



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

WORK SESSION SUMMARY

Council Chambers
316 N. 26th St.

March 17, 2025

5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Deputy Mayor Boyett

Present: Councilmember Gulick, Ward I
Councilmember Neese, Ward II
Councilmember Owen, Ward II
Councilmember Rogers, Ward III
Councilmember Tidswell, Ward IV
Councilmember Aspenlieder, Ward IV
Councilmember Boyett, Ward V – serving as Deputy Mayor

Absent/
Excused: Councilmember Shaw, Ward I
Councilmember Kennedy, Ward III
Councilmember Rupsis, Ward V
Mayor William Cole

Staff: Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator
Denise Bohlman, City Clerk
Brenda Beckett, Community Development Manager
Wyeth Friday, Planning Director
Brandon Schmidt, Parks/Cemetery Supervisor
Daniela Pavuk, Assistant City Attorney

Public Comment:

(Name inaudible), spoke of a broken system and his desire to start a homeless encampment.

1. Drafted Consolidated Plan Findings and Strategies Review.

Brenda Beckett gave an overview of Consolidated Plan Findings, goals and 5 year projects and activities. She reviewed survey results and spoke of plans for the CDBG and HOME programs.

Tami Hartmann, Mortgage Lender Stockman Bank, spoke of the benefits of programs available to first time home buyers and the need for housing and programs to help people buy homes.

Adarie Baxter, Realtor, spoke of how a down payment assistance program helped her to buy her first home. She indicated the programs available to first time home buyers were necessary to make home buying affordable.

April Malacas, Mortgage Lender Stockman Bank, spoke of the benefits of HUD's first-time homebuyers class and the Foreclosure and Acquisition Program.

Council asked for clarification on delinquency rates for first time homebuyers, program provisions and terms.

Tami - conservative underwriting process and have not seen a change in delinquency rates. Brenda - explained the loan process - \$10,000-15,000 per property, 0% interest, 0 payment repaid if they move.

Ali Pistora, First Time Home Buyers Program, spoke of homeowners changing neighborhoods.

Councilmember Owen spoke of: low homeless numbers, funding, not supporting foreclosure program, not funding homeless supportive service organizations to do the same thing instead require areas of focus, take job training off list, food insecurity program.

Wyeth Friday spoke of staff efforts in the food security program, and indicated it had not taken off.

Public Comment:

None

2. Parks, Recreation and Public Lands Sponsorship.

Brandon Schmidt gave an overview of the scope of Parks, sponsorship program development and management. He discussed endowment opportunities, sponsorship recognition through programs, team shirts, and vehicles. He discussed the locations proposed for sponsorship.

General Council questions and discussion. Overall support of continuing research on the program.

Public Comment:

None

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Chris Kukulski and Mayor Cole in Helena.

Aspenlieder - legislators now aware of the City's bill cap issue. May have to cap increases in revenue like every other city.

HIGHLIGHT UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS OF COUNCIL INTEREST:

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.)

None

ADJOURN: 6:32 P.M.