



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 20, 2023

5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Cole

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 (Arrived at 6:00 P.M.)
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. Federal Lobbyist Introduction.

Jim Davenport, Thorn Run Partners (TRP), gave an overview of TRP, and team members.

Greg Burns reviewed the 117th Congress accomplishments, upcoming policy issues, efforts on behalf of Billings, and next steps. They discussed topics being brought forward for discussion.

Council discussed mental health issues, 5G small cell towers, affordable housing, land water conservation, and passenger rail services.

Public comment:

- None

2. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC).

Elyse Monat, Alternative Modes Coordinator, introduced Anna O'Donnell and Kristi Drake with Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee members.

Anna O'Donnell gave an overview of the role of BPAC, and how they received and handled public input on nonmotorized transportation needs.

Kristi Drake reviewed the data of trail counts, bicycle lane usage, efforts of the City, County and State in the last year, and strategic projects of BPAC.

Council discussed teaching bike safety and etiquette campaigns, Federal grant dollars available for nonmotorized transportation, and bike share/scooter program options.

Public comment:

- **Jacquelyn Garcia, 836 Dorothy Lane, Billings, MT**, spoke of Main Street and Bench pedestrian traffic and gravel on sidewalks.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, spoke of the City's street/sidewalks sweeping policy and asking businesses to take care of the sidewalks in front of their businesses.

Mayor Cole spoke of an arterial maintenance sidewalk program and sidewalk sweepers.

3. Council Retreat Preparation.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, spoke of the retreat focus: Public Safety voter ballot information, Parks funding options, improving safety, crime prevention, and alignment of action plans. He recommended Council look at the following books and talks: "The Deepest Well"; "Uneasy Peace"; and "Hope Rising". He indicated they could be helpful regarding childhood trauma and mental health issues within the City.

Public comment:

- None

4. Legislative Session Updates.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, spoke of placing Legislative updates on each of the upcoming agendas.

Councilmember Neese provided a Legislative Committee update.

Councilmember Shaw spoke of the benefits of having Legislators come to their meetings.

Councilmember Purinton spoke of proposed Legislative items and how they should align with the City's priorities. She reviewed the status of various bills.

Council thanked Councilmembers for their efforts.

Public comment:

- None

5. Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, spoke of 3 recent accidents where a person running a red light had hit a MET bus. He suggested keeping the traffic cameras bill on mind. He spoke of the upcoming weapons ordinance.

Public comment:

- None

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Councilmember Neese spoke of the City ordinance regarding sidewalk maintenance.

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.)*

- **Sean Callahan, 836 Dorothy Lane, Billings, MT,** thanked Councilmember Neese for his support.

ADJOURN: 7:27 PM