

WORK SESSION AGENDA



**Casper City Council
City Hall, Council Chambers
Tuesday, August 24, 2021, 4:30 p.m.**


Work Session Meeting Agenda		Recommendation	Allotted Time	Beginning Time
Recommendations = Information Only, Move Forward for Approval, Direction Requested				
1.	Council Meeting Follow-up		5 min	4:30
2.	Murie Audubon Society Wetland Request	Move Forward for Approval	20 min	4:35
3.	Discussion of Restrictions for Retail Liquor License #5 – Commissary Mall	Direction Requested	45 min	4:55
4.	Missing Persons Legislation	Direction Requested	30 min	5:40
5.	Agenda Review		20 min	6:10
6.	Legislative Review		20 min	6:30
7.	Council Around the Table		10 min	6:50
Approximate End Time:				7:00

****Please silence cell phones during the meeting****

We are CASPER

Communication Accountability Stewardship Professionalism Efficiency Responsiveness

July 6, 2021

MEMO TO: J. Carter Napier, City Manager 
FROM: Jolene Martinez, Assistant to the City Manager
SUBJECT: Murie Audubon Society wetland request

Meeting Type & Date

Work Session
August 24, 2021

Action type

Council authorization

Recommendation

That Council consider a wetland request by Murie Audubon Society.

Summary

Murie Audubon Society owns property adjacent to Morad Park. The land contains part of a wetland complex that extends into Wyoming Game and Fish property to the west and into Morad Park to the east. The Murie Audubon Society property is not an off-leash dog area; however, many unleashed dogs freely roam the properties in the area including the Murie Audubon property. Because of all the dog activity, the wetland complex has become a bird and amphibian dead zone for a once active and spectacular area.

This wetland complex once hosted a myriad of secretive marsh birds such as Virginia Rail, Sora, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Black-crowned Night-Heron, and more! Its unique warm-water hydrology allows for year-round access by a variety of wildlife, including deer and pronghorn, along the North Platte River. However, secretive marsh birds, ungulates, and amphibians are constantly disturbed and harassed during all seasons by off-leash pets, creating a vortex of wildlife deficient marshes. While birds and amphibians have adapted to life with ground predators, the artificial density of “predators” created by the Morad Park off-leash dog area is not a typical predator/prey relationship that can be overcome by typical adaptations of these critical wildlife. As this is a man-made issue, a man-made solution is required.

Murie Audubon Society is asking Wyoming Game and Fish and the City of Casper to consider allowing them to fence the entire wetland that extends into all three properties. Fencing the multiple wetlands together making it one unencumbered wetland complex will give the best chance to restore the lost bird and amphibian habitat. According to Wyoming Game and Fish, wetlands make up 2% of Wyoming lands and around 90% of Wyoming’s wildlife species visit wetlands at some point in their life cycle.

Murie Audubon Society will cover the costs of the fencing materials and will work with the City's Platte River Revival Habitat Guidance and Volunteer Day Committees as well as Wyoming Game and Fish on this fencing project. An Eagle Scout candidate has come forward who will lead and execute the project including recruiting volunteers to install the fence in collaboration with Murie Audubon Society and the Platte River Revival Committees. The fence project will enhance the work that has been completed in Morad Park in conjunction with the City's North Platte River restoration project, called the Platte River Revival.

Financial Considerations

No cash outlay from the City will be required, though it will require City staff time.

