

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, August 23, 2016, 4:30 p.m.

Casper City Hall

Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Introduction of Jeff Edgens, Director of U.W. at Casper
2. Signal Timing Results (Monica DeLeon)
3. Community Promotions, Round II (Fleur Tremel, Liz Becher)
4. Programming Contract for Government Access Channel (Fleur Tremel, Liz Becher)
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 Jeff Edgens, Director of University of Wyoming at Casper College (U.W.C.C.). Mr. Edgens gave a brief background of his experience in higher education. He then went over how the economic decline has affected the budget at U.W.C.C. and reviewed some of the highlights of the U.W.C.C. programs, including a 25% increase in enrolled students compared to last year.

Councilman Powell asked how Mr. Edgens plans on addressing some of the challenges associated with credit transfers with other community colleges. Mr. Edgens responded that they have been working on this and there have been several articulation meetings to help with that issue. There are already 17 completed articulation agreements between Wyoming's community colleges and U.W. and 30 total articulation agreements. The articulated agreements allow students to complete a two year program at a community college and transfer those credits straight into the same 4 year program at U.W. He stated that transferring credits to out of state universities is more difficult, because whether credits can be transferred is up to the receiving institution.

Councilman Powell asked about the new counseling program. Mr. Edgens stated that there have been many qualified applicants, and last year there were 24 enrolled students. He added that these types of post-secondary options are very good for recruiting people and businesses to Casper to help diversify the economy. Businesses value higher education and having transfer ability is very important to businesses. There are very few community colleges that offer graduate programs, so Casper has a unique opportunity with the counseling program. He offered to speak with Council anytime to answer questions, and invited them to the 40th Anniversary Reception in October.

Next, Mayor Sandoval introduced Monica DeLeon, Traffic Supervisor, to review the signal timing results. She stated that the City will be applying many of the recommendations made by the signal timing consultants. Some of the those recommendations include implementing flashing yellow turn signals, removing unwanted signals, removing stop signs on campus, configuring turn lanes to improve intersections, and new signal timings to improve traffic flow. The signal timings have already been implemented and have led to decreased driver delays and improved traffic flow. The City has received a lot of positive feedback about the changes.

Councilman Miller asked if the stop light that was taken out by Casper College should have been left alone due to the new YMCA construction. Andrew Beamer, Public Services Director, responded that this was taken into consideration, but that most of that traffic will be during off-peak hours so it should not be affected. Councilman Miller asked if the City will continue hiring KLJ to maintain the City's traffic signaling. Mr. Beamer replied that the City will contract this out every three to five years. Councilman Cathey stated that these traffic studies actually have to be done in order to get WYDOT and federal funds.

Councilman Heili asked if the decreased number of vehicle stops on major roads will cause increased times on small side roads, and Mr. Beamer responded that some of the side roads may have increased wait times. He added that this whole project will be monitored by the traffic department to ensure that it is maintained and keeps working efficiently. Paul Mosier from the Streets Department will be in charge of this ongoing maintenance. Mr. Beamer stated that the consultants found that 24 intersections had signals that could be removed without affecting anything. Some of these have been removed, but the City will need public input before other signals are taken out. Councilman Humphrey asked if the 20 mph school zone for the college will be changed, and Mr. Beamer replied that there will be no flashing school zone at the college during the summer and there will be reduced flashing times during the school year.

Next, Fleur Tremel, Deputy Assistant City Manager, and Liz Becher, Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director, reviewed the voting results of the community promotions for FY17. Ms. Tremel stated that the results were in Council's packet and she reviewed the breakdown of the allocations. She reminded Council that they can change their votes tonight. She explained how the votes were tallied and averaged to come up with the final results. Council allocated \$89,000 of the available \$103,000, and the remaining amount can be allocated in six months.

Ms. Tremel stated that the Community Rec Foundation is now eligible to receive funds, because their non-profit status has been renewed since the last work session. Council discussed awarding this money, and decided they would grant the Community Rec Foundation's in-kind and facilities requests but did not allocate any money for their cash request.

