



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

WORK SESSION SUMMARY

Council Chambers
316 N. 26th St.

May 19, 2025

5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Cole

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

Absent/
Excused: Councilmember Owen, Ward II

Staff: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator
Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator
Andy Zoeller, Finance Director
Karla Stanton, Human Resources Director
Gina Dahl, City Attorney
Debi Meling, Public Works Director
Jennifer Duray, Deputy Public Works Director

Public Comment:

None

1. FY2026 Budget Overview

Andy Zoeller, Finance Director, gave an overview of FY25 accomplishments, FY26 budgeted revenue and expenses by class, FY26 Capital projects, Operation and Maintenance, Property and Liability insurances, new employees proposed for FY26 and personal services. He reviewed property tax mill levy and revenue numbers, Legislation that required a \$2.3 million reduction and Intergovernmental numbers. He concluded with a review of budgeted areas.

Council questions and discussion: budget cuts, staffing and potential cuts, parks funding, and Mayor and Council salaries.

-Public Comment

None

Recess at 6:40 P.M. Reconvene at 6:46 P.M.

2. FY2026 Departmental Budget Presentations.

Mayor Cole opted to have Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) present first.

- Downtown Business Improvement District (BID)

Katie Easton, CEO, gave an overview of the FY26 BID workplan, the clean zone map, Cooperative Safety Program, partnerships, public art program, community engagement and events, revenue details, BID assessment formula, and expense details.

General Council questions and discussion.

- Human Resources

Karla Stanton, HR Director, gave an overview of the proposed FY26 budget, employee statistics, expenditures, HR costs, health and dental plans, liability and property program, accomplishments and challenges.

General Council questions and discussion.

- Legal

Gina Dahl, City Attorney, gave an overview of the Civil and Criminal Division, case numbers, categories, and public records requests numbers. She reviewed proposed expenditures and vacancies and spoke of the Family Justice Center.

General Council questions and discussion.

- Public Works

Debi Meling, Public Works Director, and Jennifer Duray, Deputy Public Works Director, gave an overview of PW responsibilities, annual accomplishments FY25 projects, and planned projects for FY26, community engagement, FY26 budget highlights and summary, expenses and revenues by fund, changes in FY26 expenses. They reviewed an additional personnel request for a Landfill mechanic, FY26 major O & M increases, capital changes, fees for all PW departments, Stormwater Program implementation, lead services, paved alleys, and carboard program expansion.

General Council questions and discussion.

-Public Comment

None

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.)*

Amy Aguirre, spoke positively of Council and Mr. Kukulski's attitude towards departments and staff.

ADJOURN: 9:00 P.M.