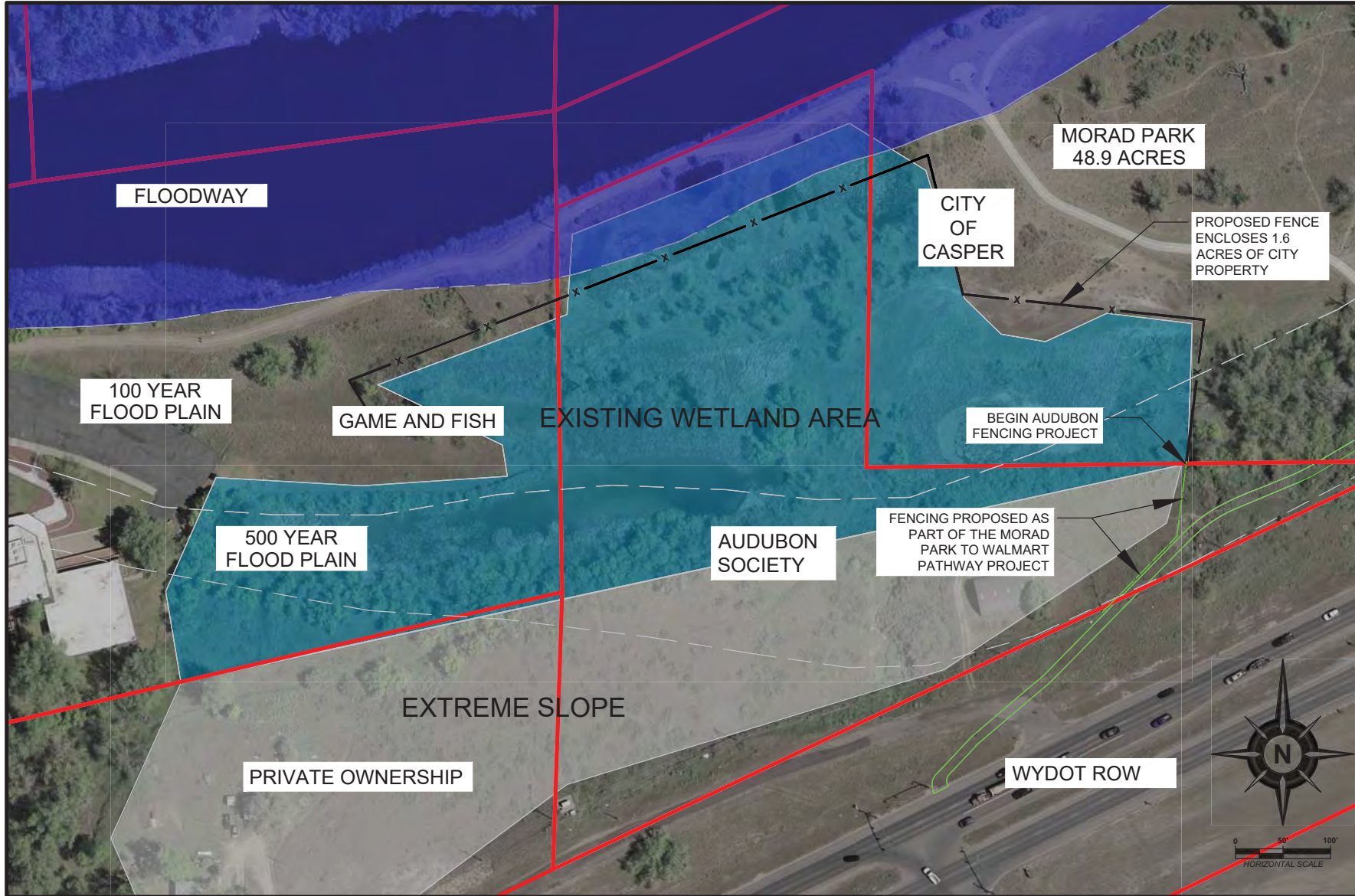
Oversight/Project Responsibility

Jolene Martinez, Assistant to the City Manager

Randy Norvelle, Parks Division Manager

Attachments

Map of wetland with property boundaries



CITY OF CASPER ENGINEERING 200 NORTH DAVID STREET CASPER, WYOMING 82601		DRAWN BY: <u> EY </u> DATE: <u> 7/21 </u>	CHECKED BY: <u> </u> DATE: <u> </u>	APPROVED BY: <u> </u> DATE: <u> </u>
AUDUBON FENCING				
REVISIONS				
AUDUBON FENCING DRAFT LAYOUT				
Exhibit A				

