FOR YOUR INFORMATION…

I would like to connect with as many Billings residents as possible regarding some emergency decisions I recently made with the support of the members of the Board of Aldermen.

I am the second person within the past couple of weeks connected with City Hall who has now tested positive with the Covid-19 virus. I am pleased to say that both of us are on the way to recovery. However, as we all know, when someone is tested positive there are ramifications for many others as well. We have a small city staff with distinct responsibilities. We need to do what we can to avoid more infections that could further complicate our ability to keep city government operating efficiently.

Consequently, for the next few weeks we are going to close the lobby and administrative area of city hall. Available staff will continue to work and be accessible by phone or appointment during regular hours. Also, the drive through window will be open during morning hours, from 8 am to noon, and of course, the drop box in the drive-through is available anytime. We are sorry for the inconvenience, but, again, we feel this is a prudent action for the time being.

Because of the potential shortage of staff and complications caused by recent heavy rains, it was decided not to read water meters in October. For this one month we will bill the same for water and sewer services as for September. This action will be for one month only and the November meter readings will adjust for actual usage in October, and November bills will be adjusted accordingly.

The Board of Aldermen will meet for a special session Monday evening, November 2, at 7 pm. This meeting will be conducted by Zoom technology and will not be an in-person meeting. This special meeting is called to act on bid submissions for our next phase of water and wastewater system improvements. If members of the public would like to “attend,” that can be arranged. Please consult the City’s webpage (billingsmo.com) for instructions as to how to join this meeting.

As we continue to deal with the growing threat of the corona virus to our state and region, may we all be encouraged to take the practical and considerate steps useful in helping contain the spread of this pandemic. It is bad enough to be a victim of the virus personally, but it can even be more disturbing to realize the impact that our actions and vulnerabilities can have on others. Let’s all do what we can to protect the wellbeing of ourselves and others.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

David Rauch, Mayor