

## COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, October 25, 2016, 4:30 p.m.

Casper City Hall

Council Meeting Room

### AGENDA

1. Police Department Investigation Staffing (Jim Wetzel)
2. Land Trade Proposal Presented by Fire Station LP (Phil Schmidt)
3. Downtown Development Authority Update (Brandon Daigle)
4. Budget Review
5. City Manager Report
6. Future Agenda Review
7. Council Around the Table

Mayor Sandoval called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Councilman Cathey, Johnson, Heili, Pacheco, Humphrey, Miller, Hopkins, Powell, and Mayor Sandoval.

Mayor Sandoval introduced Casper Police Chief Jim Wetzel to discuss Casper Police Department (C.P.D.) investigations staffing. Chief Wetzel began by explaining how staffing works in the C.P.D. He stated that every officer starts out on patrol and then select officers are moved up into specialties. He stated that the department is authorized 99 officers. They are down six officers right now, and three officers are at the Police Academy and another three are in the PTO Program. He explained how officers are trained through a lengthy 18 month process that includes pre-academy, academy, post-academy, and PTO training before they are allowed to operate solo. He explained the difficulty is selecting officers for investigations due to 75% of the department's officers having less than five years of experience. The core of the department is very young and inexperienced without a lot of time on the street, and they prefer that detectives have at least five years of experience. He stated that there is room for nine officers on investigations and they currently have eight officers, which has worked efficiently. Each detective has some level of training to investigate child and sex crimes, which account for 20 to 30% of their caseload, and some have even more specialized training.

Councilman Hopkins asked if the C.P.D. works with the Child Advocacy Group, and Chief Wetzel responded that they do work together and that they have proved a very good resource. Councilman Heili asked about the Victim Services Department, and Chief Wetzel stated that this department is embedded within criminal investigations. He stated that Victim Services has done a very good job, and has greatly improved victim follow-ups and referrals. They also utilize victim-advocate volunteers that are on-call to help victims whenever the need arises. He added that the C.P.D. received the E.L.E.R.V. grant, which will help the C.P.D. to become more victim-centered. For that grant, the C.P.D. has collected over 1,000 victim and community surveys, and will use the analysis of those results to implement practices that further victim-centered initiatives.

Mayor Sandoval asked if it would be possible to recruit a detective from outside of the department. Chief Wetzel responded that there are strict civil service regulations on hiring practices, and if they focused on testing for that position, they would miss an entire testing cycle to fill the other entry-level positions that are needed. They would need to exhaust that investigations list in order to establish an entry level test. Councilman Powell asked if there is a way to hire positions when a retirement is coming up, and Chief Wetzel stated that over-hiring is not usually authorized. A few years ago there was an over-hire program which did not seem to be overall beneficial. Councilman Powell asked about the fail rates at the police academy, and Chief Wetzel responded that failures at the academy are not the problem. Officers are usually washed out at the P.T.O. phase.

Councilman Miller stated that he wants to make sure concerned citizens feel that Council is being proactive and investigating their concerns and/or personnel issues if that is the case. Chief Wetzel responded that in regards to sexual assault investigations, he cannot comment on ongoing investigations and state statute prevents the names of victims or suspects being released. He stated that often times there is a timely reporting issue, where there is no physical evidence and it becomes a he-said, she-said scenario, and it is near impossible to know which way the scales tip. Councilman Powell stated that some of the complaints were focused on phone calls not being returned and people not being able to contact officers up the chain of command. Chief Wetzel stated that the C.P.D. receives many calls, and that who they are directed to depends on the nature of the complaint. These individuals are usually referred to a sergeant or lieutenant first, because, those officers know the nature of the complaint better and are in a better position to get to deal with those issues. There is a chain of command that is useful in helping the department run efficiently. Chief Wetzel said that some of the issues that were brought up in the Regular Council meeting regarding the C.P.D.'s response have been followed up. He stated that in regards to those issues, the C.P.D. followed protocol and handled the investigations properly. Councilman Humphrey asked if staffing would have changed those complaints, and Chief Wetzel replied that staffing would not have affected this.

Next, Karl Kilmer, Fire Station LP partner, gave a presentation on the land trade proposal involving the fire station's parking lot to be used for the David Street Station. He began by giving a background of how the fire station property was renovated. Part of their land is needed for a parking lot for the plaza, and Fire Station LP is open to help accommodate that. Initially it was proposed that there would be a straight across trade for this parking lot for a similar piece of land behind the fire station building.

The original fire station building had an extra two fire truck bays that are not currently seen on the building, and Fire Station L.P. decided to investigate to see if two bays still exist within the Plains Furniture building, and they found out that they do. Mr. Kilmer then introduced Anthony Jacobsen of State Line Architects, to discuss this further. Mr. Jacobsen began by showing Council the original plans for the fire station and showed pictures of evidence within Plains Furniture that those bays do in fact extend into the Plains Furniture building. He then showed models of what the fire station property would look like if the Plains Furniture building was not there and the bays were renovated along with the rest of the fire station. He stated that Fire Station LP would like to use those bays for covered parking and showed some pictures of how this has been done in Denver.

