

Agenda Items

City of Billings
Legislative Report
Twelfth Week of the Montana Legislative Session
March 24, 2017

The Senate Finance Committee conducted hearings on HB 2 this week, as part of the session-long effort to adopt and pass a budget (HB 2) acceptable to the Governor and the Legislature. The HB 2 general fund budget as proposed by the Executive is just over \$4 billion, a decrease of about 0.5% from the 2017 biennium appropriation. The House approved the general fund budget of \$4.02 billion contained in HB 2 on a party-line vote of 59 to 41 on March 16th. HB 2 is slightly more than the 2017 biennium appropriation with different allocations than the proposed Executive budget, and includes an ending fund balance of \$140 million (the Governor's ending fund balance would be \$300 million).

Also, this week, the House Appropriations Committee heard, amended, and passed a series of infrastructure bills, including HB 5 (long-range building), HB 6 (renewable resource grants) and HB 11 (treasure state endowment program). Other infrastructure bills are being discussed for bonding some or all of certain projects.

As of today, 1129 bills have been introduced, of the 2598 filed bill draft requests. For this Report, in addition to the budget, the following topics and bills are highlighted:

- Local Government Optional Tax Authority: SB 331, sponsored by Sen. Mike Phillips, would grant authority to cities and counties to adopt a local option luxury tax upon voter approval. This Bill was heard in Senate Taxation Committee on Mar. 16th. Assistant City Administrator Bruce McCandless testified at the hearing in support of the Bill. If adopted, the revenue must be used for "critical infrastructure projects" and must include property tax relief. A very similar local option tax authority bill, HB 577, sponsored by Rep. Dave Fern, was heard Mar. 14th in the House Taxation Committee. The City supports these Bills.
- Infrastructure Funding: The Governor's budget includes \$292 million for identified projects. HB 473, sponsored by Rep. Frank Garner, passed on 2nd Reading on March 23rd, by a vote of 56 to 44. The Bill would increase the statewide gasoline tax by 8 cents per gallon, providing about \$35 million in new revenue for State highways and about \$24 million in new revenue for local government streets and roads. In addition, the Billings Area Legislative Delegation is unanimously supporting an additional \$5 million for the MSUB Science Building. This funding is expected to be included in HB 5 or some other infrastructure bill being considered by the Legislature. The City will support bills to fund infrastructure, including HB 473.
- Tax Increment Finance: HB 134, which would have decreased the value of TIFDs by removing the 95 school mills from TIF calculations, has been amended to eliminate that provision. The Bill passed the House as amended. However, HB 573, sponsored by Rep. Rob Cook, would also remove the 95 mills from the TIF calculation for TIFDs established after the law's adoption. It has also passed the House. The City opposes this bill because

it would reduce TIF revenues and limit the tool's effectiveness. Many of the potentially harmful provisions in other bills will be consolidated in a proposal for an interim study of TIF. The City should support this bill because it gives all cities an opportunity to inform Legislators about TIF and to be part of any proposals for the 2019 Session.

- SB 72, sponsored by Sen. Pat Connell, is a firefighter presumptive illness bill. The City of Billings has opposed other presumptive illness legislation; however, this Bill restricts the covered diseases and is funded by the State. The Bill passed the Senate, but was tabled in House Business & Labor Committee on Mar. 15th. The City is monitoring this Bill.
- SB 151, sponsored by Sen. Dee Brown, would add a new legislative interim committee for local government topics. It has passed the Senate and the House. Local government matters are now part of the combined Education & Local Government Interim Committee. The City supports this Bill.
- SB 189, sponsored by Sen. Keith Regier, provides that lack of action of a property owner may not be considered as support for the creation of a special district. It passed the Legislature this week and has been transmitted to the Governor. The City opposes this Bill.
- SB 231, sponsored by Sen. Roger Webb, would designate Airport Road in Billings from Main Street to the Airport as the "Senator Conrad Burns Memorial Highway". It passed the Senate and was "concurring in" by the House Transportation Committee on Mar. 14th. The City supports this Bill.
- HB 44, sponsored by Rep. Jeff Essmann, has been amended to three (instead of five) new State District Judges (2 in Yellowstone County, and one in Missoula County). The Bill passed the House. It has passed 2nd Reading in the Senate and rereferred to the Senate Finance Committee. The City supports this Bill.
- HB 61, sponsored by Rep. Frank Garner, would revise the allocation of 9-1-1 fees and provide for Next-Generation 9-1-1 services. It passed the House. It was heard in the Senate Energy & Telecommunications Committee on Mar. 14th. The City supports this Bill.
- HB 83, sponsored by Rep. Bryce Bennett, revises, corrects, and modifies election laws passed in the 2015 Session. It passed the House. It was amended and passed in the Senate. The amended Bill has been returned to the House. The City supports the Bill as amended.
- HB 261, sponsored by Rep. Frank Garner, extends the statutory appropriation for public libraries. It passed the House, and also passed the Senate on March 23rd. The City supports this Bill.
- HB 442, sponsored by Rep. Virginia Court, would provide a tax exemption for public parks operated by not for profits organizations. It was tabled on Feb. 23rd, but was reconsidered, and passed the House this week. The City supports this Bill.
- HB 509, sponsored by Rep. Jimmy Patelis, would designate 6 miles of Interstate 90 between mile 445 and mile 451 in Billings as the "Deputy Sheriff David L. Briese, Jr. Memorial Highway". The Bill passed the House, and was "concurring in" by the Senate Highways Committee on Mar. 21st.

In future reports, I will identify other topics and bills which have been filed of interest to the City of Billings. I look forward to discussing these and other legislative matters with you. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like information on any topic or bill.

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City of Billings

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Engineering Division

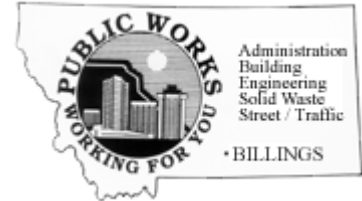
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Memorandum



To: Mayor and City Council
From: Dave Mumford, Public Works Director
CC: Christina Volek, City Administrator
Date: March 23, 2017
Re: WO 16-09 Grand Avenue Project Bid Letting

Bids were opened for W.O. 16-09, Grand Avenue Widening, on March 21, 2017. There were three bids for the project and the apparent responsible, low bidder is Knife River - Billings. The bids were as follows:

	Schedule I	Schedule II	Additive Alternate 1	Total Bid
Knife River - Billings	\$458,912.60	\$2,030,029.25	\$185,491.50	\$2,674,433.35
LGI Construction	\$511,545.00	\$2,151,762.75	\$224,835.00	\$2,888,142.75
CMG Construction	\$557,190.00	\$2,741,719.00	\$171,733.00	\$3,470,642.00

For council item 1.A.1, staff recommends council award W.O. 16-09 Grand Avenue Widening to Knife River – Billings in the amount of \$2,674,433.35.

Other Items



April 2017



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

Social Event Calendar

*Approval Pending

For questions or details:
wellbrooks@ci.billings.mt.us

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
							1
Purple 5k Downtown 5am-1pm	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Scheels Run for Ryan Westend 8-11am	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30						



May 2017



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	1	2	3	4	5	6
					Cinco De Mayo Downtown 5pm-10pm	Run for Life Westend 6am-1pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					Mt. Women's Run Downtown 5am-noon	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Run for Heaven's Sake Westend 7am-11am						
28	29	30	31			