Councilman Cathey asked about the funding for timers for the biathlon organization. He stated that Council allocated money for this purpose last year and is concerned about the duplication. It was a separate group that asked for the funding last year, and they had requested the money for timers for other events as well like the Casper marathon and Nordic races. If nothing is changed, they will receive \$4,000 from these voting results with most of that requested for timing

mechanisms. Councilman Cathey stated that he would like more information before Council allocates this money. The Casper Sports Alliance received the money last year, and they are scheduled to provide an update to Council on the timing systems soon. City Manager McDonald stated that they need to talk with the Sports Alliance anyway about other matters, so Staff can ask for an explanation on this issue. Council decided to table the biathlon's funding request until there is clarification on the timer issue and will discuss this at the next work session. The new total without the biathlon funding and with the Casper Rec Foundation funding is between \$91,000 and \$92,000 and will be \$96,000 if the current allocated biathlon funding is approved at the next work session.

Councilman Heili asked about the Science Zone's ineligibility. Ms. Tremel explained that this organization did not meet the requirement of bringing people to Casper, and their focus was instead on bringing people to the downtown area. Councilman Heili asked that his individual recommendation be removed for the Science Zone, because it is a minute amount of money when averaged with all of the other Councilmen who allocated no money.

Next, Ms. Becher presented on the programming contract for the government access channel. She stated that this contract is now expired, so Council needs to decide if they would like to go out for another RFP or look at other community outreach initiatives by utilizing in-house media. Staff has been utilizing other methods to communicate with the public such as The Glance, televisions in the lobby, and increased press releases. No matter what Council decides to do, the current contract will need to be cancelled, because it was only a one year contract but has been in effect for 3.5 years. There will need to be a 30 day notice to cancel the contract.

Councilman Cathey stated that he is not sure that the contract accomplished its initial goal. Mayor Sandoval stated that when the contract was initiated, the City was supposed to collaborate with the contractor, but this has not occurred. Councilman Hopkins asked what would be on the channel if the contract were not renewed. Ms. Becher responded that the City would put up items from The Glance on the channel. Councilman Humphrey added that this is one of the few ways to get information out to senior citizens.

Councilman Humphrey asked what programming is currently on the channel and if there is any way to track viewership. Councilman Powell concurred that he would like to see information about what has been on the channel, and he is not comfortable evaluating it until Council is given some more information. This would also help Council direct Staff when a new contract is drafted. Council stated that they would like to see performance stipulations and standards in the new contract. City Manager McDonald stated that Staff will gather information about what programming has been on the channel. He explained that Staff was mostly looking for direction from Council about whether or not they supported the television medium. City Attorney Luben stated that a resolution will need to be brought forward to cancel the current contract. Council decided to move forward with cancelling the current contract.

Next, City Manager McDonald gave the City Manager Report. He stated that he met with Spectra's choice for a venue manager for the Events Center. The venue manager has a great deal of experience in similar locations and has Bud Dovala's support. The Spectra contract is in its

final negotiations. The subsidy amounts have been finalized and the revenue performance requirement is being worked on. Staff is still hoping to have the contract approved at the September 6 council meeting, but it may need to be moved to the September 20 meeting. Individuals from the Casper ranch annexations will be meeting with staff in September and staff will keep Council posted on that progress. Department heads will be getting together next Monday and Tuesday for a strategic planning session. Construction is underway for both the storage building at the Casper Events Center and at Hogadon. Staff has been assigned to work on the Parkway Plaza MOU, and will have Phase 1 completed in December. Staff still does not have the year-end budget report for FY16, but hopefully that final report will be available by the next work session. The general fund had an \$8.5 million shortfall for sales revenue, and the City used \$4.4 million from reserves. August's sales tax came in higher than expected so the revenue may be a more sustained amount now. School enrollment has not declined drastically as was feared. Currently, the City is holding off from cutting services, but is preparing for future cuts if the decline continues.

City Manager McDonald stated that there is no Council meeting next Tuesday, because it is a lag week. He reviewed the agenda items that have been scheduled for upcoming Council work sessions. He stated that if Council would like anything added to work sessions they can speak with him, Mayor Sandoval, or Councilman Cathey. Councilman Cathey expressed interest in having periodical updates from each of the departments so that Council is aware of what each department is up to.

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

Mayor Sandoval reviewed the amendment that was added to John Patterson's contract. The amendment stated that if contract employees are working in the scope of their duties, they will be covered for punitive damages. This was all handled when the contract was amended, and the contract did not change anything. It only aligned contract employees with all other employees. Mayor Sandoval stated that he was advised to publicly state this, and Council agreed that this should be stated publicly.

Mayor Sandoval adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Tracey L. Belser
City Clerk

Daniel Sandoval
Mayor