

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM

Hybrid Zoom and In-Person
Billings Public Library, Community Room

April 5, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor/Council (please check) ✓ Cole, ✓ Shaw, ✓ Yakawich, ✓ Neese,
✓ Ewalt, ✓ Joy, ✓ Choriki, ✓ Purinton, ✓ Ronning, ✓ Boyett, ✓ Brown
CM excused: ALL COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

ADJOURN TIME: 8:46 PM

Agenda

TOPIC #1	COVID-19 Update
PRESENTER	John Felton, Yellowstone County Health Officer
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- **John Felton:** Provided a PowerPoint and noted that the State was showing low positive numbers. There were approximately 1,600 vaccination community slots available for the week and he stressed that people need to encourage one another to get vaccinated. He provided the numbers of the different variants identified throughout the State, but that the testing for those was inconsistent.
- Council questions and discussion.
- **Public Comment:**
- **Pam Ellis, 2000 Outlook Drive, Billings, Montana,** suggested that to fill the available vaccination slots, that having appointments others than 8 AM to 5 PM, M-F, as many people are working during those hours and cannot attend.

TOPIC #2	Legislative Updates
PRESENTER	Greg Dorrington and Aimee Grmoljez, Lobbyists
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Chris Kukulski spoke of house bills that he would be testifying for.
- Greg and Amy gave an update on bills being discussed.
- General Council questions and discussion.
- **Public Comment:**
- **Pam Ellis, 2000 Outlook Drive, Billings, Montana,** stated Billings could likely anticipate receiving approximately \$22 million of the ARPA funds based on population.

TOPIC #3	TDS Metrocom, LLC Cable Franchise
PRESENTER	Stacy Tenney, Deputy City Attorney; Josh Worrell, TDS Metrocom and Julie Maiers, Vice President of Marketing
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Stacy Tenney: provided history of initial communication and legislation beginning in the 1930s.
- Josh gave an overview of TDS history, construction impacts, community outreach, sales / marketing approach and next steps.
- General Council questions and discussion.
- Debi Meling, Public Works Director, indicated they would need 3-5 full-time employees to assist with TDS expansion plans.

RECESS: 7:28 PM

RECONVENE: 7:35 PM

- **Public Comment:**
- **None**
- Council continued discussion.

TOPIC #4	Schedule for Budget Meetings
PRESENTER	Chris Kukulski, City Administrator
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Andy Zoeller, Finance Director, gave options to Council for budget meeting dates.
- Council consensus: Option 1 (3 days back-to-back)
- Council questions and discussion.
- **Public Comment:**
- **None**

TOPIC #5	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- CM Ewalt – need accuracy in contracts and agreements before coming to Council Northwestern Energy example. Chris – NWE may be pulling out of lease with City.

- CM Neese – revisit accessibility for public participation.
- CM Purington – should Council respond to emails (example – I 90 bridge protest letters)

TOPIC #6	Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- None