



VISION STATEMENT:

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

WORK SESSION SUMMARIZATION

Council Chambers
316 N. 26th St.

February 18, 2025

5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Cole

Present: Councilmember Shaw, Ward I
Councilmember Gulick, Ward I
Councilmember Neese, Ward II (Via Zoom)
Councilmember Owen, Ward II
Councilmember Rogers, Ward III
Councilmember Kennedy, Ward III
Councilmember Tidswell, Ward IV (Via Zoom)
Councilmember Aspenlieder, Ward IV
Councilmember Boyett, Ward V
Councilmember Rupsis, Ward V
Mayor William Cole

Absent/
Excused:

Staff: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator
Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator
Daniela Pavuk, Assistant City Attorney
Wyeth Friday, Planning Director

Chris Kukulski gave an update on snow removal.

Public Comment:

- Danny Choriki, former Councilmember, spoke of the importance of treating City staff with respect.
- Parker Phipps, Yellowstone Ice Foundation President, gave an update on progress with the Amend Park Recreation ice rink.
- Melanie Schwarz, 3630 Hayden Drive, Billings, MT, gave an update on the fundraising portion for Amend Park Recreation Campus.

The following constituents spoke against the disposal of City park properties:

- Thom MacLain, Parks and Recreation Board member.
- Erin Hall, 2028 Clark Avenue, Billings, MT.
- Sarah Lord, 710 Clark Avenue, Billings, MT.
- Kayhan Ostovar, 527 Highland Park Drive, Billings, MT.

- Katie Harrison, Ward I, Billings, MT.
- Jese Gallegos, Ward II, Billings, MT.
- Matt Clark, 3637 Relay Drive, Billings, MT.
- Jessica Plance, 619 Custer Avenue, Billings MT.
- Megan Poulette, 3626 Mezcalero, Billings, MT.
- Tucker Colvin, 328 Custer Avenue, Billings, MT.
- Bill Morgan, 3155 Fairmeadow Drive, Billings, MT.
- Steve McConnell, 2705 Donner Lane, Billings, MT.
- Darci Colbrese, 3105 Avenue F, Billings, MT.
- Marion Kurst, Ward IV, Billings, MT.
- Kristi Halderman, Billings TrailNet, Billings, MT.
- Hailey Kemmich, 38 Avenue C, Billings, MT.

1. Disposal of City Properties.

Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator, indicated the property list had been included in the staff memo and tonight was a starting point to see which direction Council wanted staff to go.

CM Rupsis spoke of the process of identifying and narrowing properties, and costs to the City.

General Council questions and discussion regarding: creating a committee, designating areas that are not parks, a PMD policy, signage, stormwater concerns with parcels, getting outside groups involved - Parks, Audubon, two Councilmembers, realtors, etc.

George Warner, Brittani Hunter, Dominic Neameyer, and Nathan Matelich, Coldwell Realtors, spoke of the different parcels and their potential marketability. They discussed options available for the land.

Council continued discussion - importance of neighborhood involvement and how to group parcels according to types.

Public Comment:

- John Thompson, Parks Board member, addressed the process of selling parkland and indicated there was a standard classification system the City could use for parcels.
- Carolyn Sevier, Ward I, spoke of natural areas and including science based in the committee.
- Joshua Toenyas, 2104 Wingate Lane, Billings, MT, spoke against selling City parkland and public spaces.
- Jill Hickson, 2531 Mary Street, Billings, MT, encouraged Council to maintain public green space.
- Erin Gregory, 427 Lordwith Drive, Billings, MT, spoke of the importance of educating the public on the topic.

Council consensus – bring back a status report confirming creation of committee, members, action plans, etc. within 2-3 Work Sessions.

HIGHLIGHT UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS OF COUNCIL INTEREST.

None

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

CM Neese – how can Council be involved in development paving a lot of land (bulb outs) with street maintenance fees. Wyeth Friday – can follow up with Council.

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: 8:08 PM