



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

WORK SESSION AGENDA

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

November 21, 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: All present

Staff
Present: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator
Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator
Gina Dahl, City Attorney
Andy Zoeller, Finance Director
Mike Whitaker, Parks and Recreation Director
Kory Thompson, Parks Recreation Superintendent
Mike Pigg, Parks Superintendent
Mark Jarvis, Parks Planner

Public comment:

- **Wesley Dunn, 832 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana**, spoke of gun control.
- **Amber Dunn, 832 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana**, spoke of concerns with the Police Chief.
- **Jacquelyn Garcia, 836 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana**, spoke of criminals needs stricter
- **Morgan Tuss, TrailNet**, asked for funding support for trails.
- **Sharice Williams, 3815 Tommy Armour Circle, Billings, Montana**, asked for funding to be spread out over the City and encouraged support for Cottonwood Park funding.

1. Equipment Replacement Plan (ERP).

Derrick Miller, Street/Traffic Superintendent, gave an overview of the ERP Committee, plan overview, deferred equipment and costs, equipment transfers, and the replacement summary.

Andy Zoeller, Finance Director, spoke of ERP funding and introduced the ERP Committee members that were in attendance.

Council discussed funding options for Public Safety radios, life expectancy adjustment policy and upcoming expenses.

-Public comment: None

2. Parks, Recreation and Trails Funding.

Mike Whitaker, Parks and Recreation Director, gave an overview of Park Development, funding issues, and recommendations.

Kory Thompson, Parks Recreation Superintendent, spoke of Parks vision for the future.

Mike Pigg, Parks Superintendent, spoke of the 2017 Comprehensive Parks Maintenance Division funding and the 2011 Area Trail Asset Management Plan.

Mr. Whitaker reviewed recommendations for a fully funded department and benefits of fully funding Parks. He spoke of completion of 4 community parks; Cottonwood Park, Castlerock Park, Poly Vista Park Centennial Park and Coulson Park. He reviewed plans for multi-generational community recreation center funding, Stagecoach Trail, Billings West End Reservoir and an indoor tennis/pickleball center. He indicated Parks was recommending a General Obligation bond and mill levy.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, reviewed the goals and timeline for the Parks Department.

Council discussed including the tennis/pickleball court being included in the rec. center, trail funding, bond and mill levy funding, and median housing numbers.

Mark Jarvis, Parks Planner, explained how master plan numbers were reached.

Council continued discussion about staffing for parks maintenance and operations, park maintenance districts, and maintaining and finishing existing parks.

-Public comment:

- **Tom McLaine, Parks and Recreation Board**, spoke of Parks opportunities and encouraged Council support.
- **Kristi Drake, Billings TrailNet and Bicycle Pedestrian Committee**, spoke of the needs for additional trails and reviewed the results of a recent survey.
- **Paige Spalding, no address given**, spoke about the need for development at Cottonwood Park.
- **Steve Shandera, 1109 North 31st Street, Billings, MT**, spoke of developing the trail from the valley to the Rims.

Council discussed current bond rates, parking for parks, funding for trails, private entity involvement, park district funding, voter ballot and funding options.

Andy Zoeller, Finance Director, gave an overview of the City's options for bonding and the ballot process.

Council asked for clarification on parks funding and new development. Mr. Whitaker indicated there would still be the potential for neighborhood parks paid for by developers.

Recess at 7:44 pm. Reconvene at 7:52 pm.

3. Capital Improvement Plan – Parks and Recreation.

Andy Zoeller, Finance Director, gave an overview of the Parks and Recreation CIP, Park District 1 projects, recommendations from Parks and Recreation department and recommended changes. He reviewed new park development projects that were not in the CIP.

Mike Whitaker, Parks and Recreation Director, reviewed plans for the Multi-Generational Community Recreation Center, Park, Recreation and Cemetery projects.

Council discussed bonding options and parks funding sources. There was discussion about PD1 funding not being appropriate for parks master plans.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, spoke of completed parks plans and prior Council approval for projects. He indicated it would be a waste to not adopt the recreation center plans.

-Public comment: None

Mr. Kukulski spoke of park funding and various challenges. He spoke of Dehler Park and the agreement with the Billings Mustangs.

4. Council Property Initiative – GIS Map Walk-Through.

Andy Zoeller, Finance Director, gave an overview of how staff had determined whether property was potentially available for sale. He reviewed how the website worked and meaning of various colors on the map.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, spoke of the need for clarification and amendments to the ordinance regarding property sales.

Council discussed various locations, the process of moving forward with sales and the possibility of requesting staff to add additional information to the map. Council indicated agreement with allowing staff to bring forward changes to the ordinance to allow an easier sales process.

-Public comment: None

5. Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, reviewed upcoming items to Council.

-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: 8:54 pm