

****ATTENTION****

The City Council meeting will be held in a hybrid format that may include both in-person AND virtual attendance via Zoom. Unless they have cause to appear virtually, Councilmembers will attend the meeting in person in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 220 N. 27th Street. In order to honor the Right of Participation and the Right to Know in Article II, Sections 8 and 9, of the Montana Constitution, the City of Billings and City Council are making every effort to meet the requirements of the open meeting laws.

Citizens are invited to:

- Review the Agenda Packet on the City's website at: www.billingsmt.gov and click on "Your Government," "City Council," and "Agendas & Minutes".
- View the meeting:
 - On Community 7 TV - Channel 7 or Channel 507 -- Spectrum Cable. (*On evenings when there is a conflict with School District No. 2 Board meetings, the City Council meeting will be broadcast on Channel 8 - Spectrum Cable.*)
 - Online at www.com7tv.com and click on the "Watch Live" icon. Community 7 also has links to their Facebook page and YouTube channel.
 - On the City's website at www.billingsmt.gov and click on "Watch Meetings Online" on the homepage.
 - In-Person.
 - Virtually via Zoom (see the link below).

Citizens may submit public comment via the following methods:

- Mail: City Clerk, P.O. Box 1178, Billings, MT 59103
- Email: Council@billingsmt.gov.
 - Emails received after 3:00 PM on the day of the meeting, may be posted on the Council's webpage the following day for public viewing.
- Attend the meeting in person.
- Attend the meeting virtually through Zoom by entering the Webinar ID and Passcode indicated below. Click on *Zoom Meeting Instructions* and *Zoom Hybrid Meeting Details* below for more information. The link will allow you to attend, view and participate in the meeting on your computer, laptop or smart phone. (You must have the Zoom App on your device [Click Here to Download Zoom App](#)) To provide public comment at the appropriate time, click on the "raise hand" icon located at the bottom of the screen and the moderator will unmute your device.
 - **Don't have a smart phone, computer or laptop?** That's okay -- you can attend a Zoom meeting using your **landline phone**. Call the Zoom phone number, 1.253.215.8782 to join the meeting and follow the operator's instructions. Want to give public comment? Simply "*raise your hand*" by pressing *9 and the moderator will give you permission to speak when it is your turn. **Note this is a long distance toll number and charges may apply depending on your plan.*
- Click Here for [Zoom Meeting IDs and Passcodes](#)
- Click Here for [Zoom Meeting Instructions for Attendees \(as guests\)](#)

Please contact Denise Bohlman, City Clerk, at bohlmand@billingsmt.gov, or at 406.657.8210, with any questions.



VISION STATEMENT:
"The Magic City: A diverse,
welcoming community
where people prosper and
business succeeds."

WORK SESSION AGENDA

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MARCH 20, 2023

5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Cole

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ALL ITEMS. This is the time to comment on any matter (Agenda or Non-Agenda) falling within the scope of the Billings City Council. There will also be time in conjunction with each agenda item for public comment relating to that item. You may only speak once for each item during the meeting.

Please note, the City Council cannot take action on any item of significant interest to the public that does not appear on the agenda. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes during each public comment period or as set by the Mayor. **Speaker sign-in required.** Please sign the roster at the cart located at the back of the Council chambers or at the podium.

1. **Federal Lobbyist Introduction.**
(Presented by: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator)
-Public Comment
2. **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.**
(Presented by: Elyse Monat, Alternative Modes Coordinator)
-Public Comment
3. **Council Retreat Preparation.**
(Presented by: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator)
-Public Comment
4. **Legislative Session Updates.**
(Presented by: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator)
-Public Comment
5. **Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest.**
(Presented by: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator)
-Public Comment

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

PUBLIC COMMENT on "NON-AGENDA ITEMS". **Speaker Sign-in required.** *(Restricted to ONLY items not on this printed agenda. Comments are limited to 3 minutes or as set by the Mayor. Please sign the roster at the cart located at the back of the Council chambers or at the podium.)*

ADJOURN:

Note:

- This meeting is an "informal" meeting of the City Council. The content of the Agenda is subject to change at the meeting.
- In the event there is a Closed Executive Session, the sole purpose is to discuss litigation strategy. The other parties to the case(s) discussed are not public bodies or associations as described in Section 2-3-203(1) and (2), MCA. The meeting is closed, as allowed by Section 2-3-203(4) (a), MCA, "to discuss a strategy to be followed with respect to litigation when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the litigating position" of the City of Billings.

