

**MINUTES
OF THE BILLINGS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
May 12, 2025**

The Billings City Council met in regular session in the City Council Chambers, located at 316 N. 26th Street, 5th Floor, Billings, Montana, at 5:32 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Cole

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Cole

INVOCATION: Councilmember Tidswell

ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmember Kendra Shaw, Ward I
Councilmember Ed Gulick, Ward I
Councilmember Roy Neese, Ward II
Councilmember Jennifer Owen, Ward II
Councilmember TJ Rogers, 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
Toni Keehner, Deputy City Clerk
Jeff Roach, Aviation and Transit Director
Gavin Woltjer, Interim Parks and Recreation Director
David Watterson, IT Director
Jeffrey Sprock, IT Manager
Chris Bolte, PC Support Specialist
Wyeth Friday, Planning Director
Tam Rodier, Coordinator
Katie Nash, Domestic Violence Investigator
Ben Halvorson, Domestic Violence Prosecutor
Debi Meling, Public Works Director

MINUTES: April 28, 2025 - Pending

COURTESIES:

There were no Council courtesies.

PROCLAMATIONS:

There were no Council proclamations.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

There were no Council reports.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS - CHRIS KUKULSKI

Mr. Kukulski provided Council with information that:

- There would be special budget Work Session meetings on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, and Tuesday, June 3, 2025, in addition to the regular Monday Work Sessions.
- There were no exparte communications to Mayor and Council received after 3 P.M. concerning items on the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT on "NON-PUBLIC HEARING" Agenda Items: 1 - Consent Agenda and Special Presentation 1 ONLY. Speaker sign-in required. (Comments are limited to three (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. Comments on items listed as public hearing items will be heard ONLY during the designated public hearing time for each respective item. For items not on this agenda, public comment will be taken at the end of the agenda.)

The following individuals provided public comment:

- **Pam Purinton, former Councilmember**, spoke about water billing issues not yet resolved, Public Works concerns and the City Administrator COLA increase.
- **Peter O'Brien, Billings Skate Park Committee**, spoke of the donation for lighting improvements at the Skate Park.
- **Senator Dennis Lenz, 2929 Brentwood, Billings, Montana**, spoke of the recent Legislative process to support Billings during the property tax bill (HB231).
- **Tom Iverson, Pride of Montana**, spoke of the initial investment his company would make to start cleaning City Hall and encouraged Council to support Consent Agenda Items 1I and 1J.

No further public comment was given.

1. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Boyett separated Item 1A1 for discussion.

Motion: I move to approve all items on the Consent Agenda, except for items moved for separation.

Councilmember Rupsis, in reference to Item 1F, asked for clarification on utilities being allowed on the property. Gina Dahl, City Attorney, indicated she would provide a final opinion before the City began conveying the property.

Councilmember Boyett, in reference to Item 1D, acknowledged the donation from Musco Lighting for the Skate Park improvements.

Moved by Councilmember Gulick

Seconded by Councilmember Rupsis

APPROVED 10-0, Councilmember Aspenlieder absent/excused

A. **Bid Awards:**

1. **1302 Parkhill Drive Housing Rehabilitation Project.** (Opened 3/4/2025)
Recommend Van Arsdale Construction.

Councilmember Boyett asked for clarification on costs for the rehabilitation and expected sale price. Tam Rodier, Coordinator, gave an overview of proposed construction costs of \$262,530 and indicated the sale price would be the lower of one of the following: acquisition and rehab costs, HUD's purchase price limit or the appraised value. She explained the program utilized Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to stabilize and improve neighborhoods and help first-time homebuyers. She indicated the project had been scaled back as much as possible to keep costs low.

Motion: I move to approve Item 1A1.

Moved by Councilmember Shaw

Seconded by Councilmember Gulick

Council spoke of concerns with the program, costs for the rehabilitation and the possibility of re-bidding the project.

Wyeth Friday, Planning Director, spoke of how the property had been in very bad condition and had received a lot of code enforcement violations. He spoke of the need to move quickly with these projects and how staff had worked with the contractor to scale back costs.

Councilmembers Owen and Neese spoke in opposition of the program.

Mayor Cole asked for clarification on how a buyer would be chosen to purchase the property. Ms. Rodier indicated the offer to buy the house would be extended to pre-approved first-time homebuyers, then staff would send information to the realtor association to contact buyers.

APPROVED 7-3, Councilmembers Neese, Owen and Tidswell opposed, Councilmember Aspenlieder absent/excused

2. **MET Transit Transfer Center Security Upgrade.** (Opened 3/4/2025) Recommend rejecting all bids.

