



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

WORK SESSION SUMMARY

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
220 N. 27th St.

January 3, 2023

5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Deputy Mayor Boyett

Present: Councilmember Kendra Shaw, Ward I
Councilmember Gulick, Ward I
Councilmember Jennifer Owen, Ward II
Councilmember Denise Joy, Ward III
Councilmember Danny Choriki, Ward III
Councilmember Daniel Tidswell, Ward IV (Via Zoom)
Councilmember Pam Purinton, Ward IV
Councilmember Mike Boyett, Ward V
Councilmember Tom Rupsis, Ward V

**Absent/
Excused:** Mayor William Cole
Councilmember Neese, Ward II

**Staff
Present:** Chris Kukulski, City Administrator
Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator
Gina Dahl, City Attorney
Lora Mattox, Planner
Scott Walker, Transportation Planner
Wyeth Friday, Planning Director
Sheila Kolar, Municipal Court Judge

Public comment:

- **Amber Dunn, 832 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana,** spoke of Dorothy Lane issues.

Councilmember Purinton asked for clarification on the process of dealing with problem houses with high crime calls.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, spoke of plans for a multi-jurisdictional program to increase safety.

Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator, spoke of the City's process of dealing with problem locations.

1. Billings Community Transportation Safety Plan.

Lisa Olmsted, DOWL Public Involvement Manager, gave an overview of the Community Transportation Safety Plan (CTSP), process, the team members involved, 2016 vision and goal. She reviewed the crash data, a 5-year comparison, public engagement process, and safety strategies.

Lora Mattox, Planner, gave an overview of the study process, goals, and public involvement for

community influence. She reviewed safety recommendations and showed maps of proposed planning.

Council discussed crash data compilation, distracted driving, bicycle and pedestrian numbers, Federal and State government involvement, and funding.

Public comment:

- **Jacqueline Garcia, 836 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana**, commended the Police Department for doing a good job monitoring traffic. She suggested the School Resource Officer (SRO) monitor street traffic.
- **Wesley Dunn, 832 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana**, spoke about general criminal activities.
- **Amber Dunn, 832 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana**, spoke about additional teaching through the Driver's Education program.

2. **Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Announcement.**

Lora Mattox, Planner, spoke about the funding that used to be available for the City to use for non-motorized projects. She indicated the recent bipartisan infrastructure bill had made \$6.3 million in funding available and the City would begin accepting applications. She spoke of the program funding and potential projects.

Public comment:

- None

3. **Billings Bypass Corridor Study.**

Scott Walker, Transportation Planner, gave an overview of the study.

Lisa Olmsted, DOWL Public Involvement Manager, gave an overview of the Billings Bypass Corridor Study process, goals project overview, public involvement, speed limits, and intersection traffic control. She reviewed the recommended nonmotorized facilities, map of existing nonmotorized and transit facilities and recommendations.

Council discussed the public's opinion on the project.

Mr. Walker indicated the public reaction had been positive once the road issue was addressed.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, referenced page 29 regarding utilities, and suggested a change in terminology. He suggested all future development should be on municipal water and sewer utilities.

Council spoke of ways to work with the County, zoning/annexation options, and development options.

Wyeth Friday, Planning Director, spoke of the agreement and issues that staff would be working on to clearly define the annexation area. He indicated staff was trying to come up with ways to create a cohesive land use plan between the City and County.

Public comment:

- None

Council spoke of the importance of providing City water and sewer services to the area.

Councilmember Shaw made a motion to add language to the agreement that encouraged future development connect to municipal services. Unanimously approved

Recess at 7:40 pm. Reconvene at 7:48 pm.

4. Municipal Judges' Salaries.

Gina Dahl, City Attorney, spoke of the recent Council action amending the code to allow the hiring of a 2nd Municipal Court Judge. She reviewed the proposed salary, increases per term. She gave an overview of the State Statute which tied a Municipal Court Judges salary to a District Court Judges salary.

Sheila Kolar, Municipal Court Judge, encouraged Council to approve a competitive salary to entice qualified candidates. She reviewed case loads for the City compared to other cities and

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, spoke of the importance of the position and encouraged a competitive wages.

Council discussed caseloads, job criteria, State Legislature salary requirements, and ways to innovate the current court system.

Mr. Kukulski spoke of the current step process the City used for wages, annual adjustment rates and market analysis. He indicated the need for changes to remain competitive in the market.

Ms. Dahl explained the State statute regarding Municipal Court salaries.

Public comment:

The following individuals spoke against the increase:

- **Amber Dunn, 832 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana.**
- **Wesley Dunn, 832 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana.**
- **Jacqueline Garcia, 836 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana.**

Council continued discussions.

5. Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest.

There were no items.

Public comment:

- 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.)

- **Jacqueline Garcia, 836 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana,** spoke of crime issues.
- **Wesley Dunn, 832 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana,** spoke of Council emails.

ADJOURN: 8:59 pm