sector to enhance policing services (EBURD/Clinic). Targeted street crimes and created Street Crimes Unit (SCU). Fully staffed traffic unit, to include K9 augmentation, to address traffic and drug issues.*
  - a. Improve safety ranking among MT and peer cities as defined by FBI stats - *Aggressively targeting violent criminal and drug activity through collaboration (Project Safe Neighborhood).*
  - b. Improve sense of safety in neighborhoods, the downtown, and parks as measured by our National Citizen Survey results - *Implemented Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) in 2019. Augment downtown officers with extra bike officer presence and augmented park officer presence. Accepted fiduciary responsibilities for Yellowstone Connect with a goal to divert people to social services first, before employing enforcement. Attempting to increase presence in neighborhoods with directed patrol. Billings Public Library is continuing to explore how Police and Fire can partner with us for outreach and/or grant opportunities.*
  - c. Expand partnership with addiction and mental health service providers - *Actively involved with Yellowstone Connect. Billings Public Library has created partnerships with local agencies to expand awareness, offer outlets for discourse and is currently working on compiling a list of agencies for patrons looking for resources.*
  - d. Resolve over-crowding issues with incarceration - *Working with social services providers to divert individuals away from the justice system first. Active and consistent dialogue with Sheriff on balancing public safety needs vs YCDF population.*
  - e. Adopt spa/message parlor business license ordinance – *The ordinance has been drafted and we have held two open meetings to discuss the draft ordinance with business owners. The ordinance will be brought to the Council for your review within the next 90 days.*
- 2) Improve fire capabilities
  - a. *Adopt and Implement long range fire master plan*
- 3) Improve safe routes to schools – Medicine Crow – *During the August 19, 2019 City Council Work Session, our staff will be presenting several programs related to safe transportation routes including: safe routes to schools; residential traffic calming; how street design impacts traffic speed and safety.*
- 4) Continue focus on code enforcement - *Code Enforcement continues to operate under very high caseloads on a complaint basis. Coordination between Code Enforcement, City Legal staff and Municipal Court is improving but the complexity of some cases and limited resources means cases are not resolved quickly and neighborhood residents face ongoing problem properties.*
- 5) Investigate adding a 2<sup>nd</sup> full time judge – *Staff presented a report to the city council March 4, 2019 outlining the impacts of adding a 2<sup>nd</sup> full time judge. As of July 12, 2019, we are without a 2<sup>nd</sup> part-time judge. We anticipate Judge Kolar will approach the City Council within the next few months to confirm her appointment for our next part-time judge.*

- ✚ **Implement the One Big Sky Plan** (see City Contribution/Fiscal Gain estimates). - *The Strategy Partners have held several meetings to strategize on how best to move forward. Billings' hosted Lisa Clarke, CEO of Destination Medical Center (DMC) Rochester, July 16 and 17, 2019. Several community meetings, and private meetings were held with Lisa, local developers, Billings Clinic and St. Vincent's to understand how the DMC project has strengthened their local economy. The discussions provided great insight on how to implement our One Big Sky Plan.*

  - 1) Succeed at adopting "Value Capture" legislation (LC1182) – *the 406 Impact legislation failed in committee by one vote. The committee vote was followed by a "blast motion" on the senate floor that also failed by one vote.*
  
- ✚ **Successful 2019 Legislative Session** (see adopted legislative agenda) - *the city council was presented with the legislative wrap-up report on May 28, 2019. We had a face to face presentation and conversation between our lobbyist team and the city council during that meeting.*
  
- ✚ **Advance West-End Reservoir and Water Treatment Plant Projects** – *Project is progressing forward and is on track to be completed as presented.*

  - 1) Complete reservoir 2022 - *the reservoir design is proceeding. Competing land acquisition and will be bringing the buy/sell to City Council in September. On schedule to complete in 2022 (FY 2023).*
  - 2) Complete water plant 2024 - *design consultant has been selected and will be presented to City Council in August for their approval. On schedule for completion in 2024.*
  
