



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 15, 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 Mike Boyett, Ward V
Councilmember Tom Rupsis, Ward V
Mayor William Cole

**Absent/
Excused:**

Staff

Present: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator
Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator
John Caterino, Facilities Manager
Jeff Roach, Aviation and Transit Director
Rusty Logan, Transit Manager
Debi Meling, Public Works Director
Jennifer Duray, Public Works Deputy Director
Derick Miller, Street Traffic Superintendent
Kyle Foreman, Solid Waste Superintendent

Public Comment:

- **Walt Donges, 941 Constitution Avenue, Billings, Montana,** spoke of an upcoming Pride event being held downtown.
- **Wesley Dunn, 832 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana,** spoke of crime issues.
- **Amber Dunn, 832 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana,** spoke of code enforcement and crime issues.
- **Jacquelyn Garcia, 836 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana,** spoke of Dorothy Lane issues.
- **Pam Ellis, 2008 Outlook Drive, Billings, Montana,** spoke of Hazel Hunkins, former Women's Rights activist from Billings.

- **Representative Mike Yakawich**, spoke of HB 534, Revising Collections Fines, and thanked Council for their efforts.
- **Kris Glenn, 209 Yellowstone Avenue, Billings, Montana (via Zoom)**, spoke in support of a recycling program.
- **Katie Harrison, 2901 6th Avenue South, Billings, Montana, Sustain Billings**, spoke in support of a recycling program.

1. **FY2024 Non-General Fund Budget Presentations.**

John Caterino, Facilities Manager, gave an overview of the Facilities Division mission, services provided, FY23 highlights, revenue, additional full time employee request, expenditures, and opportunities. He reviewed the remodel at Fire Station No. 8 and FY24 Facilities goals.

Council discussed Facilities role with the Fire Stations, and staffing concerns.

Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator, explained the reasoning behind an increased responsibility with Facilities helping other departments.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, spoke of deferred maintenance challenges and the goal of centralizing facilities.

Public Comment:

- **Wesley Dunn, 832 Dorothy Lane, Billings, Montana**, spoke of staff body language.

Jeff Roach, Aviation and Transit Director, gave an overview of airport accomplishments, enplanement numbers, challenges, air service development efforts, Airport operating and non-operating revenues and expenses. He reviewed Airport capital revenues, expenses covered by grants, revenue funded projects, Covid relief funding and a full-time employee request. He spoke of an upcoming Airport master plan addressing the possibility of a parking structure.

Council spoke of airport leases, airline rates, parking structures, and additional air carriers. They discussed how Billings compared with other cities, and Global Entry options for Billings.

Mr. Roach explained how a customs agent would occasionally come to Billings to process Global Entry applications.

Rusty Logan, Transit Manager, gave an overview of Transit Department achievements and challenges, total ridership numbers and the projected operating budget for 2024. He reviewed expenditures by division, Covid funds, Capital Grants and Capital projects. He spoke of budgeted mills versus anticipated mills and opportunities available with full mill authorization.

Council questioned vacancies and new FTE's.

Andy Zoeller, Finance Director, indicated the new staffing sheets for Airport and Transit had been uploaded.

Council discussed bus routes, fuel savings when utilizing smaller buses, alternative fuel options, and projected changes in personnel.

Recess at 7:30 p.m.

Reconvene at 7:36 p.m.

Debi Meling, Public Works Director, gave an overview of PW responsibilities and annual accomplishments. She reviewed project highlights, spoke of the west end water system and the challenges they had faced in 2023.

Jennifer Duray, Public Works Deputy Director, gave an overview of the following Solid Waste proposed fees: driver rate increases, landfill fees, current residential and non-residential collection fees. She reviewed goals and the recommended residential pay as you throw (PAY-T) program.

Council discussed landscaping efforts on Shiloh and status of the drop off center.

Derick Miller, Street Traffic Superintendent, spoke of the challenges with the landscaping in the roundabouts and future efforts.

Kyle Foreman, Solid Waste Superintendent, indicated the drop off center would be opening this week.

Council discussed Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles being implemented in PW projects. Ms. Meling indicated 3 staff members were being sent to CPTED training.

Council discussed proposed FY24 utility rates, lower maintenance landscaping, and the possibility of public infrastructure attacks.

Ms. Meling explained staff was looking into various options for landscaping. Ms. Duray spoke of utility rates and indicated steps were in place to protect against attacks such as maintaining separate firewalls, etc.

Public Comment:

None

2. FY2024 Solid Waste Rates.

Jennifer Duray, Public Works Deputy Director, gave an overview of Solid Waste FY24 proposed fees to include: rate increases for drivers, fuel, vehicle parts/labor, Billings Operation Center (BOC) land purchase, personnel and capital requirements. She reviewed landfill fees, non-residential, current residential collection fees and the Pay as you Throw (PAY-T) program.

Kyle Foreman, Solid Waste Superintendent, discussed goals, the realities of recycling and next steps. He spoke of the realities of extras, amount of staff time, workers comp, and the inefficiencies of sending staff back for extra trash pickups.

Ms. Duray spoke of recommended steps: 2 sizes of containers, max of 2 black and 2 green containers, no charge at landfill, cardboard only at the curb, bulky/special pickups continue, and community events for leaves and spring pick up.

Council discussed subsidized charges, cardboard on curbs flying away with wind, lack of public meetings, sustainability and lower than average costs.

Mr. Foreman addressed the cardboard concerns and why costs were lower than average. Ms. Duray indicated staff had been discussing the changes with various groups and received mostly positive feedback.

Council discussed the City's recycling capabilities and various options available.

Public Comment:

The following constituents spoke in support of recycling:

- **Margaret Beeson, 643 Burlington, Billings, Montana.**
- **Walter Gulick, 2018 12th St. W., Billings, Montana.**
- **Ali Pistora, 1035 Avenue F, Billings, Montana.**
- **Randy Hafer, 702 N. 23rd St., Billings, Montana.**
- **Addison Sessions, 1117 N. 32nd St., Billings, Montana.**
- **Carmelita Dominguez, 4440 Laredo Place, Billings, Montana. (via Zoom)**

- **Anne Holub, 2924 Ronan Drive, Billings, Montana, (via Zoom) spoke of concerns with green barrels being put in with regular trash.**

Council continued discussion.

3. Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, highlighted items for Council on upcoming agendas.

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 theroster at the cart located at the back of the Council chambers or at the podium.)

- None

ADJOURN: 9:59 P.M.