



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

WORK SESSION SUMMARY

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
220 N. 27th St.

September 5, 2023

5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Cole

Present: Councilmember Kendra Shaw, Ward I
Councilmember Gulick, Ward I (arrived at 5:50 P.M.)
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
Mayor William Cole

**Absent/
Excused:**

Staff

Present: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator
Gina Dahl, City Attorney
Denise Bohlman, City Clerk
K.C. Williams, Emergency Management Director
Brandon Schmidt, Cemetery Supervisor
Jason Banfield, Assistant Fire Chief of EMS (via Zoom)

Public comment:

- None

1. National Incident Management System (NIMS).

K.C. Williams, Emergency Management Director, presented various dates for Council and staff to attend NIMS training. Council discussed availability and decided on October 18, 2023.

Public comment:

- None

2. Community Provider Programs.

Amanda Stronerock, Stonerock Business Solutions, spoke of the work between Continuum of Care (CoC) and Substance Abuse Connect (SAC). She spoke of partners involved (CoC, Head Start, Inc., Alternatives, and Rimrock Foundation) Funding requested for 1 year to allow time to bridge the gap between the CoC and SAC. She reviewed the funding available and how it would be used. Ginger

Goes Ahead, Mobile Crisis Clinician Rimrock Foundation, reviewed the role of the program, and potential impacts on the community. Dave Armstrong, Alternatives, reviewed their role in the community and funding needs.

Amanda reviewed the request from CoC: increase in FTE's, a coordinated entry system and the impact of funding on the community. Janice King, Head Start, reviewed the funding request for early childhood education and the impact that would have.

General Council questions. Why the change in the request for the Crisis Response Unit (CRU) program? Ginger: sustain clinician and care coordinator salary. Medicaid only pays 23-28% of billables, need 60% to sustain.

Questions on CoC funding. Amanda: State not funding Billings CoC in 2023. Working on options. Kari Boiter, CoC, reviewed numbers for people that exited the program into permanent and temporary housing.

Council discussion and questions. Requests written response to funding numbers from Rimrock Foundation for CRU.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, reviewed FY23 Crime Prevention Funds and estimated ending fund balance after: FY24 Crisis Response Units, misdemeanor jail space, Nurse Family Partnership, Domestic Violence/Family Justice Center, and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) expenditures.

Public comment:

- Terri Todd, Gratitude in Action, encouraged City to fund the CoC position. She reviewed numbers from the point in time study and coordinated entry numbers. Coordinated Entry System is vital and funding that person is important.
- Patti Webster, HomeFront, spoke of lack of funding due to changes in rules. CoC partners using own staffing and funding to pull together data through Coordinated Entry Systems. Compare funded coalition to unfunded coalition.
- Kari Boiter, CoC, spoke of the benefits of Head Start and the Nurse Family Partnership.

Jason Banfield, Assistant Fire Chief of EMS, spoke of the delays in hiring the CRU position.

Council discussion on Rimrock request for additional funding. Jason: State funding did not end up being as much as anticipated.

CM Neese Motion: direct staff to refer funding request to Budget Committee, CM Boyett seconded.

Council discussed funding availability and a timeline for Council to receive a recommendation. CM Owen indicated the committee would know a lot more by October.

Recess at 7:13 P.M. Reconvene at 7:20 P.M.

3. Mountview Cemetery Plans.

Brandon Schmidt, Parks and Cemetery Supervisor, reviewed Mountview Cemetery plans for the future, interments data for the last 3 years, budget and revenue, and perpetual care funds. He reviewed results from PLOTBOX (high-definition imagery captured by a drone) merged with GIS overlays. City / County records were uploaded and paired with each grave. He gave an overview of the Patriot Run being held on November 5, and Saluting Branches on September 20. Reviewed improvements needed for: pump station repairs needed and jersey barrier. Spoke of advertising options and potential community events.

Council discussion on prioritization of repairs, safety concerns with the jersey barrier, and upcoming events.

Public comment:

- John Dahl, Dahl Funeral Chapels, expressed concerns with City involvement in merchandizing of cemetery items. Concerns with cremation rate increases. Suggested the use of volunteers for cemetery clean up.

4. City Charter Review.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, spoke of the 2021 Council initiative and the recent State mandated component of Local Government Review.

Council discussion on various forms of government, budgeting amounts and costs for ballot elections, and ballot options. They spoke of Council Operations Committee to discuss ballot language for a dollar figure and the number of people to sit on a citizen's charter review commission. Recommend Council think about charter amendments for the future and start conversations with the community.

CM Shaw Motion: direct staff to meet with Council Operations and Budget Committee (if needed) to research language for ballot regarding budget, a dollar amount and amount of people on commission and take no further action on the 2021 Council Initiative, CM Neese seconded.

Public comment:

- Dave Goodrich, 129 Avenue D, Billings, MT, spoke in favor of creating a committee to address the charter and a Local Government review for City and County.

Council discussion on creating a commission.

Council unanimously approved.

5. Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, spoke of the following upcoming topics: adopted budget, and the public art policy.

Council indicated concern with the upcoming agenda and encouraged Council involvement in 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 the roster at the cart located at the back of the Council chambers or at the podium.)

- None

ADJOURN: 8:45 P.M.