- ✚ **Complete Project Re-Code**

  - 1) Adopt in phases
  - 2) Improve impact of casinos through site development - *Proposed new commercial zoning districts rolled out in June partly address this issue. Modifications to the requirements for when a Special Review is required and also new signage regulations are being developed for consideration to address this issue.*
  - 3) Include commercial corridor redevelopment standards - *The new proposed commercial zoning districts for the arterial corridors are designed to address redevelopment that better orients buildings to the street frontages, moves parking to the side or rear of the buildings and incorporates other elements to change commercial corridors over time.*
  - 4) Improve housing affordability & racial segregation - *The new proposed residential zoning districts provide a much greater opportunity for housing choices across most districts, with more units allowed in more districts, mixed use options for neighborhoods and accessory dwelling units as a new option to provide choices that cover a wider span of housing costs.*

## MEDIUM

- ✚ **Improve Communication with our citizens**

  - 1) Overhaul City Website - *Representative on Website committee. Police Department operates and manages Twitter and Facebook account. Billings Public Library is currently helping with the redesign of the City website; overhauling the Library website; and leveraging its social media for other City departments.*
  - 2) Improve support and engagement with Neighborhood Task Forces - *The Planning and Community Services Department continues to provide support to the task forces and administer the general fund budget for the task forces, but this item needs further direction from the Council on the long-term expectations of the City-Task Force relationship and support. Police Department has representatives attend all Task Force meetings. Reports, stats, and Q&A.*

*Special presentations upon request. Billings Public Library Director went to all the Neighborhood Task Forces to solicit feedback for the current Library strategic plan. Future visits are currently being planned to share the final document and to solicit more information regarding what services, programs, and resources are needed to meet citizen demands.*

**+ Improve city parks and trails system (quality and quantity)**

- 1) Complete - Centennial Park improvements Phase I – *Phase 1 is under construction. The Friends of Billings Dog Park Committee donated \$80,000 to cover the cost of the off-leash dog area fencing and drinking fountains.*
- 2) Complete - Coulson Park Master Plan – *The Coulson Park Master Plan project is in progress. Our consultant has finished their research and site analysis and are currently working on several concepts. In the near future, these concepts will be reviewed by our steering committee, stakeholders and the general public to seek their comments and input.*
- 3) Complete Castlerock Park improvements – *The proposed budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) included a new master plan for Castlerock Park. The master plan was removed from both the CIP and budget. We anticipate adding approx. six acres to the park in a land swap with School District 2 in late 2019. I anticipate readdressing the master plan during the next CIP and relying more on in-house planning skills to augment consulting services.*
- 4) Increase trails investments - *While the City is making some limited progress in construction of separated paths along street reconstruction projects – Midland Road and Central Avenue are recent examples – lack of a dedicated local funding source to enable planning and programming of trail projects is preventing significant trail investments in the community.*
- 5) Increase park investments (taxes/fees)
  - a) Investigate private revenue ideas (cell towers/vender sales/restaurants etc.) – *An agreement was signed with Verizon to locate a cell tower at the fire station in Terry Park. A portion of the revenue from this agreement will go towards purchasing a picnic shelter for Terry Park.*

**+ Advance Airport Expansion Project – completion target 2023** - *The Terminal Expansion Project is moving along with anticipated Phase 1 construction starting September 23, 2019. Phase 1 construction includes a new stairwell on the west end so the EAS operation (Cape Air) can move to that end. It also includes adding roof support columns in the area of the existing concourse deli and the addition of the skylight that will be over the new screening que line. It also includes doing some refurbishment of the basement space below concourse B so that some temporary hold rooms can be used for ground loading. This work will finish up about the time we are ready to start Phase 2 (west concourse and great room area) in March 2020.*

**+ Determine scope of the South Billings Recreation Center** - *The Master Plan and Feasibility Study is going to be presented to the City Council and community in August/September. This will provide the detailed options for developing a project scope and defining the funding sources needed to build a community recreation facility that will benefit Billings, Montana and the Region for years into the future. The City investment in this project must not be underestimated to provide a vital service to the community and place Billings in a position to be the center of recreational and competitive sport activities in the region.*

