

SPECIAL COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

City Hall - Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Tree & Shrub Ordinance
2. Results of Police Station Assessment
3. Fire Admin/Headquarters Station #1

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

Mayor Powell explained that there was a conflict in Council's resolutions with regards to reconsidering the Plains Furniture item at the next Council meeting. The current rules state that all members need to be present at the reconsideration, and Councilmember Freel will not be present. Because he abstained from consideration of the initial item, Council discussed amending the resolution to allow a Councilmember who abstained from a vote to not be required to be present at the reconsideration of that item. Council directed staff to draft an amendment to the resolution, which will be formally considered at the next Council meeting before the reconsideration of the Plains Furniture item.

Next, Council discussed the tree and shrub ordinance. Councilmember Cathey explained his concerns about neighbors not being allowed to help with tree trimming. Council discussed proposed amendments to the language to specify that the ordinance is intended to regulate commercial arborists. Councilmember Cathey brought up allowing demolition contractors to be exempt from the law, and Council agreed that this amendment had already been formally voted down in a Council meeting and did not need to be discussed again. Deputy City Attorney Wallace Trembath discussed the definitional language for commercial arborist, and Council agreed upon language for this definition that reverted back to the original definition. Council also agreed upon the changes in language regarding dually franchised public utilities. Council gave their thumbs up to move forward with considering the ordinance with the discussed changes on third reading at the November 5, 2019 Council meeting.

Next, James Estes, President of Wilson Estes Police Architects, gave a presentation on the new police station assessment. He began by discussing the process by which the assessment was done which included interacting with staff about their needs, establishing existing facility deficiencies, developing different development/cost scenarios, and evaluating the space needs for a community this size. He then reviewed the existing facility deficiencies which included lack of space, security/access concerns, code issues, and aging facilities. He then discussed a scenario for expanding the hall of justice into the adjacent parking lot, but explained that the cost would be similar or more expensive to building a new building. He stated that the new station's space needs would be around 85.5K sqft with adjustments for future expansion. This requires 8 acres for the

site location. The estimated total for the project, including the police building, courts, garage/outbuilding, a firing range, and equipment, is \$42M to \$47M. Mr. Estes stated that the various benefits this new facility would provide the community are outlined in the report. He then discussed the next steps for the project which include site selection, public input, conceptual design, and public education. Mayor Powell asked if the consultant had any suggestions for how to educate and inform the public on this need, and he suggested creating a small group of stakeholders to help promote the project and educate the public about the many benefits it would provide, which includes the recruitment and retention of quality police officers.

Next, Rick Kuhl, of Williams, Spurgeon, Kuhl, and Freshnock Architects, gave a presentation on the assessment for a new Fire Administration Headquarters and Fire Station No. 1. He discussed the process that was used to identify shortfalls within Fire Station No. 1 and develop recommendations, which involved walking through the facility and meeting with staff about issues. He then discussed deficiencies which included lack of a decontamination process, lack of positive/negative airflows, insufficient living space, insufficient trench drain length, lack of gear storage space, lack of separation for SCBA, and insufficient depth of the front apron. He then discussed recommendations, which included space for a decontamination protocol, fire gear storage space, adding a SCBA room, video surveillance, addressing code deficiencies, providing diverse workforce living accommodations, adding more trench drains, and adding additional front apron depth.

Mr. Kuhl then discussed the deficiencies in the current Fire Department Administration headquarters, located in the City Center building, which included operation conflicts with the Police Department; insufficient space for public service needs, administration, community risk reduction, and training; accessibility challenges; lack of egress; lack of building security; and code deficiencies.

He then discussed recommendations, which included the recommendation to combine Fire Station No. 1 with Fire HQ, which would save about \$1M and would require 3-4 acres of land and 38K sqft of space for the building. The estimated cost of the building (excluding the land purchase cost) is \$23M to \$25.5M. City Manager Napier explained that the current fire stations lack the decontamination facilities, but that this should be added in the future. Council asked questions regarding the design of the facilities and the benefits of co-locating them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING

ATTEST:

A Municipal Corporation

Fleur D. Tremel
City Clerk

Charles Powell
Mayor