Moved by Councilmember Gulick

Seconded by Councilmember Rupsis

APPROVED 10-0, Councilmember Aspenlieder absent/excused

3. **Water Treatment Plant Poly-Aluminum Coagulant.** (Opened 4/1/2025) Recommend Hawkins, Inc.

Moved by Councilmember Gulick

Seconded by Councilmember Rupsis

APPROVED 10-0, Councilmember Aspenlieder absent/excused

B. **Contract** with Western Municipal Construction for W.O. 25-01, Contract 3: Rosemont Way Water Main Replacement.

Moved by Councilmember Gulick

Seconded by Councilmember Rupsis

APPROVED 10-0, Councilmember Aspenlieder absent/excused

C. **Agreement** with Azteca Systems for CityWorks GIS-centric asset management software.

Moved by Councilmember Gulick

Seconded by Councilmember Rupsis

APPROVED 10-0, Councilmember Aspenlieder absent/excused

D. **Grant** to Parks, Recreation and Public Lands from Musco Sports Lighting for Skate Park lighting improvements.

Moved by Councilmember Gulick

Seconded by Councilmember Rupsis

APPROVED 10-0, Councilmember Aspenlieder absent/excused

E. **Preliminary Plat** for Yellowstone Valley Subdivision. *Quasi-Judicial

Moved by Councilmember Gulick

Seconded by Councilmember Rupsis

APPROVED 10-0, Councilmember Aspenlieder absent/excused

F. **Resolution 25-11267** amending Annexation 25-01, Wilson Park.

Moved by Councilmember Gulick

Seconded by Councilmember Rupsis

APPROVED 10-0, Councilmember Aspenlieder absent/excused

G. **Second/Final Reading Ordinance 25-5914 for Zone Change 1064:** 1115, 1116, 1121, 1122, 1126 and 1127 Buffalo Crossing Drive. *Quasi-Judicial

Moved by Councilmember Gulick

Seconded by Councilmember Rupsis

APPROVED 10-0, Councilmember Aspenlieder absent/excused

H. Bills for the Weeks of:

1. April 14, 2025

Moved by Councilmember Gulick
Seconded by Councilmember Rupsis
APPROVED 10-0, Councilmember Aspenlieder absent/excused

2. April 21, 2025

Moved by Councilmember Gulick
Seconded by Councilmember Rupsis
APPROVED 10-0, Councilmember Aspenlieder absent/excused

I. Contract with Pride of Montana, Inc. for Outsourcing of Custodial Services at City Hall.

Moved by Councilmember Gulick
Seconded by Councilmember Rupsis
APPROVED 10-0, Councilmember Aspenlieder absent/excused

J. Contract with ABM Industry Groups, LLC for Outsourcing of Custodial Services at Billings Operations Center.

Moved by Councilmember Gulick
Seconded by Councilmember Rupsis
APPROVED 10-0, Councilmember Aspenlieder absent/excused

REGULAR AGENDA:

There were no items.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

1. Northern Lights Family Justice Center Update.

Taya Keith, Family Justice Center (FJC) Coordinator, gave an overview of the center's location, hours and contact information, events, and projects to help awareness.

Erin Lambert, YWCA CEO, gave an overview of accomplishments, on and off-site partners involved, services provided and the number of individuals served in the past year. She reviewed the intake process and next steps for the program.

Katie Nash, Domestic Violence Investigator, reviewed next steps for the program and their proposed new permanent home. She indicated there would be a strategic planning session on July 31 at YWCA. They each spoke of some success stories.

Council spoke of the impacts of domestic violence and hopes for the program moving forward. They spoke of the light duty officer that listened to jail calls and how the training worked. Officer Nash indicated the officer currently in the position was not a permanent placement and YWCA provided training. Council continued discussion on the program.

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.)

The following individual provided public comment:

- **Adam Kern, 744 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings, Montana,** voiced frustration with the way the City spent money.

No further public comment was given.

COUNCIL INITIATIVES:

There were no Council initiatives.

RECESS TO CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION*

Mayor Cole recessed into the Closed Executive Session at 6:56 PM. to discuss the City Administrator's annual performance review.

*Note: The Executive Session will be closed, as allowed in Section 2-3-203(3), MCA, as discussions relate to matters of individual privacy and wherein the demands of individual privacy exceed the merits of public disclosure.

Mayor and Council returned to Council Chambers in order to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURN: 8:21 P.M.



CITY OF BILLINGS

BY: William A. Cole
William A. Cole, Mayor

ATTEST:

BY: Denise R. Bohlman
Denise R. Bohlman, City Clerk