Councilman Heili asked if these bays are in the Plains Furniture lot or the Fire Station lot. Mr. Jacobsen responded that they have not looked into the question of property lines, and they will need to find out what happened with the property ownership. Mr. Kilmer stated that they are very supportive of the plaza project moving forward and have granted utility easements already to help with that project. Mayor Sandoval suggested that the property swap for the parking lots move ahead as planned to allow for the D.D.A. (Downtown Development Authority) to move on with the David Street Station plans and allow for this other issue of the bays to be worked out between the City and Fire Station LP. Councilman Powell stated that he thinks that this would unnecessarily complicate this, and proposed referring this issue to Staff and asking them to bring Council a proposal after they have figured out the ownership issues with the fire station/Plains Furniture property. Councilman Cathey stated that this could be very time consuming for Staff which could hold up the D.D.A.'s David Street Station project. Mr. Kilmer stated that Fire Station LP is willing to go ahead with the parking lot trade as planned and then continue to work with the City on the fire station/Plains Furniture issues. Council directed Staff to look into these issues.

Next, Mayor Sandoval introduced Brandon Daigle, Chairman of the D.D.A. Board to update Council on the D.D.A. Mr. Daigle began by giving a background on the David Street Station and updating Council on the development of the project. He stated that all of that land has been deeded back to the City, so the D.D.A. is just a steward of that land. The construction process is on schedule and Phase 1 of the project is scheduled to be completed before the eclipse festival. He also updated Council on the fundraising efforts for the plaza. He stated that they have received some large donations and are applying for a Wyoming Business Council grant for Phase 3 of the project. Councilman Powell asked for an explanation of the plans for operations for the David Street Station and also the endowment fund. Mr. Haigler explained that the D.D.A. is forming a David Street Station subcommittee that will be in charge of managing the operation of David Street Station. The endowment came from one of the early on donations. Councilman Powell then asked about citizens' concerns that the City will be continually subsidizing those operations. Mr. Haigler addressed those concerns by stating that the D.D.A. has been fundraising for annual partners that will help them continually manage the property and cover the costs. He referenced similar plazas in the region that are self-sustaining. The D.D.A. is also actively seeking donations of all sizes from business and private citizens.

Next, City Manager McDonald presented on the current state of the City's budget. He stated that October's sales tax was a little below budget, and that we are down about 1.5% from the projected budget, which is very good compared to other municipalities in Wyoming. The sales tax revenue seems to have flattened out. He then reviewed the City's glide path for the use of reserves, and stated that the City is on track for our glide path, and stated that the budget will become worrisome if the City does not receive the 2018 above the cap funding. If the City does receive the funding it will be on the glide path. The Joint Appropriations Committee is not sure about this future funding and will make decisions based on what happens in the next year. Councilman Powell noted that the above the cap funding is not a general fund line item now and is coming out of the State's reserve fund, which shows that they have a strong commitment to making sure that municipalities receive that money. City Manager McDonald stated that the City is on its 10 year plan to diminish

reserves. The sales tax revenue seems to have flattened out and is somewhat stable. It is now based mostly on consumer spending.

Next, City Manager McDonald gave the City Manager Report. Tomorrow is the Safe2Tell program kick-off event. This program allows children to anonymously report threats and teaches them how to do so. Natrona County is the first county in the State to implement this program. State and local officials will be at the event, including Wyoming's Governor and the Attorney General. The annual trick or treating event is scheduled at City Hall next Monday, and this year there will be police officers and firefighters there for kids to interact with. The City was notified that the Amoco Reuse and the Regional Water Joint Powers Boards will not be covered by W.A.R.M. under the City's coverage, and they will need to purchase insurance coverage through other means. This will go into effect on December 31, 2016. These boards will be responsible for obtaining that coverage. Councilman Cathey stated that this brings up the issue of dissolving the Regional Water Joint Powers Board and bringing it under the City. City Manager McDonald stated that there have been efforts to look at doing this in the past, and this may need to be pursued once again. City Manager McDonald will be attending the annual City Manager's meeting for Wyoming municipalities this week along with the Assistant City Managers. They will call into the leadership lunch meeting on Thursday. The Councilmen attending the meeting will still meet at City Hall as usual.

Next, City Manager McDonald reviewed the agenda for the Regular Council Meeting on November 1, 2016.

Next Council went around the table to discuss their respective board meetings.

Mayor Sandoval adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING  
A Municipal Corporation

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Tracey L. Belser  
City Clerk

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Daniel Sandoval  
Mayor