



**VISION STATEMENT:**

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

**WORK SESSION SUMMARY**

**Council Chambers**

**May 6, 2024**

**5:30 P.M.**

**220 N. 27<sup>th</sup> 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  
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  
Andy Zoeller, Finance Director  
Gina Dahl, City Attorney  
Sheild Kolar, Municipal Court Judge  
Gavin Woltjer, Library Director  
Jeff Roach, Aviation and Transit Director  
Rusty Logan, Transit Manager

**Public Comment:**

- Jim Downs, 2205 Dahlia Lane, Billings, MT – support of Stagecoach Trail.
- James DeJongh, 910 Nutter Boulevard, Billings, MT – support of Stagecoach Trail.
- Jodie Adams, Billings Tennis Association Board, Pickleball Association, support of indoor tennis and pickleball courts.
- Catherine Card, 2815 4th Ave. S., Billings, MT – need low barrier shelter. Gave Council t shirts reminded them of the needs for the community.

**1. Budget overview**

Andy Zoeller – gave an overview of FY24 accomplishments, budget revenue by class, budget expense by class and overall City budget. Capital projects, operation and maintenance changes, inflation impacts, property and liability insurance, and personnel services. He concluded with an

overview of General Fund, Parks and Recreation and Public Safety expenses, typical residential costs and investment in Council priorities.

General questions by City Council: public safety fund, inflation, state entitlement share funds, and employee increases.

### **-Public Comment**

- None

## **2. FY2024 Departmental Budget Presentations**

### **• Municipal Court**

Judge Kolar – gave an overview of Municipal Court FY2024 recap, fiscal challenges, CGL implementation overview, workload, Court and Grant budgets, and court numbers.

General questions by City Council: judge compensation, moving costs, staffing concerns and technology improvements.

### **• Library**

Gavin Woltjer – gave an overview of the Library revenue, expenditures, fund balance, community impacts and outreach programs. He reviewed Library IT staff, project achievements and upcoming projects.

General questions by City Council: outreach Library branches and interlocal agreement numbers for the Library.

### **• Aviation and Transit**

Jeff Roach – gave an overview of Airport achievements, enplanement numbers, operating revenues, and concessions. He reviewed the Airport operating expenses, revenues, grants, revenue funded projects, Covid relief funds and FY26-30 budget requests.

Rusty Logan – gave an overview of Transit achievements, challenges, MET ridership numbers, and projected operating budget. He reviewed expenditures by division, Capital Grants and Projects, 3 additional full-time requests and FY26-30 anticipated budget requests.

General questions by City Council: advertising, increase in mills, how Federal money would be utilized, and sustainability.

### **• General Fund Administration**

Andy Zoeller – gave an overview of each General Fund Department, Administration, Mayor and Council, Non-Departmental, Finance and Human Resources.

Chris Kukulski – upcoming budget items, additional FTE's for various Departments, Finance and Human Resources needs, Records Management software, etc.

General questions by City Council.

### **-Public Comment**

- Catherine Card, 2815 4th Ave. S., Billings, MT – comments regarding homeless population.

## **3. Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest.**

Chris Kukulski pointed out contract between City/County, 3 more budget work sessions.

**-Public Comment**

- None

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

CM Owen – initiative regarding potential tech education around criminal justice/public safety careers. Have a MOU which formalizes relationship with other stakeholders.

CM Joy – April 22nd meeting regarding housing, need to understand history behind other housing options.

**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 theroster at the cart located at the back of the Council chambers or at the podium.)*

- Kevin Nelson, South Billings Urban Renewal Association (SBURA) – issues with SBURA's agendas and noticing, pay apps pending, no documents, and right to participate.

**ADJOURN:** 9:40 P.M.