

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, December 22, 2015, 4:30 p.m.

Casper City Hall
Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Self Help Center Update (Jennifer Dyer, Vic Orr)
2. Community Partners Summit Presentation
(Bill Edwards, Glenn Januska, Gilda Lara, Brook Kreder, Kevin Hawley)
3. The Glance (VH McDonald)
4. Council Elections (VH McDonald)
5. Interview Schedule for Ward I Replacement (VH McDonald)
6. FY2016 Budget Review
7. Future Agenda Review
8. Council Around the Table

Mayor Powell called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm with the following Councilmembers present: Councilman Pacheco, Miller, Hopkins, Sandoval, Schlager, Johnson, Cathey, and Mundell and Mayor Powell.

City Manager V.H. McDonald began by introducing Jennifer Dyer, Director of the Self Help Center, to update Council. She began with an overview of what the Self Help Center is and the services that it provides. She then gave an overview of the accomplishments from last year and an overview of the organization's strengths and needs. The strengths included a low amount of debt, receiving several grants, and implementing a new electronic system. The organization faces the need of out of date technical infrastructure.

Ms. Dyer then introduced Vic Orr, Self Help Center's Violence Prevention Education Coordinator, to discuss the services provided to families and youth clients of the Self Help Center. Mr. Orr discussed some of the youth programs that the organization has implemented including group therapy, after school mentoring programs, and a summer camp.

Councilman Sandoval asked about fees for individuals utilizing the organization for assessments and therapy. Ms. Dyer responded that if the individual is a client, that individual is not charged fees for any of these services, but if an individual is not a client there is a charge. Councilman Sandoval then asked if the organization has evidence that cycle of violence can be broken. Mr. Orr and Ms. Dyer stated that they do believe the cycle can be broken and each provided some personal examples of instances that supported their stance.

Councilman Hopkins asked about the state salary surcharge of \$3,100. Ms. Dyer responded that this is money they are allowed to put towards salaries because they are not allowed to give raises. Mayor Powell asked if their state funding is being threatened due to the financial downturn. Ms.

Dyer replied that the Division of Victim Services as a whole will be making cuts, but they will not know exact numbers until February.

Councilman Mundell asked what happened with the HUD (Housing and Urban Development) Grant and the Ivy House. Ms. Dyer stated that they still have the grant, and that they decided to get rid of the Ivy House because it was in disrepair and was too costly to maintain. She added that there will be some federal funding for transitional housing available in the near future. This will help with transitioning clients to permanent housing. The HUD grant will be used for rapid rehousing starting in January. Mayor Powell asked how many beds there are at the McKinley location. Ms. Dyer replied that there are ten beds and there is a waiting list for that location. Clients are required to fill out an application to live there and have to sign a one year lease. She added that AmeriCorps has been very helpful in providing jobs for clients. She then described some of the different types of clients they have and regulations preventing some supervised visits and family counseling sessions. Councilman Sandoval asked if it is a roadblock that the state will not fund counseling that works within the family dynamic. Ms. Dyer responded that this is political because much of their funding comes from restitution. She stated that it can be roadblock, but that they can instead use substance abuse funding for that. She added that couples counseling is not recommended in domestic violence situations.

Next, City Manager McDonald introduced Bill Edwards to discuss the Community Partners Summit Presentation. Mr. Edwards gave a brief background on the Community Partners Summit which include groups like the Chamber of Commerce, Casper Business Bureau, Downtown Development Authority, Casper International Airport, and Casper Area Economic Development Alliance. He described how they have worked together to target their efforts towards individual and common goals. Some of their common goals include targeting quality of life issues in the community, citywide WyoCity branding, business recruitment, targeted infrastructure, relationship building, and business retention and expansion.

Mr. Edwards then introduced Gilda Lara, Executive Director of the Casper Area Chamber of Commerce, to describe some of the accomplishments of the Chamber and the Community Partners Summit. She gave an example of a company called Vintage Body Care that had contacted the Community Partners Summit and recently became a Chamber of Commerce member. This company is now going to be part of the swag bag at the Academy Awards. She described how the Community Partners Summit helps businesses grow and find resources. She gave examples of how working together has helped each agency work with individuals and businesses.

