

COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, April 26, 2022
Following Special Council Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
City Hall – Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Follow-up
2. Benefits of Wayfinding Signs
3. I-25 Beautification Follow-up
4. Parkway Parking Update
5. Perpetual Care Corpus
6. Funding Considerations for Fire A Pension
7. Agenda Review
8. Legislative Review
9. Council Around the Table

Mayor Pacheco called the work session to order at 4:55 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Pollock, Cathey, Sutherland, Johnson, Gamroth, Engebretsen, Vice Mayor Freel and Mayor Pacheco. Councilmember Knell attended the meeting virtually.

Mayor Pacheco spoke about decorum during work sessions and asked that questions be addressed to him and that Councilmembers raise their hands to speak.

1. Council Meeting Follow-up

There were no items for Council follow-up.

2. Benefits of Wayfinding Signs

City Manager Napier stated that the topic of wayfinding came up during the I-25 beautification discussion a few weeks ago. He explained that the signs benefit visitors to our community, and the total cost of replacing all of the wayfinding signs would be around \$1M. Due to this cost, staff and consultants have recommended replacing the signs piece by piece as part of other streets projects. He then introduced Liz Becher, Community Development Director, to elaborate on wayfinding projects. Ms. Becher explained the different types of wayfinding signs which include directional, monument, gateway, destination, and interpretive signs. She stated that destination and directional signs have been recommended as part of the Center Street project and that the City has partnered with other entities, such as Natrona County and Mills, for other sign projects, such as the Western Gateway project. Renee Hardy, MPO Technician, explained the strategy for choosing destination listings as well as the design of the signs. Andrew Beamer, Public Services Director, explained that the wayfinding signs cost anywhere from \$2.5K to \$6.5K depending on the size and coloring of the sign. He also explained that the signs will be part of larger streets projects and will be part of the bid package for those projects. This is outlined in the Wayfinding Plan that Council adopted.

3. I-25 Beautification Follow-up

Next, City Manager Napier discussed the I-25 Beautification Project. He began by giving a brief overview of the larger Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) project and the City's smaller portion which requires decisions regarding the beautification of a number of interfaces into

the community. He then reviewed staff's recommendations for how to allocate the \$1.26M for the I-25 interchanges and the Center Street Bridge enhancements, which is an additional project covered by City funds. Across all of the enhancements for the different interchanges, staff recommended RGB lighting, pedestrian/street lighting, wayfinding signage, slope paving and terraced retaining walls with landscaping. Staff also recommended form liners for the vertical concrete walls, which will not have an additional cost if a standard design option is chosen. Councilmembers discussed the options for the different enhancements. Council gave their thumbs up for the diamond design for the standard form liner and gave their thumbs up to staff's other recommendations for the cooperative agreement with WYDOT, including the RGB lighting.

4. Parkway Parking Update

Next, City Manager Napier introduced Police Chief McPheeters and Lieutenant Bullard to update Council on parkway parking. Chief McPheeters described the marketing program that has been used over the past year to inform and educate citizens about parkway parking violations, which included notifications, face to face discussions, and written warnings. Lt. Bullard stated that the Police Department has started issuing citations this spring after non-compliance following the three educational components. Two permits have been issued for parkways on 12th and 13th Streets, and eight citations have been issued, the majority of which were for parkways not in the permitted areas of 12th and 13th Streets.

Councilmember Gamroth asked about downtown parking enforcement and if staff needs to look at alternatives to increase this enforcement. Chief McPheeters stated that recent years are anomalous and that community service officers do make this enforcement a priority; therefore, he would not recommend any changes to enforcement procedures at this time.

Councilmember Pollock suggested expanding the parkway parking area to other areas of the City. She also suggested lowering the price of the permit to encourage more people to apply for permits. Council discussed that the 12th and 13th Street permits were supposed to be a pilot program and discussed expanding the program to the entire City. They also discussed that the purpose of the higher cost of the first year for the permit was to help the City recuperate some of the costs required for staff to evaluate the parking areas. Council gave their thumbs up to modify the cost of the parkway parking permit to \$100 for the first year with a \$50 renewal fee and to expand the parkway parking program to the entire City. They directed staff that they would like to revisit this topic one year from now to see how the program is working. They also gave their thumbs up to reimburse the citizens who purchased parkway permits \$150 for the change in cost of the permit.

5. Perpetual Care Corpus

Next, City Manager Napier discussed memorialization of the perpetual care corpus. He explained what types of expenses the interest from the fund helps to cover, including offsetting costs at the City's recreation facilities. He stated that staff is recommending a minimum corpus amount of \$30.615M, with \$30M in the Operations Trust, \$480K in the North Platte Park Trust, and \$135K in the Urban Forestry Trust. He explained that having a minimum set corpus amount will help with budgeting and in preventing wide fluctuations in the fund. Council gave their thumbs up to move this forward for formal approval at a future regular Council meeting. Councilmember Gamroth

asked if language could be added to allow the corpus minimum to be raised in the event of a donation, and City Manager Napier responded that this could be added to the language.

6. Funding Considerations for Fire A Pension

City Manager Napier stated that the City recently received notice that the City of Casper obligation to help fund Fire A Pension is \$7,294,117.60 which will be about \$364,705 every year for the next twenty years. He explained that one way to pay this obligation would be to take this amount out of operational revenue every year for the next twenty years. Another option would be to use some extra dollars that were found during this year's audit to set up a sinking fund in the Debt Service Fund. The present value contribution would be about \$4.9M and, with the estimated 4% annual interest, would cover the \$7.2M over the next twenty years. He stated that this \$4.9M could be used for capital projects this year, so there is a tradeoff to the sinking fund option. Council discussed concerns over funding for capital projects. Council then gave their thumbs up to move forward with establishing the sinking fund to pay the Fire A Pension obligation.

7. Agenda Review

Next, Council reviewed upcoming Council meeting and work session agendas.

8. Legislative Review

There were no legislative items discussed.

9. Around the Table

Next, Council went around the table to discuss their respective board and committee meetings as well as matters of public interest. Councilmember Knell read a statement about the abortion clinic. Councilmember Cathey discussed graffiti abatement.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Ray Pacheco
Mayor