

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, August 9, 2016, 4:30 p.m.
Casper City Hall
Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Restorative Justice Sponsorship (Jen Miner)
2. Disc Golf History and Use (Dan Coryell)
3. Health Plan Design Changes (Zulima Lopez)
4. Community Promotions (Liz Becher, Fleur Tremel)
5. City Manager Report
6. Future Agenda Review
7. Council Around the Table

Mayor Sandoval called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Councilman Cathey, Johnson, Heili, Pacheco, Humphrey, Miller, Hopkins, Powell, and Mayor Sandoval.

Mayor Sandoval introduced Jen Miner to discuss the City's sponsorship of a proposed conference for restorative justice. Ms. Miner explained that Natrona County Restorative Justice (NCRJ) was formed last fall with the goal of educating the community and introducing Wyoming to restorative justice. The group would like to bring a restorative justice conference to Casper in order to educate the community on this process. The conference will reach out to many different stakeholders so that many groups can be informed about how restorative justice will affect them. The group already has two experts slotted to speak at the conference, and they would like to conclude the conference with different communities forming small groups to discuss how the practice can be implemented in their community. The purpose of the conference is to build momentum so that restorative justice will be practiced throughout Wyoming. Ms. Miner stated that they are asking for support from the City, as this is ultimately an investment in the community.

Councilman Powell asked what the offset costs are that were discussed back in April, such as saved money in jail costs, so that Council can justify this expenditure with offset costs down the road. Ms. Miner responded that there is research on these decreased costs, but that she does not have specific cost savings amounts. Councilman Hopkins asked if that data could be emailed to Council. Mayor Sandoval stated that the presenters in April stated that there was a drastic decrease in recidivism rates, and that there is also the consideration that this may be a better approach in general.

Mayor Sandoval asked how the NCRJ envisions Council supporting them. Ms. Miner stated that currently they need financial support in the amount of \$5,000, and down the road they will need

policy support. Councilman Heili asked if they have reached out to other agencies for financial assistance and if those other agencies are funded by the City. Ms. Miner responded that they have reached out to other agencies and that she is not sure if they are funded by the City. The State Department of Corrections is helping to sponsor them, and NCRJ will also be presenting to the County Commissioners in October or November, but that they have not formally requested assistance from other agencies at this time.

Councilman Cathey asked if there is a budget for conference and Ms. Miner replied that they are in the process of creating a budget. Councilman Cathey asked Council if they are providing seed money or if that will lead to them needing to fund the entire practice in the future. He also expressed concern over this conflicting with Council's previous decision to no longer sponsor events, and stated that he would like to see a budget and a business plan before Council provides this financial assistance. Mayor Sandoval stated that this is a culmination of efforts that will help restorative justice become more understood so that it may be implemented in the future. Ms. Miner explained that the conference will help determine where the need is in each community which will help determine whether restorative justice would be handled through the Police Department or through another agency. Councilman Pacheco stated that this is only support to help this get off the ground and that there does not need to be a solid plan in order for Council to provide support. It is difficult to predict what will happen next; this is just the first step towards implementing the practice. Councilman Powell added that this conference will provide an opportunity for community outreach to see if the idea gets traction and if there is support from the community. The City's role is similar to the annual meth conference, which is sponsored through the Police Department's budget, and this is not the same as a sponsorship of a fundraiser. The City has a potential financial benefit from this practice as well as the opportunity to benefit the community. City Manager McDonald stated that Council could allocate the money by adjusting the Council Goals budget or possibly allocate money from the police grant fund. Mayor Sandoval stated that the idea is that the conference will provide expertise that will help guide that next step and lead to resources and programs that could be implemented. Council agreed to provide financial assistance to the NCRJ for the conference.

Next, Mayor Sandoval introduced Dan Coryell, Parks Division Manager, to present on the Disc Golf Course. Mr. Coryell gave a background on the history of the course in Casper. He stated that the disc golf users are not a true user group and that they do not ask for money; they only ask that the fairways be mowed. He explained that one of the courses, Bull Snake Alley, is on City property and only has baskets and not concrete tees. The baskets were put in by a private citizen. Councilman Heili stated that this may be an under-promoted facility, and that disc golf is a growing sport. He suggested that the City should invest in some signage, directions and possibly some photos on the website to let people know this exists. Councilman Johnson suggested that the signage issue be brought up to the Casper Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau Board.

