

COUNCIL PRE-MEETING

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:30 p.m.
Casper City Hall - Council Chambers

AGENDA

1. Speed Study for 12th and 13th Streets
2. Casper 311
3. Agenda Review

Mayor Pro-tem Pacheco began the pre-meeting session at 5:33 p.m. with Councilmembers Cathey, Engebretsen, Gamroth, Johnson, Knell, Pacheco, Pollock, and Quest in attendance. Absent: Bertoglio.

City Manager Napier spoke briefly about traffic speeds and safety on 12th and 13th Streets to address the request from Council on this topic. He asked staff to present further information.

Deputy Police Chief Chaney introduced the head officer of the traffic division to present. Police Sergeant Bullard shared that while there were few complaints about traffic on the one-ways of 12th and 13th Streets, those complaints were from very concerned citizens. He explained that traffic can be monitored using radars, speed trailers and by officer observation. He provided detailed information on the studies carried out in the last four years, all of which showed similar findings. He shared that the extreme speeds “fliers” that were observed had no patterns and therefore would be very hard to regulate. Officers carried out a two week observation period which resulted in only 8 speed citations. It is the recommendation of the traffic division that focusing enforcement on areas identified in state crash information would be more productive. Intersections with high crash numbers include: 12th and Wolcott; 2nd and Wyoming Boulevard; and CY and Wyoming Boulevard.

Councilmember Knell asked if staff is recommending that there be no changes in the handling of 12th and 13th Streets. Sergeant Bullard said that is correct, then he talked about traffic calming efforts that had been tried and had failed in the area. Rollovers in the area are not due to high speeds but rather drivers running stop lights or stop signs in the area. And right angle incidents (t-bone) are the number one cause of rollovers at low speeds in town and they are hard to enforce because they are so sporadic.

Councilmember Knell asked if the new parkway permit had caused changes to the traffic in the area. Sergeant Bullard said it was too soon to have any good information and that staff has not yet worked on enforcement of the new provisions yet. He also said that only one parkway permit has been issued.

Councilmember Gamroth asked if anything can be done for the speed issues, such as a traffic camera. Sergeant Bullard said that Wyoming statutes currently don't allow for that. Police Chief McPheeters shared that some of the fliers are likely emergency personnel in route to an emergency situation. He shared that the few, random very high speed occurrences are so infrequent that they are hard to deter and this happens throughout the community.

Councilmember Cathey asked how many cars were likely measured in the two week traffic study. Sergeant Bullard said it was likely over 32,000. Councilmember Cathey said he didn't think spending effort on 12 cases in over 32,000 would be reasonable.

Chief McPheeters said that those living in the area of 12th and 13th Streets have legitimate concerns and staff will continue to prioritize issues. He said crash reduction will continue to be a priority and that traffic flow in the area is overall pretty safe.

Mayor Pro Tem Pacheco congratulated Sergeant Bullard on his upcoming promotion to Lieutenant.

Next, City Manager Napier spoke of the recent Casper 311 program issues, explaining that these issues would be mitigated and suggesting that a larger conversation can be held at a later time regarding the overall role and use of the system. He asked staff to provide further information.

Michael Szewczyk, IT Manager, said that the 311 program had been rolled out at the beginning of the year and have received 1,000 requests with many of those being in response to the heavy snow storm in March. Of those requests 800 people had submitted their e-mail addresses and in October a bug with the 311 software sent those people two unnecessary follow up e-mails. Staff has diagnosed and fixed the problem and are working on the solution in a test environment. The fix for the bug will go live later this week. Moving forward there will be a better solution that will be introduced later.

Councilmember Gamroth asked if the app can be used to push out special interest information, emergency information, etc., or if it is not built for that purpose. Mr. Szewczyk said that one of the City's apps is capable to send push notifications, and Council has requested an alternative text based notification system which is being investigated.

Mayor Pro Tem Pacheco moved on to agenda review and there were no questions or concerns.

Mayor Freel adjourned the pre-meeting at 5:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Ray Pacheco
Mayor Pro-Tem