



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

**SPECIAL WORK SESSION  
SUMMARY**

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

**May 21, 2024**

**5:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Cole

Present: Councilmember Kendra Shaw, Ward I  
Councilmember Gulick, Ward I  
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: Councilmember Jennifer Owen, Ward II

Staff  
Present: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator  
Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator  
Gina Dahl, City Attorney  
Mike Pigg, Parks and Recreation Director  
Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent  
Cole McQuillan, Parks Superintendent  
Andy Zoeller, Finance Director

Public Comment:

- None
- 1. FY2025 Departmental Budget Presentations**
  - **Parks and Recreation**

Mike Pigg, Parks and Recreation Director; Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent; and Cole McQuillan, Parks Superintendent gave a presentation on: departmental goals, new recreation opportunities, and infrastructure upgrades. They reviewed the five-year plan, approved CIP, proposed budget, included spending and unfunded requests, upcoming projects and the total number requested.

General Council questions.

Public Comment:

- Shelli Mann, TBID Board member, spoke of a \$90,000 grant for Stagecoach Trail over 3 years.
- **Legal Department**

Gina Dahl, gave an overview of the City Attorney's FY 25 budget, goals/objectives, achievements, staffing levels, new positions funded with PSML funding, Criminal Division cases opened, average caseload numbers, domestic violence cases referred versus cases filed, public records requests numbers and proposed budgeted expenditures.

General Council questions.

Public Comment:

- None
- **TIF Districts**

Andy Zoeller gave an overview of Urban Renewal Funds, Downtown Revolving Loan, and total budgets for: Downtown Tax Increment, South Tax Increment Fund and East Tax Increment Fund. Downtown Billings Partnership (DBP) strategic opportunities, and FY25 budget.

General Council questions.

Dick Zier, SBURA, gave an update on the new Recreation Center plans.

Council discussed the management plan, public input and free holiday parking. Councilmember Shaw asked for clarification on the entitlement share listed in the budget. Mr. Zoeller indicated the entitlement share was earmarked for Tax Increment Districts and remained the same every year.

Katy Easton, DBA, spoke about the plan to incentivize shoppers with free downtown parking. She also spoke about additional officers downtown for public safety.

Council continued discussion. Mayor Cole requested termination dates and cash on hand be included in presentations for the TIF Districts.

Public Comment:

- None

## **2. Budget Wrap – Up**

Andy Zoeller gave an overview of FY24 accomplishments, overall City budget, a breakdown by class, property tax mill levy, tax revenue and typical residential costs. He reviewed investments in Council priorities, capital projects, operation and maintenance changes, inflation impacts, property and liability insurance, personal services and budgeted revenues.

General questions from City Council.

Councilmember Boyett asked for clarification on the \$200,000 set aside to review public charter. Mr. Zoeller indicated the money could be used for other needs if the vote failed.

Public Comment:

- None

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

Chris Kukulski reviewed upcoming items.

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

None

**ADJOURN: 8:02 P.M.**