



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

WORK SESSION SUMMARY

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
220 N. 27th St.

March 6, 2023

5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Councilmember Kendra Shaw, Ward I
Councilmember Gulick, Ward I
Councilmember Jennifer Owen, Ward II
Councilmember Neese, 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: None

Staff
Present: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator
Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator
Gina Dahl, City Attorney

Public Comment:

- None

1. Crowley Fleck Lobbyist Update (Presented by: Aimee Grmolijez, via Zoom)

Representative Larry Brewster, House District 44, gave a legislative update on the following: HB 269, Disaster Mitigation; HB 355, Infrastructure; methamphetamine bill assigned to Judiciary, Local Government expenditure bill - tabled, referendum on growth policies – tabled; and changing election terms to even years. He asked for Council support on an upcoming bill regarding Park areas around lakes.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, gave an update on City ditch concerns and potential failure.

Representative Yakowich, House District 51, reviewed the duties of serving and thanked everyone involved. He gave a general legislative update on: HB 534, increase in abatements; MT Emergency Rental Assistance; speed up BAC timeframes after vehicle accident; mobile homes; and Department of Corrections pre-release timeframe.

Senator Friedel, Senate District 26, general legislative update about: changing voting terms and election years; Ward Redistricting; remote testimony for attorneys; and sober living housing. He reviewed the duties and process of Senate District.

Council discussed election changes, voter and ballot fatigue, land use, CPS child welfare reform bills, business licensing changes and Legislative next steps.

Aimee Grmolijez, Lobbyist, spoke reviewed the status of current bills and upcoming items. She indicated most items had been included in the report sent to Council weekly.

Councilmember Purinton and Neese spoke of Legislative Committee discussions and indicated they would be sending minutes to the Lobbyists to align direction that Council wanted them to move.

Public Comment:

- **Steve Simonson, Billings Association of Realtors**, spoke in support of HB 819, Work Force Housing.

2. Parks and Recreation Matching Grant Program (Presented by: Mark Jarvis, Parks Planner)

Mark Jarvis, Park Planner, gave an overview of the Parks and Recreation Matching Grant Program objectives, applications, and organizations that applied and remaining funds available.

Council discussed how the funds were used, and website program requirements and guidelines.

Public Comment:

- None

3. Council Calendar and Future Meetings Day (Presented by: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator)

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, spoke of vacating the July 3 Work Session and the need for a Council decision regarding December Council meetings.

Councilmember Rupsis moved to vacate the July 3 Work Session and add a meeting to July 31. He suggested alternating the current pattern to the following schedule:

7/10 – Work Session
7/17 – Business Meeting
7/24 – Work Session
7/31 – Business Meeting

Councilmember Neese seconded.

Council discussed the merits of the various schedules.

Councilmember Boyett made a substitute motion to keep the following schedule:

7/10 – Business Meeting
7/17 – Work Session
7/24 – Business Meeting
7/31 – Work Session

Councilmember Purinton seconded.
Approved unanimously

Councilmember Boyett made a motion to approve the following schedule:

12/18 – Business Meeting
12/25 – Work Session vacated
Councilmember Purinton seconded.
Approved unanimously

Mr. Kukulski spoke of the benefits of moving City Council meeting to Tuesdays starting in January of

2024.

Council discussed the merits of moving the moving the meetings. They spoke of Task Forces, conflicting School Board meetings and staff getting so emails over the weekends.

Councilmember Choriki made a motion to move City Council meetings to Tuesdays.
Councilmember Shaw seconded.

Failed 6-5, Neese, Owen, Tidswell, Purinton, Boyett and Mayor Cole opposed

Public Comment:

- None

4. Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest (Presented by: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator)

Public Comment:

- None

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Councilmember Purinton spoke of moving forward with the sale of city owned properties.

Mr. Kukulski spoke of the reasons for delay and the parcels in question. He indicated the upcoming schedule was not conducive to the amount of staff time selling the parcels would take.

Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator, spoke of the process of putting land up for sale, Councils goal in selling and how they wanted the property to be handled after the sale.

Council Retreat Schedule:

Start Friday: 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM include dinner

Start Saturday: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM include lunch

Councilmember Choriki discussed the southern passenger rail line.

Councilmember Owen spoke of the Skyline/Inner Belt Grand Opening on March 7th.

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: 7:47 PM