

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, May 24, 2016, 4:30 p.m.

Casper City Hall
Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Project Citizen Presentation by Roosevelt High School (Matt Crabb)
2. Boomer Study Presentation (Bobbe Fitzhugh, Kathy Patceg, Steve Elledge)
3. Signal Timing Project Results (Andrew Nelson)
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, Schlager, Miller, Hopkins, Powell, and Sandoval.

Mayor Sandoval introduced Matt Crabb from Roosevelt High School to discuss the Project Citizen Presentation. Mr. Crabb explained that this presentation was part of the students' final Civics Class grade, and asked Council to fill out a survey to give feedback and rate the students' presentation. Mr. Crabb then introduced the students to give their presentation that focused on the adoption of high energy dogs. The students discussed the problems with Metro Animal's first come first serve adoption policy, and explained that many new high energy dog owners do not give their dogs enough exercise which leads to negative behaviors including escaping and aggressiveness. The students then presented possible solutions to the problems which included requiring pre-home and post-home visits before and after adoption, home check-ins by local kennel clubs, and requiring new owners to watch a video about caring for high energy breeds. Council then gave the students praise and feedback on the presentation.

Next, Mayor Sandoval introduced Bobbe Fitzhugh of the Community Builders, Inc. firm to update Council on the Boomer Study. Ms. Fitzhugh explained that this study was an update of the 2008 Boomer Study, and the name has been changed to the Senior Services Study. She explained that a Volunteer Study Committee made up of individuals from many different sectors of the community has been reviewing the data and evaluating what is important and applicable to this community. After interviews with service providers and surveying individuals in the community, the Committee found that the major areas of concern were transportation, mental healthcare, in-home services, and quality of life. Ms. Fitzhugh then reviewed recommendations for the seven thematic areas that the Committee felt were most important; these included: community design, finance, transportation, healthcare, housing, lifelong learning, and workforce. She summarized the Committee's recommendations for how to improve and prioritize these areas for seniors within the community. She stated that the action plan for how to implement these recommendations is a work in progress, and that it will depend on what the City deems most important. She recommended that the City keep working with the Volunteer Study Committee in order to keep the community

engaged. Council discussed some ideas that Staff and the Committee could focus on. City Manager McDonald stated that Staff will be tasked with prioritizing and brainstorming ideas for how to implement some of the recommendations.

Next, Mayor Sandoval introduced Andrew Beamer, Public Services Director, to discuss the signal timing project. Mr. Beamer stated that one year ago the City hired KLJ to reevaluate the signals and intersections around Casper. He stated that the evaluation was necessary because of the City's substantial growth in recent years. He then introduced Mike Bitner, KLJ Consultant, to present on the project's results. Mr. Bitner explained the step by step process of how KLJ evaluates the data in order to find the best timing plan for the community, and summarized the factors that are considered when creating the plan. The timing plan is based on a computer model that best fits, and is then refined to create the highest efficiency. The new timing plan will be implemented at the end of this week. He stated that there are several barriers to creating effective timing plans, including WYDOT (Wyoming Department of Transportation) signals that cannot be coordinated with the City's signals.

Mr. Bitner then reviewed some of the improvements that may be considered in the future including flashing yellow arrows and signal removal, which can help prevent crashes and improve traffic flow. The first step to implementing this is to use the flashing yellow arrow and evaluate how it works. The City has implemented this step at specific intersections, and will be evaluating the effectiveness. Councilman Heili asked how a signal light is deemed unnecessary. Mr. Bitner responded that the necessity is based on federal requirements as well as other factors including school zones and possible future growth. Councilman Cathey asked if they considered adding turn signals to busy intersections like the 1st Street and Center Street intersection. Mr. Bitner responded that that is a WYDOT intersection, so the City cannot add a turn signal. They did look at other intersections that may benefit from added left turn signals. Mr. Beamer stated that they needed Council's direction on the flashing yellow arrows. He stated that WYDOT has already implemented these in some intersections in town. There are 56 lights that are recommended to change, and the cost of adding the new lights would be approximately \$56,000. The changes are already budgeted. Council voted to move ahead with changing the signals on the 56 recommended lights to flashing yellow signals.

Next, City Manager McDonald reviewed the City's budget. He stated that the budget continues to be affected by declining revenue, especially the mining tax revenues which have decreased by 70%.

Next, City Manager McDonald gave the City Manager Report. He stated that the City will start stripping the streets and working on potholes now that the weather is getting warmer. He stated that the first draft of the City's requests for the Casper Events Center (C.E.C.) contract was sent out this week. The City is also having the C.E.C. surveyed for liability reasons. This will cost \$4,200. He then gave an overview of the good faith agreements that the City has been working on with the Parkway Plaza, including possible infrastructure changes. Council requested that these agreements be brought to the first work session in June as opposed to going straight to a Regular Council Meeting.

City Manager McDonald then updated Council on some details for the sale of the Midwest property to the State. The City has added the afterhours parking requirement, and there has been no agreement yet. He then discussed the retail liquor license applications which can be submitted to the City beginning June 1, 2016. Council discussed individuals lobbying Councilmembers to come see their potential liquor license properties. City Attorney Luben recommended that Councilmembers visit all of the sites together during a work session after the application period has ended. He recommended that Council not meet with the applicants before that time in order to be fair to all of the applicants. Council agreed with City Attorney Luben, and voted to visit all of the sites during a work session and not meet individually with any of the applicants before that time. City Manager McDonald then notified Council that he has asked to be part of the State Revenue Task Force and the Wyoming Association of Municipalities Task Force in order to represent Casper in these discussions. He also stated that there will be no leadership lunch this Thursday, because there is not a Regular Council Meeting next week.

Next, Council went around the table to discuss issues related to their respective board meetings. Councilman Heili stated that he has been working on the Bureau of Land Management letter regarding the benefits of coal leasing to the City and State on behalf of Council. Councilman Powell stated that he will miss the first work session of June, and Councilman Cathey stated that he will not be able to attend the second leadership lunch in June.

Mayor Sandoval adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Tracey L. Belser
City Clerk

Daniel Sandoval
Mayor