Councilman Cathey suggested asking the disc golfers if they could get organized so that they have a true contact with the City. Councilman Pacheco asked how this affects the river restoration project considering its close vicinity to the river. Jolene Martinez, Special Projects

Coordinator, stated that the disc golf course has been in conflict with the environment in that area, and in particular, is endangering the riparian habitat. Riparian habitats are a rare resource and are very ecologically sensitive. There are plans for the river to be moved which would take out the disc golf course. Bull Snake Alley is devastating the plant life. Ms. Martinez stated that the Wyoming Wildlife Foundation has granted \$2 Million for river restoration, and this riparian habitat is part of the reason that this project received that grant. Councilman Hopkins asked what specifically has been damaged. Ms. Martinez responded that this area provides a migration corridor that is very rare and important to all wildlife and plant life. The grasses are currently being damaged by the walkways which can have a major ecological impact. Only 1% of our land in Wyoming is riparian habitat, so we need to protect this land. She suggested moving the course somewhere else completely in order to avoid damaging this entire ecosystem. Mayor Sandoval asked if this needs to be a future topic of discussion and suggested putting it on a work session agenda soon.

Next, Zulima Lopez, Assistant Support Services Director/Human Resources Manager, presented on the City's health plan design changes. Ms. Lopez explained that there is a committee made up of City staff members that decides what changes will be made to the health plan. In July, consultants came on site and recommended changes to offset some of the increased health insurance costs that the City is facing. The committee met and unanimously supported all of the recommended changes. One of the changes will be increased deductibles. Most of the City's members never meet their deductible, therefore the committee felt that this change would affect the least amount of people, as opposed to increasing premiums which would affect all of the members. There will also be an increase in out of pocket maximums, implementation of prescription step therapy, and autism coverage. The estimated plan savings for the City will be \$320,000. There are a couple of members that need this autism coverage, and Staff is asking that this specific change be implemented immediately. Members will make their elections in September and the other changes would go into effect January 1, 2017.

Councilman Hopkins asked about the autism coverage and how much this would end up costing the City. Ms. Lopez responded that the coverage would follow industry standards and would not cover everything autism related. The impact will not be realized until this is implemented, because there may be more members that would utilize it than the committee is aware of. Councilman Heili asked about the deficit that Ms. Lopez alluded to. She explained that the City has gone five years without a premium increase, and wants the plan to be on a sustainable level. She stated that she does not have specific numbers right now, but that she can get them for Council and that the changes would help with the current deficit that the City is running. Council decided to move forward with the healthcare plan changes.

Next, Fleur Tremel, Deputy Assistant City Manager, presented on community promotions. Ms. Tremel explained that this is an information session to explain how Council can fill in their voting sheet. She stated that there were 42 applications totaling \$210,000 in requests. Council has set aside \$103,500 in their budget for community promotions, so now Council will need to decide which applicants receive money and the amounts that each applicant will receive. Staff reviewed the legal eligibility of the applications with City Attorney Luben and then met to

review each applicant's community promotions eligibility. The spreadsheet denotes if organizations met eligibility, if they completed their FY16 final reporting, if they received other City funding this year, and compares what each organization is requesting this year compared to their funding from FY16. Each Councilmember will need to fill the spreadsheet out by the end of next week (August 19), and the votes and funding amounts will be averaged to determine which organizations receive money and what their funding amounts are. The results will be presented at the next work session, and Council will have the opportunity to change their votes.

Next, City Manager McDonald gave the City Manager Report. He stated that Staff is working on the final pieces of the Spectra contract. There have been some issues due to conflicts between Wyoming law and industry standards, but this is being ironed out. Staff is still working on having this completed by the September 6 Council meeting so that Spectra can take over by November 1. Next week Staff will meet with the proposed venue manager. The City has been receiving noise and trespass complaints from downtown vendors about Pokémon Go users. There will be a zero tolerance curfew to help with these issues. This month's tax revenue was greater than the budgeted amount. The population changes could affect future consumer dollars. Staff is proceeding with the Parkway Plaza MOU after council approved it. One of the items through Phase 1 is to rename E Street as Parkway Plaza Drive. The City has a benchmark date of December to complete this.

Next, City Manager McDonald reviewed the agenda for the Regular Council Meeting on August 16, 2016.

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

Mayor Sandoval adjourned the work session at 6:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Tracey L. Belser
City Clerk

Daniel Sandoval
Mayor