



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

WORK SESSION SUMMARY

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
220 N. 27th St.

May 9, 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 (on Zoom)
Councilmember Daniel Tidswell, Ward IV
Councilmember Pam Purinton, Ward IV
Councilmember Tom Rupsis, Ward V
Mayor William Cole

Absent/
Excused: Councilmember Mike Boyett, Ward V

Staff
Present: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator
Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator
Gina Dahl, City Attorney
Rich St. John, Police Chief
Pepper Valdez, Fire Chief
Judge Kolar, Municipal Court
Andy Zoeller, Finance Director

Public Comment:

- **Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, Montana**, spoke of having one TIF coordinator for all districts. Need information and task force for Recreation Center.

1. **FY2024 Departmental Budget Presentations.**

Chief St. John, reviewed the FY23/24 Public Safety (PS) Fund comparison, amounts of personal services, and O & M. He gave an overview of the calls for service, PS fund spending, numbers for officers authorized, support personnel and animal control employees. He reviewed some of the department's successes, trends and challenges.

Council discussed the civilian sworn officer program, body camera program, mobile terminals and e-ticketing. Mayor Cole spoke of a rewards program for informants, crime stoppers, etc., jail space communications with the County. St. John indicated grant money was typically used for rewards, and crime stopper programs had slowed. He spoke of a willingness to work with the County on jail issues.

Council asked for clarification on requesting a CPSM review, State data sharing, and community policing. St. John indicated there would be a CPSM review in the future, and there was no current

plan for a data sharing program. He spoke of the community policing program and plans for the future.

Chief Valdez gave an overview of FY2024 personnel numbers, operating budget by Fire Department divisions, mobile response teams and crisis response units. He spoke of the 911 Communications Center, FY23 facility projects, and the new Fire Station 8. He reviewed CPSM recommendations and goals.

Council spoke of a deferred maintenance program, mobile response units and CRU team. Chief Valdez spoke of the multi-step process and hoping to see a community care medicine program. They spoke of the 911 Operations Center flooding concerns. Chief Valdez spoke of plans to address flooding.

Gina Dahl, City Attorney, gave an overview of the Civil and Criminal divisions, current staffing levels, goals and objectives, new positions using PSML funding. She reviewed numbers for: cases opened in the Criminal Division, changes in numbers from 20016 through 2023, average caseload per prosecutor, domestic violence cases referred versus cases filed, public records requests and proposed budgeted expenditures for FY2024. She reviewed some of the State Legislation changes and gave an update on the Franchise Fee case.

Council spoke of pre-trial supervision program, City/County collaboration, staffing issues, possible university partnerships to entice new hires, or hiring a headhunter. They spoke of risk management services, providing proactive services, hiring a code enforcement paralegal position and litigation attorneys for the City. They discussed outside litigation, costs, and the possibility of the City hiring its own litigators. Ms. Dahl indicated it would be difficult to hire litigators to cover all aspects potentially needed and hiring outside counsel with specific expertise on a case by case need worked best.

Recess at 7:47 pm. Reconvene at 7:55 pm.

Judge Sheila Kolar gave an overview of FY2023, Public Safety assessment, upcoming challenges. She reviewed the numbers for: Court budget, Grant budget, workload for the last three years, and court trends. She spoke of numbers for: the Co-Occurring Court program, DUI Court and Drug Court.

Council spoke of non-jail consequences (Sheriff's labor detail), community service, treatment court, open container issues with no consequences, juvenile court programs, and uncollected fines/fees. Council spoke of ramping up the community service programs and how to decrease recidivism rates.

Public Comment:

- **Kevin Nelson, 4238 Bruce Avenue, Billings, Montana**, spoke of quality of life in town and the negative impact crime was having on residents.

2. Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, spoke of upcoming budget meetings and a large number of land use items being split between May 22 and June 12 meetings.

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.)*

ADJOURN: 8:41 PM