Mayor Powell asked about the business incubator and if it has been working well. Mr. Edwards replied that it has been working the way it is supposed to and that it is in the process of expanding. Councilman Sandoval asked about the fiber optic redundancy that will provide reliable broadband to the community. Mr. Edwards responded that this conversation with the Community Partners Summit caused many private companies to get involved. They are bringing the cables from I-80

to Casper and conduit from Muddy Gap to Casper in order to help with redundancy. This is a long term project and will be looking at the middle pieces moving forward.

Mayor Powell asked how the meetings are run and who runs them. Mr. Edwards stated that they have an agenda and there is not one group running the meeting. He added that it has been a gradual process but that they are seeing results. Councilman Mundell asked if these groups should be co-located in order to relieve some of duplication of operating costs. Mr. Edwards responded that he is not sure if this is necessary, as the different locations have not caused any problems as of yet. Councilman Sandoval asked if they have talked to an attorney about any proprietary issues. Mr. Edwards stated they have not talked to an attorney, and currently they are working under a gentleman's agreement of confidentiality. He added that they may come to the City to ask about implementing a more formal legal agreement in the future.

City Manager McDonald introduced Tracey Belser, Director of Support Services, to describe "The Glance" to Council. She started by summarizing what "The Glance" does and why it is needed. It is an online communication resource that will keep department heads and Councilmen up to date on current projects and events. Department Heads will update the City Manager's Office on current projects, and those updates will be added to "The Glance". It will be comparable to a Twitter feed with the City Manager's Office filtering the information. The purpose of it is to inform Staff and Council so that they are better able to inform community members who have questions using the most recent information from the people who are actually working on the project. Eventually, it will be updated by departments themselves. The link will have an icon on the City's website when it is made live. Ms. Belser asked if Council had any questions or feedback on the idea or format. Mayor Powell suggested that there be links added to reference packets, pictures, etc. for each project. Council agreed that they liked the concept and gave Staff approval to move forward with the idea.

Council then filled out ballots to elect the Mayor and Vice Mayor for 2016. Council chose Councilman Sandoval as Mayor and Councilman Cathey as Vice Mayor. This item will be on the January 5 agenda.

Next, City Manager McDonald discussed the interviews for the Ward I Council seat that will be left vacant by the Councilman Mundell. He then asked Council what they would like for the interview schedule. Councilman Hopkins stated that he would like Council to have time to look at applications and proposed looking at all the applications and figuring out a schedule on January 5th. The interview process that was used last time was well-liked and Council agreed that it was a fair process because every applicant answered the same questions and was given the same amount of time. Council discussed whether the interviews should be public and discussed whether they should filter the applicants before doing interviews. Council decided to wait to make these decisions based on how many people apply and decided to work out the interview schedule at the next work session.

Council then discussed the interviews for the Amoco Reuse Agreement Joint Powers Board that are scheduled for January 12th. One candidate cannot be interviewed on that day. There are four applicants for two positions. Council decided to see if that applicant can do the interview before January 12, and to interview the other three applicants as scheduled on January 12. Council discussed how many Councilmen should be present at the interviews and decided that there should only be a few but that the same people need to be at all of the interviews. Councilman Hopkins said he will speak with Renee Hahn of the Joint Powers Board about moving the interviews to January 20th and will let the City Manager's Office know what she says.

Next, City Manager McDonald updated Council on the FY16 budget. The City is now down \$5.1 million for the year. Staff will not be looking at secondary revenues until mid-year. The franchise fees are also down. The property taxes should be higher, and December's was higher than expected. He went over some of the changes that are being implemented to help offset the decline in revenue, such as managing overtime and removing vacancies from health insurance fund. Council discussed possible savings from changing the City's snow removal practices. City Manager McDonald stated that he will ask Staff to look into these costs. For now, there will be no change in services.

City Manager McDonald stated that next week is a bye week so there is no Council meeting. Council discussed the issue of renaming streets or buildings after individuals and proposed implementing standards for this. There have been requests for this, and this issue will be worked through. City Manager McDonald stated that the Charter item has been added to a work session.

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

Next, Council adjourned into an Executive Session for the purposes of property acquisition at 6:52 p.m. Moved by Councilman Mundell, seconded by Councilman Johnson.

Council adjourned out of executive session at 7:40 p.m. Moved by Councilman Cathey, seconded by Councilman Miller.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Tracey L. Belser
City Clerk

Charlie Powell
Mayor