



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

WORK SESSION SUMMARY
MARCH 4, 2024

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
220 N. 27th St.

5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Deputy Mayor Boyett

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 Bill Kennedy, Ward III
Councilmember Scott Aspenlieder, Ward IV
Councilmember Daniel Tidswell, Ward IV
Councilmember Mike Boyett, Ward V
Councilmember Tom Rupsis, Ward V

Absent/
Excused: Mayor William Cole

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

Public Comment

- Jordan Ferguson, Shepherd, MT, spoke about concerns with the proposed Pacific Steel / Shepherd Landfill.
- Anellise Deters, Shepherd, MT, spoke about concerns with the proposed Pacific Steel / Shepherd Landfill.

There were no further speakers.

1. South Billings Urban Renewal Association (SBURA) Update -- Recreation Center Next Steps.

Dick Zier, SBURA, gave a brief overview of SBURA request to move forward with researching options for the Recreation Center funding.

General questions from Councilmembers. Resources needed from the City? No.

Zier: Upcoming projects update. Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, no approval needed to access budget for this study. Mike Pigg, Parks and Recreation Director, aquatic feasibility study coming and will combine with Rec. Center.

Council discussed SBURA funding.

Public Comment

- Dawn Giffins, Billings, MT, spoke about the aquatics side of the center. Rocky Mountain pool being filled in within 2 years.
- Stefan Catterin, Billings, MT, supportive of next steps. Will help community and tourism.
- Evan Decker, Visit Billings and Chamber of Commerce, cannot formally endorse until a plan is brought forward.
- Andrew Houlihan, SBURA board member, SBURA investing \$20-30 million towards center.
- Kevin Nelson, Billings, MT, lack of community engagement first time. Suggests all revenue from TIF goes toward center.

There were no further speakers.

Council consensus: encourage SBURA to move forward and bring good ideas back to Council.

2. 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Lora Maddox, Planner, gave an overview of estimated revenue by source, notable projects, and funding sources.

Council discussion on projects and schedules.

Rusty Logan, Transit Manager, gave an overview of MET Transit updates, Federal Transit Administration Section 5307, Urbanized Areas; 5339 Grants for Buses; 5310 Human Services Needs; and Transade.

General council questions regarding: Long Range Transportation Plan, Expedition Drive project, Inner Belt Loop traffic and the 21st Street underpass.

Public Comment

- Kevin Nelson, Billings, MT, general comments on the TIP.

3. City Council Retreat Discussion.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, reviewed the location, start time and agenda for the City Council and Leadership retreat.

General council questions. CM Kennedy: would like to discuss affordable housing on lots owned by the City.

Public Comment

- None

4. Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest.

Chris Kukulski highlighted upcoming projects: sale of City Hall and TIF financing for Rockman hotel.

Public Comment

- None

Council Discussion:

CM Kennedy: look at structure of Planning Department.

CM Owen: who is acting director in Planning Department? Kukulski: Lora Mattox and Nicole Cromwell splitting responsibilities. CM Owen: keep Council informed on potential budgetary impacts to ensure full staffing. Katie Nash on cover of Yellowstone Valley Women Magazine. Community involvement needed in Big Brother and Big Sister program.

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.)

- Denver Slater, Billings, MT, crisis center in dire need.
- Kevin Nelson, Billings, MT, community involvement needed to raise money for soccer field.

No further speakers.

ADJOURN: 7:18 pm