

**COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.  
City Hall - Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Follow-up
2. City Hall SAFE Project
3. Golf Pro RFP
4. Speed Limits, Light Running, & Supplemental Traffic Discussion
5. Wyoming Senior Olympics 2021 & 2022
6. Agenda Setting
7. Legislative Review
8. Council Around the Table

Mayor Powell called the work session to order at 4:36 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Johnson, Freel, Huber, Pacheco, Hopkins, Cathey, Lutz, Bates, and Mayor Powell.

City Manager Napier discussed the SAFE Project, which is a proposal to invest in City Hall to make it more secure and ADA-compatible, while still remaining customer service oriented. He reviewed some of the issues with the building aging as well, which included a fire suppression system that is not up to code and an HVAC system that routinely has issues. He stated that the project would cost around \$3M, which is less than a third of the cost of building a new building.

He then introduced Stateline No. 7 Architects to review their ideas for the project. They reviewed the original building, which was created with an open access to government in mind. They discussed preserving that original concept while making the building more secure. The plan design included one public access point into the customer service area; moving the bathrooms and the Council Meeting Room; adding an extra meeting room; extending the City Attorney's office; moving the City Clerk's office; adding a mother's room; adding a Human Resources wing that has a separate entrance; upgrade the upstairs bathroom; adding an upstairs break room; adding an upstairs building exit; and reconfiguring the City Manager's office area. Councilmembers discussed concerns about Community Development being located far away from the public access, because they receive so many citizen visits each day. Council discussed the loss of parking spaces due to the HR Addition, but were assured that with added public parking in another area, the loss would be minimal.

City Manager Napier discussed that his hope is that the project will be primarily funded with the sale of other land and building assets. He stated that the funding of a new police station will be separate and will probably require approaching the public for an excise tax

specifically for that purpose. Council gave their thumbs up to keep moving forward with the planning portion of the SAFE project.

Next, Council discussed the Golf Pro RFP. City Manager Napier and Tim Cortez, Parks and Recreation Director, explained that questions have arisen regarding the contract that the City has with its current golf pro, specifically with regards to the transparency in financial benefits outlined in his contract, which include the profits from the driving range, concessions, etc. By initiating a formal RFP, the City can take steps to ensure a new contract with a golf pro, whether it be the current pro or a new pro, will be more transparent and help ensure that the City is aware of the true financial picture of the golf course which will also help to ensure customer satisfaction. Council gave their thumbs up to move forward with the RFP.

Next, Council discussed traffic calming and speed limit changes. Police Chief McPheeters discussed that the Police Department has analyzed traffic data that is specific to each ward, which has been distributed to Council through reports. He reviewed statistical data about the types and causes of crashes, and stated that crashes in general are trending upward due to a higher numbers of vehicles on the street and an improving economy. He then discussed data related to the speed limit change on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in front of the hospital, and stated that there have been more crashes due to distracted driving and following too close. He emphasized that the data is limited and there has not been enough time to truly derive if the speed limit change has worked. He then reviewed some traffic calming strategies that can help change behaviors, including education, engineering, and enforcement strategies.

Andrew Beamer, Public Services Director, then discussed the public comment that the City received regarding speed limit changes which were primarily focused on three sites. The first site was on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from Conwell to McKinley. He discussed that the speed limit decrease from 30 mph to 20 mph has helped to decrease most drivers' speed, and that six months is not enough time to truly evaluate the effect. Staff is recommending if anything is changed, to change the portion of 2<sup>nd</sup> street that is not in front of the hospital, between Park Street and McKinley Street, back to 30 mph. The next area he discussed was the 30-mph portion of 13<sup>th</sup> Street by Three Crown Golf Course. He stated that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is 30 mph on this portion of 13<sup>th</sup> Street, and there is a crosswalk, so staff is not recommending a change here. The third site Mr. Beamer discussed was Kings Blvd. He stated that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed on that road is 40 mph, and staff is recommending the speed limit be changed to 40 mph. Council gave their thumbs up to increase the speed limit on Kings Blvd to 40 mph and to leave 13<sup>th</sup> Street at 30 mph. After discussion, they gave their thumbs up to change the entire portion of 2<sup>nd</sup> street that had been changed to 20 mph back to 30 mph. Council discussed other speed limit concerns they had, particularly in front of parks, and discussed putting in raised sidewalk or LED lights in the stop signs.

Next, Council discussed Casper hosting the Wyoming Senior Olympics in 2021 and 2022. City Manager Napier discussed that this may mean offering City facilities and services at no cost. Council gave their thumbs up for staff to do more research on this.

Next, Council set the agenda for the November 12, 2019 work session.

City Manager Napier discussed a meeting that occurred including mayors and commissioners from around the state regarding joint legislative proposals for local taxation. One proposal is for counties that do not have projects to put forward to sign off on municipalities presenting their own proposal for a tax. The proposal would not need consensus from all other municipalities in the county for a 6<sup>th</sup> cent specific purpose excise tax.

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. Council discussed the City speaking with the State about allowing their neighbors to use the Art 321 parking lot.

The work session was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING

ATTEST:

A Municipal Corporation

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Fleur D. Tremel  
City Clerk

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Charles Powell  
Mayor