



OFFICE OF
THE CITY MANAGER
MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 9, 2017
TO: Mayor Smith and City Council Members
FROM: Richard Marsh, City Manager
RE: City Manager's Weekly Report

This is the weekly report for the week ending February 10, 2017.

- **PROJECT STATUS REPORT**

Attached please find the updated Project Status Report for the week ending 02/10/2017 for your review.

- **2017 ACMA WINTER CONFERENCE**

Last week I attended the 2017 ACMA Winter Conference in Sedona from 02/01/17 – 02/03/17. It was a very interesting event, and I had the opportunity to meet a lot of great people. I attended several workshops that were very informative. We discussed the current State economic updates, legislative updates and forecasting, ethical leadership, managing a multi-generational workforce, performance improvement techniques, and long-term forecasting,

- **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

During the legislative update discussion I participated in at the conference, several bills were discussed that impact the City of Bisbee and our operations.

- HB2143 – Public Contracts; Procurement
 - The Association of General Contractors claimed they wanted to reinvent the relationship between contractors and cities, but this bill would nearly eliminate street maintenance done by cities. This would be particularly

troublesome to rural areas as it lowers the threshold for bidding out from \$216,000 to \$25,000, potentially causing delays and extra costs to outsource the work. It appears our call-to-action was effective since the bill has been removed from this week's committee agenda.

- HB2179 – Municipalities; Counties; Intergovernmental Agreements; Requirements
 - Limits intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) to eight years and requires a majority vote of the governing body of a municipality or county to extend the IGA. In addition, on the effective date of this legislation, all existing IGAs must be reviewed and reaffirmed by a majority vote of the governing body. (Update as of 01/25/17: HB2179 passed the House Local and International Affairs Committee by a vote of 4-3. The bill proceeds to the Rules Committee).
- HB2213 – GPLET Reform; K-12 Taxes
 - GPLET, one of the few economic development tools available for use by cities and towns, currently allows for 8-year tax abatement for development projects. Rep. Leach has called for a stakeholder's meeting to discuss the reform of GPLET contracts, both those existing and future ones. We will work to protect the system while addressing possible reforms.
- SB1025 – Public Entities; Absolute Immunity; Defenses
 - This bill would extend the absolute immunity for liability in light rail claims to streets, roads and highways. It was introduced in response to a claim following a fatal accident that would require roads to be constantly upgraded to the latest construction standards regardless of the standards in effect at the time of construction. The League supports this bill.

A few of the above bills, if passed, have an adverse effect on the City's ability to perform services to the community and operate in a fiscally responsible manner. Currently, the City of Bisbee does not have a lobbyist fighting on our behalf in the State Legislature to advise them that these bills they are introducing have an adverse and negative impact on our rural community. Monica Flores recently suggested a possible method of getting our "Legislative voices" heard is for Mayor and Council to draft and send an official letter to the Legislature advising them of our opposition to each of these bills and relaying to them the adverse impact the passage of these bills would inflict on the City of Bisbee.

Whatever method we choose to pursue, I'm sure you'll agree we should have our "voices" heard and fight for the benefit of our citizens and the betterment of our City.

- **CHAT WITH THE CITY MANAGER**

At the Chat with the City Manager meeting this week, I received a large amount of positive feedback on all the amazing work the Friends of the Bisbee Pool are doing to raise the funds to keep our community pool open. Additionally, I have received much positive feedback and gratitude from members of the community for the City's commitment to help contribute to the cost of staffing the Pool.

Additionally, several citizens voiced their concern and inquiries on the blight and abandoned vacant properties and the status of the Non-profit and the City's condemnation process. Currently, we are waiting for the Non-Profit to receive their 501C3 status from the IRS. Police Chief Echave is also in the process of compiling a list of potential abandoned vacant properties as possible candidates for the Condemnation List.

This is a perfect example of the resolve of the citizens of Bisbee to come together and work toward the betterment of our community.

- **PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Attached, please find the monthly reports for the month of January 2017 for the Public Works and Community Development departments for your review.