



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

**SPECIAL WORK  
SESSION SUMMARY  
May 7, 2024**

**Council Chambers  
220 N. 27<sup>th</sup> St.**

**5:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Cole

**Present:** Councilmember Kendra Shaw, Ward I (Via Zoom)  
Councilmember Gulick, Ward I  
Councilmember Jennifer Owen, Ward II (Via Zoom)  
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  
Pepper Valdez, Fire Chief  
Rich St. John, Police Chief  
John Caterino, Facilities Manager

**Public Comment:**

- Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, MT – SUBURA comments about contracts, free reign, issues with website, meetings and agendas.

**1. FY2024 Departmental Budget Presentations**

**• Fire Department**

Chief Valdez gave an overview of personnel, operating budget, and FY24 highlights. He reviewed the FY24 grants and FY25 goals for Fire and EMS. He concluded with the FY25 Strategic Plan.

General questions from City Council: system development fees, hiring issues, and Fire impact fees, and overdue deferred maintenance.

Chris Kukulski – suggest Council bring back budget amendment for using overtime dollars to cover the cost of approximately \$70,000 for system development fees. Council concurred.

- **Police Department**

Chief St. John gave an overview of the FY25 budget (Public Safety Fund), comparison from last year, personnel, O & M, and key changes. He concluded with a review of positions needed.

General questions from City Council: overtime, personnel concerns, ability to access statistics, and public perception. Addressed system development fees, individual precincts, technology and affirmative recruitment. They spoke of a pilot reward fund, crime rates, and increasing additional officers in the 5-year plan.

Recess at 7:35 P.M. Reconvene at 7:42 P.M.

- **Facilities**

John Caterino gave an overview of the Facilities Division mission, menu of services, highlights. He reviewed the FY25 revenues by department, achievements, and challenges. He concluded with an overview of the S curve (hard service deliverability via CMMS data) and Facilities Division goals for FY25.

General questions from City Council: centralizing facilities, adding additional departments and new City Hall workload.

Kevin Iffland spoke of the Facilities menu of services for departments and plans to proceed with additional responsibilities.

Chris Kukulski spoke of grant opportunities, tax increment financing options, and funding the Babcock theater improvements.

Council discussed appropriating funds for deferred maintenance,

**-Public Comment**

- Kevin Nelson, 4235 Bruce Avenue, Billings, MT – comments on public safety levy and traffic unit, additional comments about traffic.

**2. Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest.**

Chris Kukulski addressed previous evenings Work Session agenda items.

**-Public Comment**

- None

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

CM Rupsis – general budget concepts and public safety fund ending balances.

Mayor Cole – meeting with group of indoor tennis and pickleball advocates. Spoke of school safety levy.

**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.)*

- None

**ADJOURN:** 8:26 P.M.