



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

WORK SESSION SUMMARY

Council Chambers

April 15, 2024

5:30 P.M.

220 N. 27th St.

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 Bill Kennedy, Ward III
Councilmember Scott Aspenlieder, Ward IV
Councilmember Daniel Tidswell, Ward IV (Via Zoom)
Councilmember Mike Boyett, Ward V
Councilmember Tom Rupsis, Ward V
Mayor William Cole

Absent/
Excused: None

Staff
Present: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator
Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator
Gina Dahl, City Attorney
Shelie Kolar, Municipal Court Judge
Katie Heller, Municipal Court Judge
Nicle Cromwell, Zoning Coordinator
Mike Pigg, Parks and Recreation Director

Public Comment

- Ion Young, 2238 Larchwood Lane, Billings, MT – spoke in support for the Yes for Safe Schools Levy Campaign.

1. Community Impact of Legalized Marijuana

Ben Cort, Consultant, gave a general presentation on effects of cannabis use, increased mental illness, statistics, suicide rates, and caps on THC levels.

General questions from Councilmembers: prevention messaging, measurement allowances, and County versus City providers.

Public Comment

- None

2. CGL final report - Municipal Court and Justice System Operational Review

Paul Vlnar, CGL Project Manager, gave a presentation of findings, approach and methodology, issues and recommendations, jail capacity, automation and information sharing, and court process.

Jeff Fine, CGL Consultant, reviewed issues noted and strategies recommended. He reviewed suggestions: implement a second judicial division, increase new City Hall security, and implementation recommendations.

Paul Thomas, CGL Consultant, gave a general overview of the final report and court efficiency opportunities.

Judge Kolar – comments on what portions have already been implemented, judge collaboration opportunities and trainings.

Gina Dahl – comments on recommendations for the Legal Department regarding automation and information sharing, jail capacity and enhancing justice and efficiency.

General questions from Councilmembers: money needed, working groups, Full Court Enterprise integration.

Chris Kukulski spoke of dollars needed for implementation and expenditures from the Public Safety levy.

Council discussed plans on best ways to proceed, funding based on prioritization of needs, temporary protection order notifications, and CPSM results.

Public Comment

- None

3. Zoning Code Update to Comply with SB 245 (2023)

Nicole Cromwell gave an overview of Legislative changes, proposed zoning text amendments and Senate Bills 245, 323 and 528. She reviewed the changes the City would need to make to conform with the Legislative changes.

General questions from Councilmembers: residential unit numbers allowance, administrative relief, facade requirements, and parking requirements.

Public Comment

- None

4. Disposal of Lampman Park

Mike Pigg – gave an overview of Lampman Park valuation and location. He indicated the neighbors had taken a survey and expressed no desire to develop the park due to costs to homeowners. The closest park was Centennial Park and he reviewed options available for further development at Centennial with money received from the sale of Lampman Park.

Chris Kukulski – indicated a proposal from HomeFront may be an option. Council spoke of HomeFront discussion years ago, full-service campus opportunities for affordable housing.

General questions from Councilmembers. General consensus: good idea to move forward with sale, would like to see all options available.

Council discussed options for the neighborhood, the importance of good communication before proceeding, and waivers of right to protest process.

Public Comment

- Steve Simonson, Billings Association of Realtors – discussed community land trust and land lease potential. Work force and affordable housing. Suggested land lease or public auction.

5. Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest.

Chris Kukulski – next few meetings budget focused.

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.)*

- Tim Shay, 3440 Granger Avenue, Billings, MT – dramatic increase in traffic and violators on King Ave., does not seem to be traffic enforcement in the area.

ADJOURN: 8:48 P.M.