

CITY OF BILLINGS
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL WORK SESSION SUMMARY
June 5, 2026 – 2:00 PM
Council Chambers – City Hall, 316 N. 26th St., Billings, Montana

Council Present

Mayor Nelson
Councilmember Shaw
Councilmember Nicholson
Councilmember Neese
Councilmember Aguirre
Councilmember Kennedy
Councilmember Aspenlieder
Councilmember Lindley
Councilmember Boyett
Councilmember O'Donnell
Councilmember Pitman

Staff Present

Kevin Iffland, Interim City Administrator
Gina Dahl, City Attorney
Jessica Fust, Buildings Official
Katie Nash, Domestic Violence Investigator
Morgan Lix, Deputy City Attorney
Jen Webber, Victim Witness Specialist

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda and Non-Agenda Items)

- Jeff Ketelsen spoke regarding items posted on the City's calendar, requested inclusion of the Urban Renewal District and BID meetings, and expressed concerns regarding changes to public comment procedures.

AGENDA ITEM #1 – Domestic Violence Response System Overview and Discussion

Billings Police Department Domestic Violence Investigator Katie Nash presented information regarding the Department's risk and lethality assessment process, including use of the Arizona Intimate Partner Risk Assessment Instrument System (APRAIS). She reviewed how assessments are administered, scoring criteria, referrals to the YWCA Helpline and Northern Lights Family Justice Center, officer safety notifications, and the use of assessment information by prosecutors during bond proceedings.

Council discussed victim participation rates, discoverability of assessment responses, referral procedures, officer safety considerations, bond conditions, victim protections, follow-up services, case review capacity, and opportunities to evaluate outcomes and best practices.

Victim Witness Specialist Jen Webber provided an overview of the City Attorney's Office domestic violence victim services program. Discussion included victim notification procedures, bond preparation, court processes, no-contact orders, victim rights, referrals to partner agencies, coordination with the Family Justice Center, and ongoing victim support throughout criminal proceedings.

YWCA Chief Executive Officer Erin Lambert presented information regarding emergency shelter services, danger assessments, Family Justice Center operations, service navigation, housing assistance, legal services, referrals, and victim advocacy resources. She reviewed shelter capacity, referral procedures, service utilization, coordination among partner agencies, and available assistance for domestic violence and human trafficking survivors.

Council discussed shelter utilization, helpline operations, referral follow-through, services for children impacted by domestic violence, community partnerships, housing assistance, protective orders, county and city service coordination, resource availability, data collection, and opportunities for additional reporting and performance metrics.

Katie Nash reviewed current domestic violence response capacity, specialized investigations, officer training, and development of a high-risk warrant response protocol. Council discussed training requirements, supervisory involvement, patrol response practices, staffing considerations, and methods for identifying and managing high-risk offenders.

Council also discussed legislative considerations related to domestic violence offenses, felony enhancements, victim protections, and recommendations from the Montana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission. Staff indicated additional discussion would be scheduled at a future work session.

Council requested additional information regarding risk assessment participation rates, Family Justice Center and helpline statistics, referral and service utilization data, 911 call information, community partner participation, and opportunities for future case review analysis.

Gina Dahl spoke of inviting the various courts to the upcoming special work session. Council agreed.

Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest

Interim City Administrator Kevin Iffland summarized future discussion topics, including additional domestic violence response review, participation by outside partner agencies, court representatives, law enforcement partners, and legislative issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Jordan Weber commented on the importance of data collection and performance metrics, noting the resource challenges faced by nonprofit organizations in tracking and analyzing data.

ADJOURN

4:01 P.M.