

COUNCIL PRE-MEETING

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 4:30 p.m.
Casper City Hall - Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Aquatics Facility & Recreation Center Fees and Program Rates - Update
2. NAPA Integrated Business Solutions (IBS) Two Year Summary & Contract Renewal
3. School Resource Officer Program and Natrona County School District Budget
4. Agenda Review

Mayor Freel began the pre-meeting session at 4:33 p.m. with Councilmembers Cathey, Gamroth, Johnson, Knell, Lutz, Pacheco, and Mayor Freel in attendance. Councilmembers Engebretsen and Pollock attended via video call.

City Manager Napier introduced the topic of updating the fees and rates for the aquatics facility and recreation center. Tim Cortez, Parks and Recreation Director, explained that staff was recommending a modest increase in fees at these facilities, as there has not been any changes to the rates in some time. He also explained that the direct users of these facilities help support the operation with their fees. Council had no comments or questions.

City Manager Napier spoke briefly about the partnership between the City and NAPA Integrated Business Solutions (IBS) for the management of the fleet division's parts inventory. He shared that he feels that this innovative approach is working because parts are available when they are needed, obtaining parts is more efficient, and there is a quicker turnaround for vehicle maintenance.

Mark Watson, owner of NAPA IBS, explained that NAPA has a large, collective buying power that results in lower prices. He stated that local vendors are included in this program, and ultimately the City decides where to purchase parts. He shared that the City doesn't tie up funds with inventory by buying parts as-needed, which also keeps the City from having obsolete parts. He also noted that NAPA was able to procure personal protective equipment for the City beginning last spring. Dan Coryell, Fleet Maintenance Supervisor, spoke in favor of the excellent service and the working relationship with NAPA. Councilmember Cathey asked if turnout gear for the Fire Department could also be purchased through NAPA. Mr. Coryell indicated that it is possible, and that other departments may be able to take advantage of this service. Councilmember Knell asked if staff supports this partnership, and Mr. Coryell indicated his approval.

Next, City Manager Napier shared that the Natrona County School District (NCSD) is seeing a decline in enrollment and was requesting to reduce the number of school resource officers (SRO) from ten to six starting next fall. He stated that the reduction was in part because of the budget and that the number of officers may still change before fall.

Vice Mayor Pacheco spoke in favor of the SRO program. Councilmember Lutz asked if any police officer positions would be eliminated because of this change. City Manager Napier indicated that the SRO staff would be re-assigned to other duties. Councilmember Knell asked if these cuts are pre-mature in light of possible State funding that the school district might receive. City Manager Napier said that the NCSD superintendent feels that monies received would not extend to this program. Councilmember Gamroth asked for data on the impact of the SRO program in our community. Police Chief McPheeters spoke on the youth/officer partnership and the long-term nature of the project. He said he will do some research on the topic. Councilmember Pollock requested a periodic report every three or four years on the program. She said that the program is beneficial and that other communities could gain insight from our experiences.

Mayor Freel moved on to agenda review. City Manager Napier mentioned that the following items are on the agenda this evening: the nicotine ordinance; Coates Road Local Assessment District; and the budget amendment.

Mayor Freel adjourned the pre-meeting at 5:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Steven K. Freel
Mayor