



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

## WORK SESSION AGENDA

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**October 17, 2022**

**4:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Cole

Recess to Closed Executive Session at 4:30 P.M.

Reconvened Work Session at 5:30 P.M.

Present: Councilmember Kendra Shaw, Ward I Left at 7:20 PM  
Councilmember Ed Gulick, Ward I  
Councilmember Roy Neese, Ward II Arrived at 6:00 PM  
Councilmember Jennifer Owen, Ward II  
Councilmember Denise Joy, Ward III  
Councilmember Danny Choriki, Ward III  
Councilmember Pam Purinton, Ward IV  
Councilmember Mike Boyett, Ward V  
Councilmember Tom Rupsis, Ward V  
Mayor William Cole

Absent/  
Excused: Councilmember Daniel Tidswell, Ward IV

Staff  
Present: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator  
Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator  
Gina Dahl, City Attorney  
Mike Whitaker, Parks and Recreation Director

Public Comment:

- **Wesley Dunn, 832 Dorothy Lane, Billings, MT**, recognized good work from some officers that had recently dealt with an issue at his house.
- **Amber Dunn, 832 Dorothy Lane, Billings, MT**, spoke of safety issues on Dorothy Lane.

There was no further public comment.

### 1. **Multi-Generational Recreation Center**

Dusty Eaton, A&E Design, spoke of project goals, community needs, results of the survey, top priorities for investment and an overview of the community engagement feedback received. He reviewed the proposed plans and costs.

Kevin Armstrong, BRS Architecture, reviewed the design plans.

Jeff King, Ballard Kings Associates, spoke of various models and operation options.

Ryan Murray, ETC Institute, indicated his firm had conducted the statistically valid survey.

Council spoke of management options, energy efficiency, costs, membership fees, and programming options.

Mike Whitaker, Parks and Recreation Director, spoke of Parks programming and community needs.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, spoke of costs for the community and how the requested mills would affect the average median homeowner.

Council discussed how the county residents would utilize the center, local sales tax options, and crime prevention.

Public comment:

- **Dawn Githens, 3126 Harrier Lane, Billings, MT**, spoke in favor of a recreational center.
- **Heather Hasiak, 6607 O'Donnell Lane, Billings, MT**, spoke in favor of the recreational center.
- **Shawn Seedhouse, 104 N. Broadway, Billings, MT**, spoke in favor of the recreational center.
- **Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Lane, Billings, MT**, spoke of the core committee wishes for the center and proposed costs.
- **Jim Tevlin, 2404 Quinn Haven Drive, Billings, MT**, spoke of the need for the project to have a champion to handle outreach.

There was no further public comment.

Dusty Eaton continued speaking of plans and costs for the project. He reminded Council this was the concept design that Parks and Recreation had approved to be presented to Council.

Council discussed the possibility of cost estimates broken down by programming, how the decisions for the current plans were made, infrastructure improvements and site location.

Break at 7:51 PM. Reconvene at 8:00 PM.

## **2. Park Operations and Development Tools**

Mike Whitaker, Parks and Recreation Director, reviewed Park operations and development tools and funding. He gave a schedule of the upcoming presentations and indicated there could be a public vote summer of 2023.

Councilmember Rupsis discussed the Comprehensive Plan for Parks that showed operations efficiencies, ways the community could help. He spoke of costs, revenues and opportunities for public donations.

Council discussed parkland, park maintenance districts, surplus parkland, and difficulty with the donation process.

Public comment:

- **Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Lane, Billings, MT**, spoke about people moving here for competitive sports opportunities. He discussed the City remaining "tax friendly".

There was no further public comment.

Council discussed how the fees would vary between City residents versus County residents. They spoke of parks inefficiencies and possible improvements.

## **3. Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest**

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, recommended removing the SportsPlex item from the October 24, 2022 agenda. Mayor Cole suggested touring the SportsPlex.

Public comment:

- None

## **COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

Councilmember Owen questioned the plan for a Lake Elmo Road discussion. Mr. Kukulski indicated Public Works had recently sent an email and work continued.

Councilmember Purinton indicated there were other areas in town with speeding and traffic issues and suggested the City set recommendations and priorities.

Councilmember Choriki indicated the Community Transportation Safety Plan was in the final draft stage. He spoke of the need for a community organization to look at data regularly.

Councilmember Purinton wanted to schedule a CPACE discussion with County. Include commercial bankers, developers and Seth or Adam from Helena on Zoom. Chris Kukulski asked for clarification on who should facilitate. He suggested a Council committee and/or Big Sky Economic Development (BSEDA) to spearhead it going forward. Council concurred that BSEDA would be appropriate. Councilmember Gulick indicated BSEDA already involved. Councilmember Choriki indicated the School District City/County Board meeting was coming up and encouraged Council to attend. Mr. Kukulski indicated they could ask CPACE to be added to the agenda.

**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.)*

- **Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Lane, Billings, MT**, spoke of the SportPlex and indicated it was a conflict of interest to have SBURA buy it.

There was no further public comment.

**ADJOURN:** 9:15 P.M.