

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.
City Hall - Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Follow-up
2. Long Range Transportation Plan
3. Historic Preservation Strategic Plan Follow-up
4. Ice Plant
5. Comp & Class Preliminary Meeting
6. Dog Parks
7. Boards & Commissions
8. Agenda Setting
9. Legislative Review
10. Council Around the Table

Mayor Freel called the work session to order with the following Councilmembers present: Lutz, Cathey, Bates, Powell, Pacheco, Hopkins, Huber, and Mayor Freel. Councilmember Johnson was absent.

City Manager Napier introduced the Connecting Crossroads Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) topic, and introduced Liz Becher, Community Development Director, to explain that this plan is required to receive federal funding for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). She then introduced members of the MPO Policy Committee and consultants from Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates to go over the plan using Skype. The consultants began by explaining that this document is a three decade guiding document and is meant to update the former LRTP. They then reviewed the process that was used to gather information and input from citizens and stakeholders and provide education throughout the community which included workshops, community surveys, and meetings with stakeholders. They then reviewed the final project goals which included goals such as increasing transportation options, improving health/safety, supporting a diversifying economy, and promoting affordable and easy mobility solutions. They then reviewed the needs assessments, project evaluations, and recommended projects. They reviewed the cost of near term, medium term, and long term projects as well as a total amount to complete all of the projects, which were all in line with projected revenue. Council asked questions related to the east belt loop project's low priority designation and the consultants explained the reasoning behind this designation.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed the Historic Preservation Strategic Plan. He reminded Council that it was being discussed at a work session after it was tabled by Council due to concerns that were raised by a citizen when the item was being considered for formal adoption. He explained that staff had done research since the item was tabled and met with the citizen, consultant, and the historic preservation commission. He then showed a map to Council which included historic districts and properties currently designated in Casper. He explained that the Historic Preservation Strategic Plan helps to include additional properties and expand the scope of historic preservation in the community and suggests focusing on some of the underrepresented areas. Council discussed

the purpose of the plan and gave their thumbs up to move forward with formal adoption of the plan at the next regular Council meeting.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed funding options for the ice plant for the City's ice arena. He briefly outlined the issues with the current ice plant and explained that it requires significant repairs or replacement. Council had previously discussed bringing the ice plant from the Casper Events Center to the Recreation Center ice arena which would also have the capacity to support a second sheet of ice. The bids for moving that plant came in \$1.3M above the projected cost of the project. Tim Cortez, Parks & Recreation Director, then reviewed the different options for replacing or repairing the ice plant, which included replacing the plant, moving the Events Center plant, or rejecting all of the bids. He explained that if the plant is not moved from the Events Center, the condenser would need to be replaced in the current ice plant. He then reviewed the bids that came in, and explained that the project may have been underestimated and the companies that bid on the project also control the market for these type of projects. He also discussed the damage to the ice plant at the Events Center, and assured Council that the entire cost of fixing the damage will be paid by insurance. City Manager Napier then responded to Council's questions regarding contingencies and the requirements for a value engineering process. He also discussed reducing the \$30M corpus requirement for the perpetual care fund by the \$1.3M required for this project in order to fund the additional cost of the ice plant. He stated that staff can provide Council with an explanation of how this would affect the fund. Council gave their thumbs up to move forward with using the perpetual care fund for the additional \$1.3M to move the ice plant from the Events Center to the Recreation Center ice arena.

Next, City Manager Napier introduced the consultant from Graves Consulting to update Council on the class and comp study. The consultant reviewed the scope of the project, which includes pay structure, benefit comparison, valid market data, recommendations, and maintenance. She then explained how the study will look at competitive pay with the 75th percentile being the middle amount of pay in the step structure and explained that the recommendations will include revisions or redesign of the structure, scale and placement of positions. She then discussed the potential financial impact of the study and stated that a recommended phased implementation may be necessary depending on the results. She stated that the study is scheduled to be completed by April in order to be included in next year's fiscal budget, and she will be presenting the results to Council and staff at that time.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed potential dog parks, including follow up to previous discussions related to the east side dog park by the oncology center and other pocket dog parks within current parks around the city. Mr. Cortez the reviewed the possible options for the minimum elements for the east side dog park, based on previous direction from Council. These elements included a water habitat, water features to turn over the water and prevent bacterial growth, one acre of fenced in area, and electrical service for the water features. He presented two options for the fenced in portion and the possibility of adding an asphalt pathway, which would cost an additional \$20K. The cost without the pathway would be \$108.5K, \$100K of which is already allocated to this project. Council gave their thumbs up to move forward with the first option with a cost of \$108.5K with staff allocating residual balances to cover the additional cost.

Mr. Cortez then discussed pocket dog parks within existing parks, specifically at City Park and PV Park. Staff recommended semi-permanent fencing panels to enclose the space which would allow for movement of the pocket dog parks as needed and would accommodate programming space. The cost of each set of panels would be \$27K for each half acre enclosed. Council directed staff to bring back some possible funding options for this project.

Next, Mayor Freel discussed allowing staff to set the work session agendas moving forward with Council reviewing the agendas during the work sessions and asking for additional items as needed. Councilmember Bates then discussed three items he would like to discuss at future meetings, including bus cutouts, wildlife feeding, and bicycle safety. Mayor Freel suggested discussing the bicycle cutouts on Feb. 11, passing the information about wildlife feeding to Metro Animal Shelter and Wyoming Game and Fish. Council discussed bicycle and pedestrian safety and asked staff to look into this topic in relation to the City's ordinances and public education.

Mayor Freel then passed out board and commission assignments and Council discussed their appointments. It was noted that Mayor Freel will be the City's representative on the CAEDA board. Staff was instructed to make the necessary adjustments to the assignments based on the discussion and email an updated list to Council.

City Manager Napier then reminded Council of the legislative dinner on January 23, 2020. Councilmember Powell discussed the importance of Council participation in the Wyoming Association of Municipalities.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Steven K. Freel
Mayor