

COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.
City Hall - Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Follow-up
2. Wayfinding Sign Concept Presentation
3. Downtown Parking Study (Further Discussion)
4. Historic Preservation Strategic Plan – Final Presentation
5. Tree & Shrub Ordinance
6. Agenda Setting
7. Legislative Review
8. Council Around the Table

Mayor Powell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Johnson, Freel, Huber, Pacheco, Hopkins, Cathey, Lutz, Bates, and Mayor Powell.

Council discussed the last Council meeting and gave their thumbs up to bring the Plains Furniture item forward again at the November 5, 2019 for reconsideration. City Attorney Henley reminded them that anyone who was present for the vote on this item at the last meeting would need to be present in order for the item to be reconsidered.

Council then went to the City Hall lobby to hear a presentation on wayfinding. Liz Becher, Community Development Director, introduced consultants from ITC to review their wayfinding proposal. The consultant explained that the wayfinding effort is led by the Metropolitan Planning Organization with collaborations from the City of Casper, Bar Nunn, Evansville, Mills and Natrona County. The ideas for the signs embrace the natural landscape of Casper and surrounding communities and will focus on the most popular destinations for visiting guests, which through surveys were found to be Casper Mountain, fishing, downtown Casper, the waterfall, and water features. The consultant then reviewed different design options for the shape, color scheme, lettering and other graphic elements on the signs. He then described the gateway locations identified by popularity of entrance into the area. Next steps for the project were then discussed which included reviewing public input, finalizing sign design, developing a wayfinding system, preparing gateway concepts, workshops, finalizing plan for review and comment, plan adoption, and implementation. Mayor Powell asked about including the entrance into downtown and working with the railroad to make this more aesthetically pleasing. Council also discussed how the trailheads would be worked into the plan, and that funding has been allocated through the Platte River Trails Trust to do that work.

Next, Council discussed the Plains Furniture item that was voted down at the last meeting and agreed that they would like to reconsider the item at the next meeting. They discussed

the logistics of every Councilmember needing to be present in order to reconsider the item, and asked staff to let them know what their options were for a member who was abstaining to not be present at the meeting.

Next, Council discussed the Downtown Parking Plan. Finance Director, Tom Pitlick, who was standing in for City Manager Napier, explained that although this was discussed a couple of weeks ago, Council wanted to discuss this item further when more Councilmembers were present. Liz Becher, Community Development Director, and Police Chief McPheeters briefly reviewed the key points of the previous discussion including the issues with parking turnover and parking enforcement downtown. Chief McPheeters explained that the current form of parking enforcement without parking meters is very labor intensive for the Police Department and the Municipal Courts. Council discussed concerns about parking meters downtown and discussed ways to increase usage of the parking lot. They decided to not move forward with installing parking meters at this time. They directed staff to increase enforcement efforts for the current-two hour limit, research ways to incentivize use of the parking garage, explore the cost of four-hour free parking in the parking garage, estimate the cost of free two-hour parking meters, and to attend a DCBA meeting to educate downtown business owners on these issue and explain the difficulty of enforcement. Councilmember Cathey exited the meeting.

Next, Kerry Davis of Preservation Solutions, LLC, presented an overview of the draft of the Casper Historic Preservation Strategic Plan. She explained that the City received a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office to create a strategic plan to outline a preservation plan for the community. She then reviewed the investment and economic benefits of preservation, the development history of Casper, the recommended implementation plan, and the plan activities. She discussed the public outreach pieces of composing the plan, which included a public opinion poll, which showed strong support for preservation citywide. She then reviewed the goals of the Preservation Commission and future action steps to help meet those goals, including training, outreach, and education. Council gave their thumbs up to consider the strategic plan for formal adoption at a future regular Council meeting.

Next, Council discussed the tree and shrub ordinance that was tabled at the last Council meeting. Tim Cortez, Parks & Recreation Director, explained that this ordinance is focused on commercial arborists and is not meant to affect private property owners. Councilmember Huber discussed amending the language to reflect that this is focused on commercial arborists. Mr. Cortez also discussed an amendment concerning boulevard tree trimming. He then discussed that the process for becoming certified is not arduous and does take into account previous years of experience. He also stated that he did talk to Donna Hoffman about her concerns, and the concerns are related to processes after the ordinance passes but do not have to do with the ordinance itself. Council decided to discuss the tree and shrub ordinance again at next week's special work session so that Councilmember Cathey could be part of the discussion.

Next, Council set the agenda for the November 26, 2019 work session.

Next, Mayor Powell discussed the legislature's consideration of an optional 6th and 7th cent tax.

Council then went around the table to discuss their respective board and committee meetings and share ideas and concerns related to public matters of interest.

The work session was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING

ATTEST:

A Municipal Corporation

Fleur D. Tremel
City Clerk

Charles Powell
Mayor