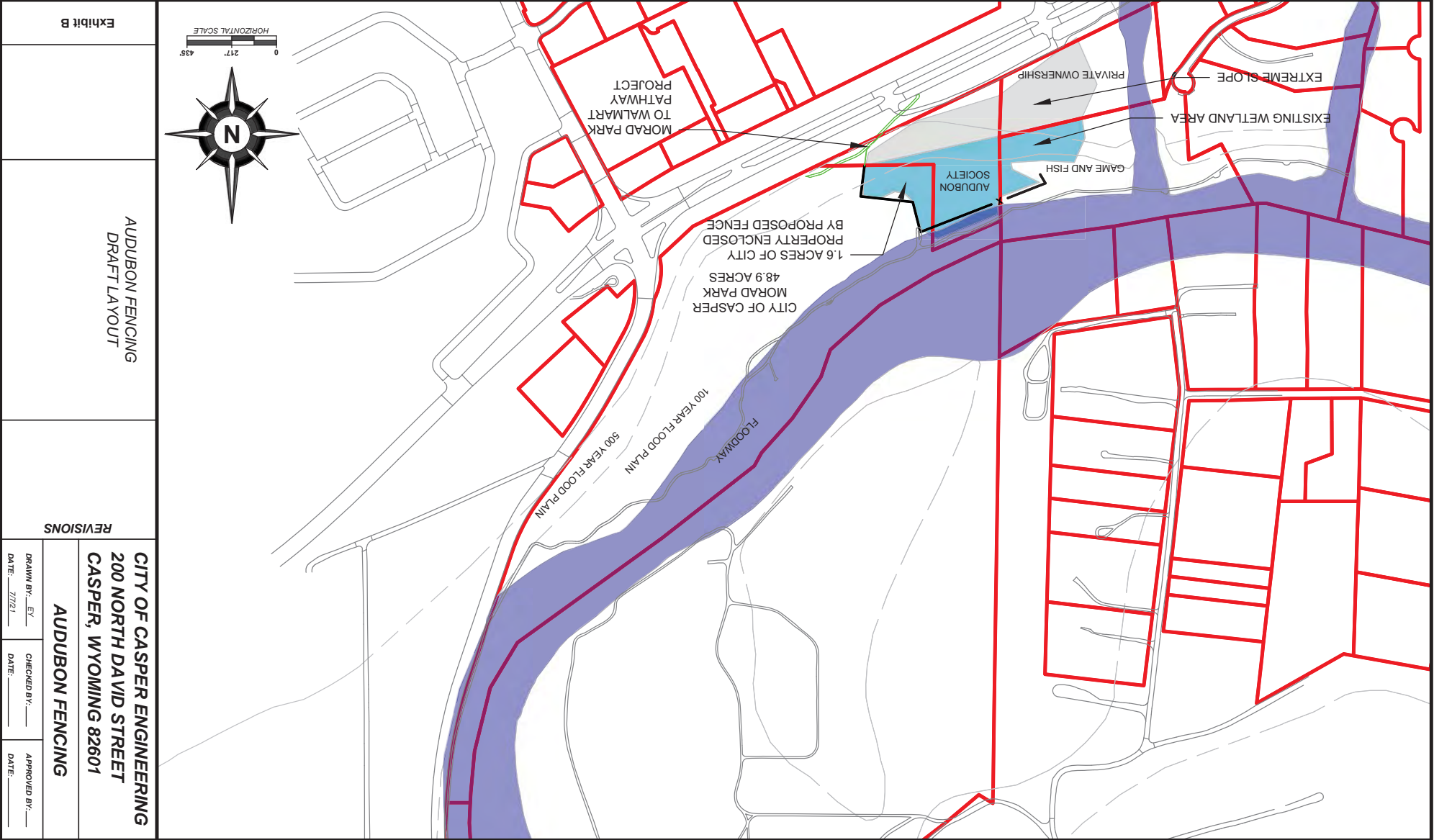



Exhibit B

**AUDUBON FENCING
DRAFT LAYOUT**

REVISIONS		
DRAWN BY: <u>EV</u>	CHECKED BY: _____	APPROVED BY: _____
DATE: <u>7/2/21</u>	DATE: _____	DATE: _____
CITY OF CASPER ENGINEERING 200 NORTH DAVID STREET CASPER, WYOMING 82601		
AUDUBON FENCING		

