



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

WORK SESSION SUMMARY

Council Chambers

November 18, 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 Jennifer Owen, Ward II
Councilmember Denise Joy, Ward III
Councilmember Bill Kennedy, Ward III
Councilmember Daniel Tidswell, Ward IV (Via Zoom)
Councilmember Scott Aspenlieder, Ward IV
Councilmember Mike Boyett, Ward V
Councilmember Tom Rupsis, Ward V (Via Zoom)
Mayor William Cole

Absent/
Excused:

Staff

Present: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator
Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator
Pepper Valdez, Fire Chief
Jason Banfield, Assistant Fire Chief
Wyeth Friday, Planning Director
Brenda Beckett, Community Services Manager
David Watterson, IT Director
Nick Westburg, Motor Pool Manager

Public Comment:

- Danny Choriki, Ward III, Billings, MT, spoke about information flow, running government like a business.
- Rebecca Noell, 1109 Lewis Ave., Billings, MT, spoke in support of Community Development division.

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, gave an update on utility billings issues. Debi Meling, Public Works Director, gave an overview of the utility billing cycles, sample bills, and the automated billing system.

General Council questions and discussion.

1. Crisis Response Unit (CRU) Models of Service

Jason Banfield, Assistant Fire Chief, gave an overview of the 5 different models of service, costs for each model, reimbursement amounts, County partnership, and how behavioral health issues are being addressed. He discussed co-response with a Police presence, paramedics versus EMT's, and next steps for moving forward.

General Council questions and discussion.

Public Comment

- Chyrel Garding, Rimrock Foundation, gave an overview of staffing concerns, call responses categorization issues, reimbursement rates and times, and various programs.

2. Community Development 2025 Consolidated Plan

Wyeth Friday, Planning Director, reviewed the timeline to cover the vacancy for affordable housing development and home buyer program. Brenda Beckett, Community Services Manager reviewed the audit, budgeting process, affordable housing development, GL development (South Billings project and Homeward / Homefront (LB Lofts). She reviewed the application window, public engagement and social media outreach.

General Council questions and discussion.

Public Comment

None

3. FY26 Technology Replacement Plan (TRP)

David Watterson, IT Director, gave an overview of the TRP committee, plan overview, FY26 replacement highlights, hand me down program and a financial summary and comparison.

General Council questions and discussion.

Kevin – asked staff to address software system issues. Meeting with company to address concerns. Possible to need new software.

Chris - needs to be short-, mid- and long-term budget discussions for personnel, training and software.

Public Comment

None

4. FY26 Equipment Replacement Plan (ERP)

Nick Westburg, Motor Pool Manager, gave an overview of ERP members, plan overview, photos of some equipment, deferred equipment and replacements and governmental fund replacement numbers.

General Council questions and discussion.

Public Comment

None

5. FY26-30 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Andy Zoeller, Finance Director, gave an overview of the CIP documents, definition of capital projects, FY26-30 CIP numbers by department, 5-year CIP by project type, and revenue sources. He reviewed major FY26-30 projects for each department.

General Council questions and discussion.

Motion: direct staff to put \$18.2 million in CIP for combo campus, \$10 million South Park pool, and \$1.8 million Amend Turf Field

CM Aspenlieder
CM Kennedy 2nd

Council continued discussion on the amendment and the Amend Park Campus project.

Mike explained the budgeting process and examples of why change orders were sometimes needed.

Wyeth explained the SBURA expansion process: finding a consultant to assist with the project, the blight analysis, neighborhood notices, Legislative issues and financing.

Mayor Cole indicated he would not support the amendment and would honor SBURA and staffs' recommendation.

APPROVED 8-3, CM Joy, Rupsis and Mayor Cole opposed

CM Owen asked for clarification on the Exposition project not being included. Wyeth indicated some sort of development may need to happen for that project to proceed. He said there had not been any funding or grants received.

Public Comment

None

HIGHLIGHT UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS OF COUNCIL INTEREST.

Chris Kukulski highlighted upcoming CIP for adoption.

Kukulski pointed out several items currently occurring in the Planning department for clarification on why there was a delay in SBURA expansion.

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

None

ADJOURN: 8:55 P.M.