City Council Work Session

Date: 03/20/2023
Title: Introduction of Federal Lobbyist
Presented by: Toni Keehner
Department: City Hall Administration
Presentation: Yes
Legal Review Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION

The purpose of the discussion is to introduce Greg Burns and Jim Davenport, Thorn Run Partners to Council.

BACKGROUND (Consistency with Adopted Plans and Policies, if applicable)

In June 2022 the city signed a contract with Thorn Run Partners (TRP) for federal lobbyist services. The purpose of the contract is to improve the city's success at securing federal dollars to help augment local tax revenues to serve Billings. The enclosed presentation provides background on TRP and the work that has been done so far to help the City.

ALTERNATIVES

City Council may:

- Approve; or,
- Not Approve

FISCAL EFFECTS

Our contract with TRP costs \$90,000 annually. Over the next three budget cycles we hope to secure several times this investment in federal dollars.

Attachments

Thorn Run

City of Billings, Montana

Federal Advocacy Update



Thorn Run Partners

March 20, 2023

THORN RUN PARTNERS



About TRP

- Founded in 2010 as boutique bipartisan lobby shop
- Grown to 40+ person government affairs and strategic communications firm
 - #7 lobbying firm by *Politico*; “Top Lobbyists” by *The Hill*
 - Top-15 “Standout Firm” out of 2,095 Federal lobbying firms reviewed by *Bloomberg* in 2021
 - Consistently one of the fastest growing firms
- ~245 clients in the corporate, association, non-profit, education, and public sector spaces



Local Government Practice

- More than a century of combined experience
- Represent 40+ local governments in CA, FL, KS, MT, OR, and TX
 - Have represented some clients for more than 20 years
 - Large, urban communities to small, rural areas
 - Handle a wide variety of complex issues and projects
- Delivered significant funding + impactful policy wins on behalf of clients
- Deep Capitol Hill and Administration relationships
 - Shared among partners in a collaborative firm structure, rare for the consulting world
 - We pride ourselves on offering both political heft and substantive policy expertise



TRP Team

- 40+ person bi-partisan firm with significant expertise to enhance our work
 - Former House and Senate Chief's of Staff
 - Former House and Senate Appropriations Committee staff
 - Former House T&I Staff Director, Senate Staff Directors
 - Former Federal agency staff
 - Congressional Black Caucus, Blue Dog, and Republican leaders/fundraisers
 - Collectively, hundreds of years as successful lobbyists

- **Relevant Practice Areas**
 - Local government issues
 - Appropriations
 - Grants

- **Administration Engagement**
 - Nearly all Federal agencies
 - Office of Management and Budget
 - White House staff

- **Key Congressional Relationships**
 - House, Senate Leadership
 - Key Congressional Committees
 - Bi-partisan team



117th Congress in Review

Aside from the Democratic-only Inflation Reduction Act, Congress passed several bipartisan legislative “wins” over the past two years.

**BIPARTISAN
INFRASTRUCTURE
LAW**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PHOTO: Construction site with a crane and a white bus.

