



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

WORK SESSION SUMMARY

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

November 7, 2022

5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Cole

Present: Councilmember Kendra Shaw, Ward I
Councilmember Gulick, Ward I
Councilmember Neese, Ward II
Councilmember Jennifer Owen, Ward II
Councilmember Denise Joy, Ward III
Councilmember Danny Choriki, Ward III
Councilmember Daniel Tidswell, Ward IV
Councilmember Pam Purinton, Ward IV
Councilmember Mike Boyett, Ward V
Councilmember Tom Rupsis, Ward V
Mayor William Cole

Absent/
Excused:

Staff

Present: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator
Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator
Gina Dahl, City Attorney
Andy Zoeller, Finance Director
Pepper Valdez, Fire Chief
Tina Hoeger, Code Enforcement Manager

Public comment:

- **Lionel Tapia, 241 Parkhill Drive, Billings, Montana**, support the 27th Street path along Airport Road.
- **Jonna Jablanski, 2104 Wingate Lane, Billings, Montana**, need for increased traffic safety near Poly Drive Elementary School.
- **Ethan Kanning, 2309 Nina Claire, Billings, Montana**, traffic issues in their neighborhood and encouraged support of traffic calming in the area.
Jaqueline Garcia, 836 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana, drug issues.
- **Amber Dunn, 832 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana**, need to protect children.
- **Wesley Dunn, 832 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana**, bullying issues.

1. Public Safety update.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, gave an overview of the presentation process.

Pepper Valdez, Fire Chief, gave an overview of Priority Dispatch, numbers for calls for service, AMR service agreement, Crisis Response Unit (CRU), Mobile Response Teams (MRT's), and CPSM progress.

Tina Hoeger, Code Enforcement Manager, gave an overview of Public Safety Mill Levy (PSML) staffing, Code Enforcement assignments, costs, and abatement process improvements. She gave an update of nuisance properties since January 2022.

Gina Dahl, City Attorney, gave an overview of PSML funding for proposed increases in staffing, caseload numbers per prosecutor, and domestic violence cases referred versus cases filed. She spoke of space issues and how it hindered hiring.

Rich St. John, Police Chief, gave an overview of PSML and CPSM recommendations, obligations and implementation. He reviewed the strategic objectives, division activity, calls for services, violent property crimes, and arrests/cites. He spoke of partnership highlights, Council query and follow up topics and warrant information.

Council discussed the city's crime rate, jail capacity issues, warrant processes, specialized and patrol units. They discussed domestic violence issues and how the City could better handle those situations.

Council discussed Code Enforcement abatement processes, staff training and appropriate ways to direct calls/emails.

Tina Hoeger, Code Enforcement Manager, gave an overview of the process for abatement, possible ordinance changes, training and welcomed calls and emails.

Public comment:

- **Amber Dunn, 832 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana**, spoke about safety issues.
- **Jaqueline Garcia, 836 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana**, spoke of how police handle Ring videos and how minors obtain marijuana.

Council discussed community public safety outreach, hiring, and moving staff into the Stillwater building. They spoke of marijuana mitigation such as potency, driving issues, minor use, and addiction issues.

Recess at 7:02 pm. Reconvene at 7:14 pm.

2. FY24-FY28 Capital Improvement Plan.

Andy Zoeller, Finance Director, gave an overview of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for fiscal years 2024-2028. He reviewed what qualified as a Capital project, project category totals, CIP by funding source, and department summaries. He reviewed projects for the following departments: Airport, MET Transit, Facilities, Parking, Parks, Recreation and Cemetery, Transportation, Solid Waste Storm, and Utility.

Council discussed funding sources.

Councilmember Shaw asked if the aquatic study for South Park could happen more quickly.

Mike Whitaker, Parks Director, indicated the aquatic study was very important and an engineer had recommended some repairs to the pool. He recommended waiting for the study but could try to speed up the process.

Mayor Cole discussed Centennial Dog Park, Dehler Park turf replacement, parking below Kelly mountain, and new park development projects.

Council discussed parks projects, funding, bonding concerns, Centennial dog Park sidewalks, cash in lieu funds for department comp plan updates, and satellite facilities.

Councilmember Gulick spoke of grant funded projects and the 5th Avenue Corridor.

Wyeth Friday, Planning Director, spoke of the estimate to expand the project and gave an update on the project.

Council discussed the Stagecoach Trail project. Mr. Friday gave an overview of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and how it would work for the Stagecoach Trail project. He indicated the TAP was increasing in funding.

Council asked for update on Grand Avenue improvements, 2-way conversion on downtown streets, stop signs versus traffic lights, neighborhood bike ways and safe routes to school.

Debi Meling, Public Works Director, indicated urban funds were earmarked for the MPO and could then be allocated and added to the CIP. She explained the benefits of 2-way conversions. She indicated there may be benefits in removing traffic lights and replacing them with stops signs and some plans that were in process.

Public comment:

None

3. Crime Improvement through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, gave an overview of the CPTED principles and ways the City could decrease crime through design and planning.

Public comment:

None

4. Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, covered upcoming topics.

Public comment:

None

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

None

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.)*

None

ADJOURN: 9:48 P.M.