**+ Transportation System Improvements**

- 1) Billings Bypass Interchange project - *The MPO will be proposing a North Bypass Corridor Study for the FY20 Transportation Planning Work Program that could look at a through c (listed below).*

- a) Zoning of adjacent land
- b) Annexation
- c) Utility extension plan
- 2) Inner Belt Loop – *The Corridor Study for this project is underway and these items are part of the planning discussion and analysis. This study is expected to be completed in early 2020.*
  - a) Zoning of adjacent land
  - b) Right of Way acquisition – *discussions with all property owners on land acquisition. No issues on purchase. Project funding for Phase 1 will be available to start the construction in FY 2022 and Phase 2 in FY 2024.*
  - c) Annexation
  - d) Utility extension plan – preliminary utility layout and design study is complete.
- 3) Molt Road/Highway 3 connector - *Staff has determined it is premature to move forward with an update to the existing feasibility study for this project at this time given other priorities (like the North Bypass Corridor Study) and the 5+ years remaining before significant federal or local transportation project funding will be available for any large community road projects. Staff will bring this information to the Council with the 2020 Draft Unified Planning Work Program in August.*
  - a) Zoning of adjacent land
  - b) Right of Way acquisition
  - c) Annexation
  - d) Utility extension plan

LOW

✚ **Propose long-term solutions to City Hall space issues** – *The draft Request for Proposals was presented to the Council on June 24, 2019. The RFP was released to the public July 18, 2019 and proposals are due August 14, 2019.*

✚ **Research options to creating a Public Information Officer (PIO) type position** – *A full time PIO covering the entire City was not included in the proposed 2020 due to budget constraints. We are exploring contracts for service arrangements to help improve communication.*

#### Ongoing administrative topics

- Franchise fee litigation – *unresolved, several unsuccessful attempts to settle the lawsuit were initiated by the City.*
- Improve financial data analysis – *We introduced several new graphics into the FY 2020 budget to help everyone better understand the city's current and anticipated financial position. Our 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Financial Report (as well as several of the department quarterly reports) are testing more effective ways to show the city's financial position, workloads and accomplishments.*
- Lean 6 Sigma/cost of service analysis – *July 16, 2019 the request for proposals was released to the public. Proposals are due August 9, 2019. The adopted 2020 budget included \$55,000 to complete the service analysis.*
- Request for proposals healthcare/wellness – *This process was completed on June 7, 2019. The City received excellent competitive proposals from both Billings Clinic and Rocky Mountain Health Network. The consultant and staff recommendation will be to remain with Rocky Mountain Health Network. We also have a contract for services with Healthy Is for the City's wellness program. Several changes were made to our wellness program in 2019 to continue to improve the health of our members and families.*

- Tax Increment Finance administrative budgets – *Each of the TIF budgets were reviewed and adopted with the FY 2020 budget process.*
- Classification and Compensation Study – *A classification and compensation study will be conducted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the fiscal year.*

### **Ongoing City Council topics**

- Franchise fee litigation - *unresolved, several unsuccessful attempts to settle the lawsuit were initiated by the City.*
- USS Billings – *Mayor Cole and Deputy Mayor Yakawich have worked tirelessly to raise funding for the USS Billings Commissioning that will take place on August 3, 2019.*
- Meeting length/meeting structure – *In August the Council will review the “order of business” process that is currently specified in Ordinance.*
- Energy Conservation Commission (ECC) – *The ECC was reestablished on May 13, 2019. Applications for the board seats are due July 22, 2019.*
- Tax Increment Finance administrative budget - *Each of the TIF budgets were reviewed and adopted with the FY 2020 budget process.*
- Council compensation – *Ordinance 19-5723 was adopted by the Council on May 28, 2019. Adjusting the compensation for the Mayor and Councilmembers effective December 31, 2021.*
- Ward boundaries – *I’m not aware of any movement on this issue.*