



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

WORK SESSION SUMMARY

Council Chambers

October 21, 2024

5:30 P.M.

220 N. 27th St.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Cole

Present: Councilmember Kendra Shaw, Ward I (Via Zoom)
Councilmember Gulick, Ward I
Councilmember Neese, Ward II
Councilmember Denise Joy, Ward III
Councilmember Bill Kennedy, Ward III
Councilmember Mike Boyett, Ward V
Councilmember Tom Rupsis, Ward V
Mayor William Cole

**Absent/
Excused:** Councilmember Jennifer Owen, Ward II
Councilmember Scott Aspenlieder, Ward IV
Councilmember Daniel Tidswell, Ward IV

**Staff
Present:** Chris Kukulski, City Administrator
Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator
Mike Pigg, Parks and Recreation Director
Jennifer Brown, Senior Services Specialist
Wyeth Friday, Planning Director (Via Zoom)

Mr. Kukulski informed Council of the following:

- Most recent Utility Billing update had been sent through email.
- Brad Wright, City Project Manager, lost 11 members of his family in the North Carolina flood.

Public Comment:

- None

1. Senior Services Update.

Mike Pigg, Parks and Recreation Director, introduced Jennifer Brown, Senior Services Specialist. She gave an overview of programs offered at the Community & Senior Center, wellness programs, enrichment, education and fall prevention classes. She spoke about their partnership with Adult Resource Alliance, Yellowstone Genealogy forum, MT Governors conference on aging, student opportunities and camps at BCC.

General questions by City Council.

Public Comment:

- None

CM Kennedy – Council needs to give direction to staff about moving Parks staff to new City Hall.

Additional questions from Council regarding Parks staff and spacing.

Iffland - \$58,000 per year for Parks to be in new City Hall.

Mayor – no clear direction to staff.

2. City Owned Properties.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, gave an overview of the lease agreements for: Moss Mansion, Alberta Bair Theater (ABT), Billings Depot and Babcock Theater.

Mike Nelson, Billings Preservation Society member, spoke of the importance of the Moss Mansion and services provided to the community. Requested the City not sell Moss Mansion. Judy Culver and Aly Turner spoke of the Moss Mansion.

Jan Dietrich, ABT, gave an overview of ABT and the partnership with the City.

CM Kennedy - the City will not be spending general funds on these properties. Encouraged properties to apply for TIF funding.

General questions by City Council.

Katy Easton, Downtown Business Alliance ((DBA), spoke of the history of the placement of bollards on downtown streets.

Michelle Williams, Billings Depot Executive Director, gave an overview of the Depot.

Josh Wirth and Nicole Shreiner, Babcock Theater, gave an overview of the Babcock and Arthouse Theaters.

Further Council discussion.

Gina Dahl, City Attorney, gave an overview of the lease agreements and explained the City's intent in 2018 to put money aside for improvements.

Recess at 7:35 P.M. Reconvene at 7:43 P.M.

Public Comment:

Corby Skinner, Board member, general comments about ABT, Moss and Babcock

Adam Kern – general comments about ABT, Moss and Babcock. Babcock feels run down, would be nice if it wasn't taxpayer funded.

Discussion about TIF funding. Katy Easton - explained DBA strategic priorities and how they did not fit with the TIF requests. Mehmet Casey, DBA, explained excess funds and TIF District projections.

Motion: to direct staff to bring to Council TIF funding requests for Babcock and Depot so they can meet their grant requirement. Do not go back to DBP Board.

Moved by CM Shaw

Second by CM Boyett

Amended Motion - Include option of revolving line of credit.

Moved by CM Neese

Second by CM Gulick

APPROVED 6-2, Joy and Shaw opposed

Vote on Amendment:

Yes – CM Gulick, Neese, Cole, Kennedy, Boyett, Rupsis,

No – Joy, Shaw

Vote on original motion.

APPROVED 8-0

HIGHLIGHT UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS OF COUNCIL INTEREST:

Kukulski – Weekly Draft CIP, Work Sessions on CIP

CM Neese – next week's Item #5, Subdivision Regulations, to conform to State Legislation passed in 2023 and local changes provided by City Council, Planning, Engineering, Parks and Fire Department staff – move public comment to #2.

Gina Dahl, City Attorney, indicated City Code required public hearings to come before other agenda items and encouraged Council to follow the code.

Motion: Move 10/28/24 agenda Item #5 to Item #2

No second (Dies)

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

CM Kennedy – Off the Streets would like to present at Work Session. Invite County Commissioners.

General Council discussion.

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.)*

- Ming Cabrera, Billings Heights Water Board, looking at consolidation study. Do not see the benefit for Heights residents to become part of the City.

ADJOURN: 8:40 P.M.