WRDA
Water Resources Development Act of 2022

**The CHIPS and
Science Act**

**NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT**
Fiscal Year 2023

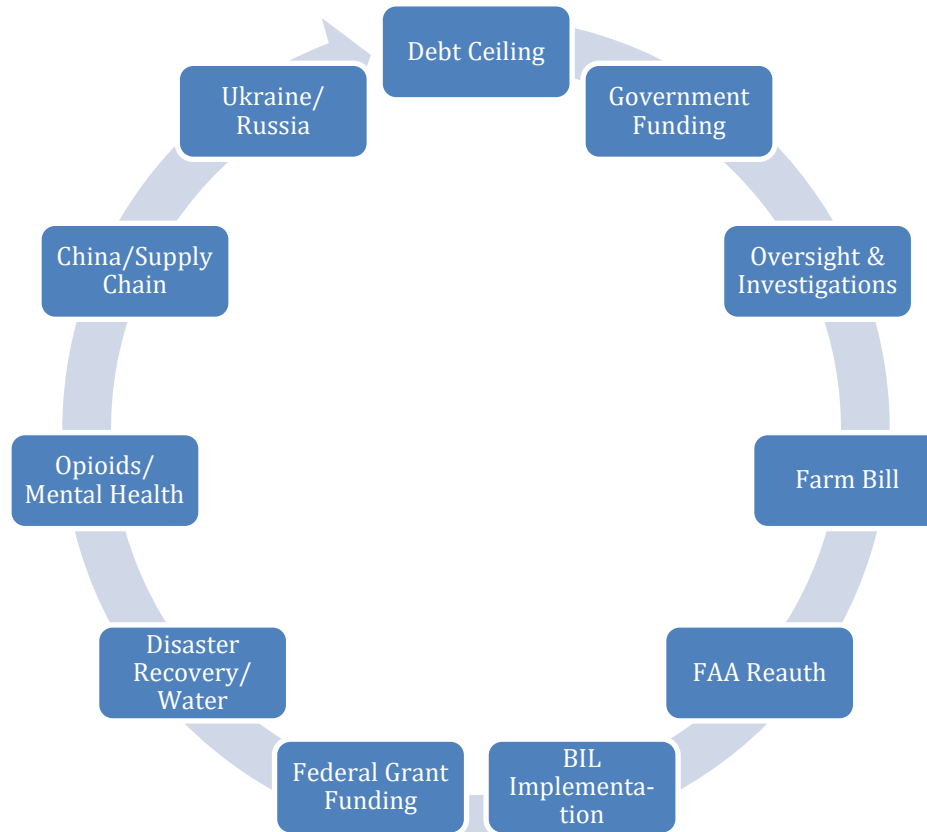
BREAKING NEWS
CONGRESS PASSES BIPARTISAN GUN SAFETY BILL

OSRA



WHAT TO WATCH IN 2023

Despite the return to divided government, these policy issues will drive congressional activity for the 118th Congress.



Efforts on Behalf of Billings

- Met extensively with City Leadership and Department Heads to discuss opportunities/challenges
 - Public Works, Police, Fire, Airport, Transit, and Parks
- Engaged with Congressional delegation on key City issues
- Facilitated meetings with important Federal agencies
- Discussed numerous opportunities with City
- Strategized for future efforts



Next Steps

- Visit the City
- Prepare for upcoming opportunities
 - Public Safety
 - Transportation – future RAISE or other applications
 - Transit – funding for buses or bus facilities
 - Airport – Airport Improvement Program and FAA Reauthorization (Passenger Facility Charge Increase)
- Further investigate legislative concerns/opportunities



Questions?

Thank you!



City Council Work Session

Date: 03/20/2023
Title: Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Annual Presentation to Governing Bodies
Presented by: Elyse Monat
Department: Planning & Community Services
Presentation: Yes
Legal Review Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION

No action is needed on this item. It is an informational presentation only.

BACKGROUND (Consistency with Adopted Plans and Policies, if applicable)

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) will give its annual presentation to the City Council. BPAC is composed of 7 volunteer members, 3 appointed by the County, 3 appointed by the City, and 1 appointed by the Planning Board. The purpose of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is to advise the City Council, Mayor, County Commissioners, Planning Board, and all departments and boards of the City and County with regard to non-motorized transportation matters. The presentation will cover what BPAC does, public comment trends, achievements in the past year, and considerations for moving forward.

ALTERNATIVES

This item is a presentation only. No action is needed on the item.

FISCAL EFFECTS

There are no fiscal effects. This item is an informational presentation only.

City Council Work Session

Date: 03/20/2023
Title: Retreat Preparation
Presented by: Toni Keehner
Department: City Hall Administration
Presentation: Yes
Legal Review Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION

I will provide an update on retreat preparation - homework for the retreat may be assigned!

