



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

WORK SESSION SUMMARY

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
220 N. 27th St.

April 3, 2023

5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Cole

Roll Call:

Present: Councilmember Kendra Shaw, Ward I
Councilmember Gulick, Ward I
Councilmember Jennifer Owen, Ward II (via Zoom - Absent approximately 6:15-6:35 pm)
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

Guest Speaker: Dave Armstrong, Alternatives, Inc., gave an overview of Alternatives mission, organizational chart, board members, Passages women's center, Alpha House men's center, Beta Jail Alternative's Program. He reviewed the community corrections, financial impacts, recidivism statistics, assessments used in the programs, and various treatment facilities.

Council discussed Alternative's role in the community, violent offenders, mental illness and addiction issues, and how City Council could assist the program.

Guest Speaker: Scott Twito, Yellowstone County Attorney, gave an overview of the Criminal Justice Oversight Council (CJOC), and brief updates on the following: HB 38, theft of a light vehicle; SB 19, disorderly conduct, Sb 89, pretrial diversion; SB 94, recovery residences; SB 95, revisions to theft and property crime laws; SB 96, persistent felony offender under supervision; SB 11, data bill; HB 704, DUI conviction expungement; HB 689, revising probation and parole laws; HB 614, revising youth court act;

HB 661, lethality assessment for certain crimes; HB 639, establishing a measure of recidivism; HB 398, defining recidivism; and HB 399, reporting requirements for child sex cases.

Council discussed jail overcrowding concerns, prison funding, family violence solution, persistent felony offenders with weapons (HB 301) and how Department of Corrections reporting would affect the City.

1. Transportation Improvements Program Amendment 4.

Scott Walker, Transportation Planner, gave an overview of the following projects modified due to changes in funding/scope: Billings Bypass, I-90 Yellowstone River bridges, Main Street/1st Avenue North intersection, Underpass Avenue, Exposition and 1st Avenue N., Zoo Drive, 56th Street West roundabouts, 62nd Street West roundabout, and the Transportation Alternatives program.

Rusty Logan, Transit Manager, gave an overview of changes in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Sections 5307 and 5339. He gave an overview of the following projects modified due to changes in funding/scope: FTA Section 5339, Section 5310 and Transade.

Council discussed combining the map app with the payment app, recent bus crashes, using older buses for Parks and Recreation programs, and upcoming bus schedule revisions.

Public comment:

- None

2. Zoning Text Amendments.

Nicole Cromwell, Zoning Coordinator, reviewed the Billings Zoning Code Updates, new Code 2021 Zoning Maintenance Schedule 12-month report, and the list of proposed amendments.

Recess at 7:30 pm. Reconvene at 7:39 pm.

Council discussed non-conforming uses, bars/casinos, rebuilding process for mixed use zones, and sign rebranding for oversized signs. They spoke of Zoning Commission procedures and zoning items were brought back to Council.

Public comment:

- **Doug Wilde, 4712 Audubon Way, Billings, Montana**, thanked Nicole for her efforts and addressed Council questions.

3. Legislative Session Updates.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, gave an update on the following Legislative topics: HB 534 coming up, HB 865 failed, Public Safety – Recovery residents, and budget.

Public comment:

- None

4. Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, Council retreat details at next Work Session, discussion about strategies and goals from previous year. Upcoming items: budget amendment for Dehler Park, SID

for Charles Street and annexation on Elysian Road.

Public comment:

- None

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

- Councilmember Shaw spoke of Parks and Recreation traveling road show program. Suggested pulling funds from Council contingency funds.
- Councilmember Joy spoke of funding Parks Department, decision on how to prioritize items, specifically on recreation center. Council spoke of the process.
- Councilmember Boyett indicated Dan Clark had suggested Councilmembers not attend Zoning Commission meetings. Gina Dahl, City Attorney, indicated Council should remain impartial in quasi-judicial issues and Zoning Commission meetings included information that was not meant for Council. She indicated watching the meetings but not attending would be fine.

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.)*

- Jason Norman, no address given, attended for more information regarding materials for residential fencing.

ADJOURN: 8:32 P.M.