

COUNCIL PRE-MEETING

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:30 p.m.
Casper City Hall - Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

Roberts Rules of Order Orientation – for Council-Elect - Optional 5:00 p.m.

1. Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Calendar
2. Baseball Fields Update – Rental & Lease Agreement
3. Conwell Park Background
4. CEC Fire Alarm System Change Order
5. Agenda Review

Assistant City Attorney Trembath and City Attorney Henley held an orientation for Council on Roberts Rules of Order in the Downstairs Meeting Room at 5:00 p.m. Present: Council Elect members Lisa Engebretsen, Kyle Gamroth and Bruce Knell; and Councilmembers Cathey, Hopkins and Huber.

Mayor Freel began the pre-meeting session at 5:42 p.m. with Councilmembers Bates, Cathey, Hopkins, Huber, Johnson, Lutz, Pacheco, Powell and Mayor Freel in attendance. Vice Mayor Lutz and Councilmember Johnson attended via conference call.

City Manager Napier provided an overview of the fiscal year 2022 budget calendar. Tom Pitlick, Finance Director, provided information on the key dates for the budget process. Council did not have any questions.

City Manager Napier gave a short summary of the management of the baseball fields. Tim Cortez, Parks and Recreation Director further described the proposals that were received for the use of the baseball fields. He stated that staff recommended Washington Park and Crossroads 4 baseball fields each be leased to a sole user group (Casper Youth Baseball and Casper Baseball Club/Legion Baseball respectively). And he recommended that City staff manage the George Tani Baseball field so the Casper Baseball Club and Casper Youth Baseball would have equitable access to the field. He shared that the City would likely subsidize these leases, but that the tournaments held by these entities would bring business to the community. Council provided a thumbs up for staff to prepare materials for these leases.

City Manager Napier spoke about changing the name of Conwell Park to the Healing Park on Conwell. He shared that there were no stipulations or requirements for the name of the park and that amending the name is not in conflict with any obligations. He also stated that a resolution changing the name is on the agenda for the evening. Councilmember Hopkins requested that any expenses associated with changing the name be kept to a minimum. Councilmember Huber requested more information and City Manager Napier referenced the Council meeting packet. Councilmember Huber asked if further recognition or a monument would be put in place at the park, would further action be required of Council. City Manager Napier stated that there is a recently passed policy in place to handle memorialization.

Mayor then invited City Manager Napier to begin the discussion on the Casper Events Center Fire Alarm System. City Manager Napier requested further information from staff on the change order. Mr. Cortez explained what changes were needed and how this change order would improve the situation right now. He also indicated that another phase of this project is scheduled, but the requested changes should not wait until then. Council did not have any questions.

Mayor Freel moved on to agenda review. City Manager Napier indicated that there might need to be a quick meeting next week to address a liquor distribution concept that would allow curbside delivery to allow some relief to restaurants and bars who have been ordered to close early by State of Wyoming health mandates. He shared that this option would allow some modicum of business after 10 p.m. and would involve conveyance across a sidewalk or alley. City Attorney Henley provided further information on the topic and stated that per the Training for Interventions Procedures (TIPS) requirements, people would need to exit their vehicle to pick up liquor.

Mayor Freel and Councilmember Cathey asked about the details of passing the changes. City Manager Napier indicated this would be a temporary allowance, and therefore would not be passed by ordinance. He also stated that the meeting could be next Tuesday and would not require a public hearing.

City Manager Napier then stated that the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) had been discussing ways for paying down the obligations associated with the lease of 135 North Ash Street. He shared that staff was working with the DDA to draft language for a memorandum of understanding to arrange the payment on the debt, and hoped that an arrangement could be made before the end of the year.

Councilmember Hopkins indicated that the Economic Development Joint Powers Board (EDJPB) may be helping the DDA with the cost of chillers for the David Street Station. Councilmember Powell indicated that the EDJPB had helped with the chillers, and that the equipment is in place.

City Manager Napier asked if the liquor license and DDA items could be handled next week at a special Council meeting. Council provided a thumbs up.

Mayor Freel adjourned the pre-meeting at 6:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Steven K. Freel
Mayor