



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

WORK SESSION SUMMARY

Council Chambers
220 N. 27th St.

April 1, 2024

5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Cole

Present: 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 Tom Rupsis, Ward V
Mayor Cole

**Absent/
Excused:** Councilmember Kendra Shaw, Ward I
Councilmember Dan Tidswell, Ward IV
Councilmember Mike Boyett, Ward V

**Staff
Present:** Chris Kukulski, City Administrator
Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator
Rusty Logan, MET Transit Manager
Mike Pigg, Parks and Recreation Director
Mark Solberg, Fire Department
Shane Sheldon, Police Department
Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner
Mac Fogelson, Engineer
Lora Mattox, Planner
Kory Thompson, Recreation Supervisor
Chris Martin, Recreation Specialist

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ALL ITEMS. This is the time to comment on any matter (Agenda or Non-Agenda) falling within the scope of the Billings City Council. There will also be time in conjunction with each agenda item for public comment relating to that item. You may only speak once for each item during the meeting.

- Doug Osbourne, 2523 Longfellow, Billings, MT, spoke of homicide in county and public safety.
- Jim Nichols, 239 Beverly Hills, Billings, MT, spoke in support of Stagecoach Trail.
- Zachary Dowell, 4449 Ridgewood Lane S., Billings, MT, in regard to two-way street conversion, design of two-way cycle track should be modified.

1. Chase Hawks Memorial Association

Teddi Vogel, Chase Hawks Memorial Association Executive Director, general information regarding Chase Hawks.

Jennifer Saylor, Chase Hawks Board Member, general information about events, annual Burn the Point parade and car show.

Alex Tyson, Visit Billings, in support of Chase Hawks events. She reviewed the economic impact of the Chase Hawks Memorial Association and gross economic output of Burn the Point and the Chase Hawks Rodeo.

Chris Kukulski, general comments about Burn the Point and parade route. Importance of allowing MET Transit to continue routes during parade. City committed to working out a solution to allow parade.

CM Aspenlieder, general comments regarding association and change in parade route. Importance of communication.

Rusty Logan, working on plan to allow arrivals and departures of MET buses. Ridership growing. Good communication with Chase Hawks.

General Council discussion. Rusty - increase in staffing and costs.

Public Comment

- None

2. Heroes 4 Hoodies MOU

Ken Callahan, Hoodies 4 Heroes President, presentation on proposed Veteran's Monument Project, monument, past projects. Reviewed goals, project progress, letters of support, and committee members. Outlined process: park site selection, project scope, parks research. Dehler Park selected for monument with list of Montanans killed in action engraved. He spoke of next steps.

CM Aspenlieder spoke of his company's participation but indicated there were no financial effects. Would not recuse himself.

Mike Pigg commented on revised MOU.

Council discussed costs, timeline, and location.

Public Comment

- None

3. Unmanned Aerial System (Drone) Program

Mark Solberg, Fire Department, gave overview of background, uses, training and notable deployments. He spoke of inter-agency cooperation and BBWA ditch monitoring uses.

Lt Shane Sheldon, Police Department, gave an overview of drone use for the Police Department. He spoke of legal allowances for drone use, and positive public input.

CM Owen highlighted privacy issues. Council continued discussion.

Public Comment

- None

4. Safe Routes to School, Phase 2 (SRTS)

Elyse Monat gave an overview of the SRTS Advisory Committee members, project status/next steps, schools involved, outreach and public engagement. She spoke of data collection, plan documents and recommendations based on prioritized project lists and their impacts.

Mac Fogelson spoke of implementation, preferences (public middle schools or private schools) and how to integrate with upcoming Transportation Master Plan, funding and economics.

Council discussed Washington School closure, concerns with approving the SRTS before the Transportation Master Plan, land use, traffic concerns and usage numbers.

John Halverson, Sanderson Stewart, discussed planning and land use.

Lora Mattox spoke of concerns with delaying approval and how that may affect upcoming plans and federal funding.

Elyse answered questions regarding transportation project funding and indicated most federal dollars were not granted until the plans had been approved. She spoke of the disclaimer included in the plan allowing flexibility.

Mac spoke of private contribution dollars and how Public Works handled new routes. He spoke of how traffic studies and waivers would play a role in SRTS.

Mayor Cole spoke of concerns with the 20-year waiver process.

Public Comment

- None

5. Parks and Recreation Spring/Summer Programs

Kory Thomson gave an overview of staff, Recreation Department responsibilities, programs, 1st half highlights. Chris Martin spoke of miscellaneous programs and operations and explained the shift in recreation priorities to allow more unique programs to reach all demographics. Second half, new programs, and future plans.

Council discussed fee structures, the registration process for the disadvantaged population, and the scholarship programs. Council commended staff on their efforts.

Mike Pigg invited Council of Eclipse Day at Castle Rock Park.

Public Comment

- None

6. Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest.

Chris Kukulski - budget review and adoption and land use.

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: 8:18 P.M.