



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

WORK SESSION SUMMARY

Council Chambers
220 N. 27th St.

June 3, 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 Jennifer Owen, Ward II (arrived at 5:40 P.M.)
Councilmember Denise Joy, Ward III
Councilmember Bill Kennedy, Ward III
Councilmember Daniel Tidswell, Ward IV
Councilmember Mike Boyett, Ward V
Councilmember Tom Rupsis, Ward V
Mayor William Cole

**Absent/
Excused:** Councilmember Scott Aspenlieder, Ward IV

**Staff
Present:** Chris Kukulski, City Administrator
Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator
Gina Dahl, City Attorney
Mike Pigg, Parks and Recreation Director
Pepper Valdez, Fire Chief
Jaime Fender, Fire Marshall
David Green, Planner
Mac Fogelson, City Engineer

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, Budget and Finance meeting tomorrow and Skyway Drive Ribbon Cutting on June 6. Introduction of new Planning Manager, Anna Vickers.

Kennedy – Wednesday, June 5 is the 110th anniversary of South Park Pool at noon.

Mayor Cole – Council Operations Committee cancelled.

Public Comment:

Denver Slader, 2614 Phylis Lane, Billings, MT – Concerns with Montana Rescue Mission and director.

Catherine Card, 2815 4th Avenue S., Billings, MT – Colonial Apartments and code enforcement issues, Rescue Mission calls for service, and low barrier shelter.

1. Yellowstone River Parks Association (YRPA)

Mike Pigg introduction of YRPA. Carolyn Sevier, Dover Park Manager, gave an overview of the YRPA role and plans. General questions by Council.

Public Comment:

Sue Gilbertz, YRPA Board Member, spoke of a partnership to build connections along the river.

Jill Hickson, YRPA Secretary Board Member, thanked the City for its efforts.

2. Fire Code Adoption

Jaime Fender, Fire Marshall, gave an overview of the 2021 Fire Code Adoption process, current International codes adopted, current Fire Codes adopted, and concerns defined. He concluded with the request that the Fire Code adoption process be changed from City Ordinance to Administrative Order so they can all be adopted at the same time.

General questions by Council.

Council directs staff to bring back possible changes from Ordinance adoption to Administrative Order adoption, either way it needs to be brought to Council (unanimous by council).

Public Comment:

None

3. Public Safety Updates

Rich St. John, Police Chief, gave an overview of the following statistics: calls for service, violent crimes, sexual assaults, weapon offenses, drug offenses, burglaries, driving under the influence, traffic and arrests.

General questions by Council. Request to add per capita data. Discussion on short-term holding facility.

Recess at 7:40 PM Reconvene at 7:50 PM

Pepper Valdez, Fire Chief, gave an overview of call volumes, service demand by time of day, 911 calls, and plans to start implementing the five-year strategic plan. Jaime Fender spoke about repeat calls for service and accidental alarms.

General questions by Council.

Public Comment:

Catherine Card, 2815 4th Avenue S., Billings, MT – police charts by race, general comments on police annual report.

4. Subdivision Regulation Updates

David Green, Planner, gave an overview of the 3 updates to the subdivision regulations: Changes required by State Statutes, Moving regulations from Zoning Code to Subdivision Code and Changes to the subdivision regulations requested by other City Departments. He reviewed the sections being updated.

General questions by Council. Decision to continue topic at a later Work Session. Suggested increased public outreach. Focus on cul de sacs, lighting rules, and street design.

Public Comment:

Jack Jennaway, Billings Chamber of Commerce - need to increase housing supply but public safety important. Lighting makes a difference.

Mac Fogelson, City Engineer, will email lighting presentation to Council.

5. Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest.

CA Kukulski - budget adoption.

Public Comment:

None

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Shaw – Legislative Committee - call to action voted on water policy and Public Works issues.

Mayor – potential of legislative issues with red light cameras. Shaw – on list to discuss.

Gulick – Ordinances that need to be updated and tied to mechanisms that are updated.

Owen – concerned about layoffs at Riverstone Health, suggest meeting with leadership.

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: 9:32 P.M.