



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

WORK SESSION SUMMARY

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
220 N. 27th St.

August 7, 2023

5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Cole

Present: Councilmember Gulick, Ward I
Councilmember Jennifer Owen, Ward II - Arrived at 5:39 P.M.
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:** Councilmember Kendra Shaw, Ward I

**Staff
Present:** Chris Kukulski, City Administrator
Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator
Gina Dahl, City Attorney
Lora Mattox, Planner
Rusty Logan, Transit Manager
Mike Pigg, Parks and Recreation Director

Courtesies: Mayor Cole welcomed members of the USS Billings and Ron Spence, Friends of USS Billings President, introduced the crewmembers. They took a photograph of crew and Council.

Public comment:

- None

1. 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Lora Mattox, Planner, gave an introduction of the 2024 draft UPWP, work elements, funding sources, funding sources and comparisons. She gave an overview of 2023/2024 priorities.

Rusty Logan, Transit Manager, gave an overview of 2023/2024 required plan updates for Transit and the draft 2024 UPWP review schedule.

Council discussed transportation bill funding, planning expectations, and staffing for the transit department.

Rusty Logan indicated staffing was better than previously reported. He spoke of the Transit Department entry level training program to help drivers achieve their Commercial Driver's License.

Council discussed the increase in funding for bus bench advertising.

Public comment:

- None

2. Parks, Recreation, and Trails Bond Resolution.

Councilmember Rupsis had made an initiative to direct staff to prepare a resolution related to the parks, recreation, and trails bond issue that would outline the agreements and commitments made by the City and private partners and to provide guidelines regarding decision making for future Councils. He gave an overview of the proposed changes made to the resolution, which was available through Council email. He reviewed each section of the resolution and the new language proposed.

Council discussed capital construction and financing, capital campaign, ways the money could be spent.

Steve Arveschoug, Big Sky Economic Development, explained the role of the boards in funding parks and campaigning.

Steve Wahrlich, Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID), explained their vote and how TBID could assist with promotion, marketing and operations.

Councilmember Owen expressed concerns with TBID's role and possible budget issues. Gina Dahl, City Attorney, indicated after reviewing statutes she was comfortable with TBID's role and purpose. She stated the resolution may need to be slightly amended.

Council discussed donations, funding and potential adopt a park projects.

Mike Pigg, Parks and Recreation Director, spoke of the volunteer/outreach coordinator's role in the program and possible costs.

Mayor Cole spoke of pledges by various programs for the recreation center.

Council discussed surcharges, plans for the recreation center, GO bond and various funding options. They reviewed the language regarding steering committees and proposed changes to the resolution.

They spoke of concerns with portions of the resolution regarding conflicts of interest.

Recess at 7:37 P.M.

Reconvene at 7:45 P.M.

Council continued discussion on: public meetings, minutes, locations, noticing, etc.

They discussed language changes for the Recreation Center Management portion of the resolution, including: naming rights, sponsorship, advertising, revenues and operating costs, inflationary increases, facility surcharges, etc.

CM Owen spoke of the importance of transparency in the City's role in campaigning and expressed concerns. Council discussed Montana Code and how it governed the City during public informative meetings.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, spoke of the importance of City resources being used appropriately, the budget allowance for educational campaigns, and staff attendance at committee meetings.

Public comment:

- Jack Jennaway, Chamber of Commerce, spoke affirmatively of the proposed changes.

3. Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, briefly reviewed upcoming agenda items.

Public comment:

- None

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

CM Neese spoke of the Legislative Committee meeting with Legislators on August 9 at 11:00 am.

CM Owen questioned when there would be an update from Federal Lobbyist. Chris Kukulski - September 11.

Mayor Cole – lunch with USS Billings Crew and Senator Tester. Spoke about BBWA concerns and West End Water Reservoir.

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: 8:43 P.M.