BACKGROUND (Consistency with Adopted Plans and Policies, if applicable)

The city council, department directors and key community stakeholders will be meeting from 1:00pm -7:00pm, Friday, March 31 and 8:00am-1:00pm Saturday, April 1 at 201 N. Broadway to advance our work to improve the health and safety of Billings. Most of our work will focus on two of the five strategies the council adopted after our 2022 retreat (Improving safety and investments into parks, recreation and trails).

ALTERNATIVES

NA

FISCAL EFFECTS

Priceless!

Attachments

Adopted CC Strategies

Adopted 2022/2023 City Council Strategies and Priorities

May 9, 2022

Vision: The Magic City - A diverse welcoming community where people prosper, and business succeeds.

Core Values:

- ❖ Collaboration: We commit to provide opportunities to achieve common goals through positive communications and interaction with individuals, and with public and private organizations.
- ❖ Integrity: Through accessibility and transparency, we earn the trust of the community to which we are responsible.
- ❖ Service: We deliver services with courtesy and respect while meeting our customers' needs.
- ❖ Stewardship: We plan and manage resources effectively, responsibly, and efficiently.

Mission: To deliver cost effective public services that enhance our community's quality of life.

Improve the safety of Billings

- Complete implementation of the Center for Public Safety Management (CPSM) police and fire operations analysis recommendations. 2022.
- Implement code enforcement, legal, municipal court, mental health and substance abuse strategies as described during the 2021 public safety levy. 2022/2023.
- Report data measuring the effectiveness of the 2021 public safety mill levy and the criminal justice system at the city, county, and state levels. 2022/2023
- Collect data and pursue legislation and local regulations to limit the number, and improve the effectiveness of, sober living housing and their impacts on neighborhoods. (Green - council approved initiatives) 2022/2023
- Collect data and pursue legislation and work with the Department of Corrections (DOC) to limit the number of probationers, parolees released into Billings and the number of inmates held in the jail. 2022/2023

Invest in core infrastructure

- Complete airport terminal reconstruction project, building Montana's greatest airport. 2023
- Complete City Hall/Law and Justice Center project to include a COVID 19 memorial. 2023
- Break ground and complete construction of inner-belt loop and Skyline trail projects. 2022/2023
- Break ground on water treatment plant and reservoir projects and determine funding for the park components of the reservoir. 2022/2024
- Analyze and determine land use and infrastructure policies to serve the inner beltloop and new interchange areas. 2022 (funding does not exist beyond the corridor studies ~\$100k)
- Determine 21st Street underpass upgrades to improve downtown transportation system. 2023

Increase parks, trails, recreation, and cultural investments

- Determine level of capital investment to be proposed to voters in 2023 for the multi-generational recreation center and a corresponding strategy for executing on those capital investments.
- Determine level of capital investment to be proposed to voters in 2023 for additional park and trail development and a corresponding strategy for executing on those capital investments.
- Determine level of maintenance and operation expenses for parks, trails, and recreation facilities to be proposed to voters in 2023 to meet the needs of our community long term.

Improve the built environment through quality design

- Develop strategies to stimulate infill and redevelopment throughout the city's business and residential districts. 2022/2023
- Implement the downtown transportation plan/one way street conversions and road diets. 2022/2023
- Develop a housing strategy in partnership with HomeFront and facilitate 1,000 housing units being added to the city's core. 2022/2023
- Complete a review of the 2016 growth policy. 2022
- Update 1 neighborhood plan annually updating all 8 plans over the next decade.
- Update subdivision regulations. 2022/2023

Build a high-performance organization (HPO) principled in our core values

- Complete organizational review of the city's vision, mission, and core values. 2022
- Complete staff analysis of how to determine the scope and cost to conduct cost of services studies to better understand cost of delivering police, fire, parks, recreation, trails, storm water, water, wastewater and transportation services and infrastructure to make more informed decisions. 2022
- Adopt legislative priorities for the 2023 session focused on improving the safety and economic stability of Billings.
- Create Council sub-committees to focus attention on state legislation and improve collaboration with Yellowstone County. 2022
- Improve the effectiveness of council work sessions, policy implementation and communications. 2022
- Digitize all essential records for proper storage and access by citizens and staff. 2022/2023
- Improve public engagement.
- Systematize a regular review of all ordinances by each department, on a schedule to be determined by administration. 2023
- Establish a City Charter Review Committee. 2022