

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.
City Hall – Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Follow-up
2. Library StoryWalk MOU
3. Investment in Corporate Bonds
4. Project Safe Contract Amendment
5. Meeting Space Discussion
6. Agenda Review
7. Legislative Review
8. Council Around the Table

Mayor Pacheco called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Cathey, Pollock, Gamroth, Sutherland, McIntosh, Humphrey, Vice Mayor Knell, and Mayor Pacheco. Councilmember Engebretsen was absent.

1. Council Follow-up

Mayor Pacheco assigned board and commission seats that were left vacant from the resignations of former Councilmembers Johnson and Freel. Councilmember Pollock was assigned to the Regional Water and LGBTQ Advisory Boards. Vice Mayor Knell was assigned as an alternate for the Chamber of Commerce and will remain as liaison to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Councilmember McIntosh will retain his seat on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Councilmember Humphrey was assigned to the Natrona County Health Department Board. City Manager Napier will be the lead for the City at Advance Casper meetings.

2. Library StoryWalk

City Manager Napier introduced Lisa Scroggins from the Natrona County Library to discuss the installation of a StoryWalk along the Platte River trail. Ms. Scroggins explained that the Platte River Trails Trust wrote a letter of support for a grant from the Wyoming Humanities Council. The StoryWalk project won the grant which will pay for the majority of the funding for the StoryWalk. The Natrona County Public Library Foundation will provide the remainder of the funding for the project. She explained that a StoryWalk displays pages of a children's picture book along a trail. They will use non-controversial books, and the library will be in charge of maintenance of the materials. Council gave their thumbs up to move a memorandum of understanding with the library forward for formal consideration for the StoryWalk.

3. Investment in Corporate Bonds

Next, City Manager Napier discussed the City's investment in corporate bonds. He explained that staff has been in contact with the State Treasurer and Attorney General's Office, and they have determined that cities and towns in Wyoming are allowed to make these investments. Staff has been working on the best policy approach to start to incorporate these mechanisms into the City's investment strategy. Jill Johnson, Finance Director, then introduced the City's First Interstate Bank

financial advisors, Christine Stack and Paul McKean, to review the benefits of corporate bonds. The advisors explained that these types of bonds are likely to increase returns on investments and can add diversification to the portfolio. They explained that they are riskier, but that risk is limited by only investing in the highest-grade corporate bonds, limiting the total corporate bond exposure to 20% of the total investment portfolio, and limiting the exposure to any single corporate bond issuer to only 1% of the entire portfolio. Council gave their thumbs up to move the investment policy forward for formal consideration at a future Council meeting. Councilmember Cathey asked about a conflict of interest for one of the advisors, because her husband works at a competing bank. The advisors and Councilmembers agreed that there is no conflict of interest.

4. Project Safe Contract Amendment

Next, City Manager Napier discussed changes to the design and scope of the renovations for City Hall. He reviewed the first attempt at bidding Project Safe which resulted in all bids being significantly overbudget. Council rejected the bids and directed staff to reshape the scope to meet the majority of the objectives with a more reasonable funding approach. Zulima Lopez, Parks, Recreation, and Public Facilities Director, reviewed the former floor plan as well as the new plan. The new design includes the East entrance as the single point of public entry, public intensive offices on the lower level, keycard entry for staff on the second level, a new Council meeting space, upgraded ADA compliant bathrooms, a second egress from the second floor, improved HVAC, and additional security improvements. City Manager Napier discussed the funding for the project and the additional cost for design. He stated that staff is hopeful that some of the project can be covered by grant funding. The adjusted funding for the project will be \$4M-\$4.5M. Council gave their thumbs up for the design concept and to move the design contract forward for formal approval at a future regular Council meeting.

5. Meeting Space Discussion

Next, City Manager Napier discussed a follow-up item regarding the venue for Council work sessions. Councilmember Gamroth discussed why he originally brought this issue forward, stating that the new design of City Hall would address some of the concerns. He expressed additional concerns regarding the audio/visual elements of work sessions as well as the lack of decorum. Council discussed that when there is a larger than normal public attendance for a work session, Council should move into the Chambers for that work session. Several Councilmembers stated that the Council meeting room facilitates a more conversational atmosphere which they prefer for the work sessions. Mayor Pacheco discussed the option to mask if there are spikes in illness. He also asked that decorum be maintained in all meetings, including the work sessions. Councilmember Pollock asked about meeting structure policy and calling point of order, and City Attorney Henley responded that there is no formal structure, but Councilmembers can informally ask that the discussion get back on track. City Manager Napier stated that the AV issues will be fixed soon.

6. Agenda Review

Council reviewed the agendas for upcoming regular Council meetings and work sessions. Mayor Pacheco reminded Council that next week's pre-meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. to allow time to discuss all of that meeting's agenda items.

7. Legislative Review

City Manager Napier discussed conversations around liquor legislation around fees and new issue retail licenses as well as tavern entertainment licenses. He stated that these would accommodate businesses like golf simulation businesses. There is also discussion about allowing an unlimited number of bar and grill liquor licenses.

8. Council Around the Table

Next, Council went around the table to discuss their respective board and committee meetings as well as matters of public interest.

The work session was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Ray Pacheco
Mayor