August 12, 2021

MEMO TO: J. Carter Napier, City Manager 
FROM: Pete Meyers, Management Analyst
SUBJECT: Issues Regarding Full Retail Liquor License #5 – Travis Taylor, Commissary Mall

Meeting Type & Date

Council Work Session
August 24, 2021

Action Type

None

Recommendation

None – for information only.

Summary

The City of Casper is authorized to have only 37 full retail liquor licenses. This shortage of licenses can keep viable businesses from coming to Casper. Councilmembers have stated that licenses which are inoperable (or minimally operable) should always be put to use, and if they are not put to use, then they should be made available to other businesses.

Travis Taylor is the current holder of Retail Liquor License #5, which is situated at the Commissary Mall on First Street. At his most recent license renewal hearing (February 16, 2021), a discussion was held about whether or not his license was fully operational.

At that meeting, Mr. Taylor stated the following regarding his license:

- In 2016 he acquired Retail Liquor License #5. His stated intent was to use it at a development in Harmony Hills, but that arrangement did not materialize.
- In 2017 he divorced, which put ownership of the license in dispute, so he parked the license.
- In 2019 he transferred the license to a leased location in the Commissary Mall where he established a liquor store. At the time, he said that he has had some discussions with the owner of the Commissary Mall regarding a renovation of the building. Renovations would have made his liquor store more functional; however, an arrangement with the Commissary Mall had not yet materialized at that time.
- He reported that, in 2020, the pandemic effectively prevented him from transferring or selling his license.
- Regarding his current situation (on the date of the hearing, 2/16/21), he reported that he was “committed” to transferring his license. Specifically, he said that he was “highly motivated more so to market it to sell it” and that he would transfer it this calendar year “one way or the other.” Regarding his liquor store, he reported that its hours of operation were 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday, and that his store had no coolers or refrigeration.

Council decided to renew Mr. Taylor’s license, but with certain stipulations. The renewal stated that he would have to sell the license or transfer it to a “functional building” by December 13, 2021.

The renewal also required him to come before the Council on September 7, 2021 to report on his progress toward this goal.

In talking with the State Liquor Division this applicant has not made any alcohol purchases from the state since December 4, 2020.

Mr. Taylor has been scheduled to provide his update at the pre-meeting on September 7. In the meantime, Council is being asked to review this situation and to consider whether any alternative solutions might be acceptable and realistic.

Financial Considerations

None


Oversight/Project Responsibility

Carla Mills-Laatsch, Licensing Specialist

Attachments

None

August 11, 2021

MEMO TO: J. Carter Napier, City Manager 
FROM: Keith McPheeters, Police Chief
Jolene Martinez, Assistant to the City Manager
SUBJECT: Missing Persons Legislation

Meeting Type & Date

Work Session
August 24, 2021

Action type

Council direction

Recommendation

That Council consider supporting Wyoming Missing Persons Legislation.

Summary

During public comments, at the December 15, 2020 Council Meeting, a citizen, Desirée Tinoco, spoke to Council about the need for missing persons legislation in Wyoming. At Council's request, the city manager and police chief have met with Desirée Tinoco on several occasions to discuss the weaknesses and inconsistencies by which missing persons are investigated and tracked in Wyoming. Staff research has also shown an absence of industry best practices that have been developed nationwide due to the increasing spotlight of attention being brought to bear on the problems of missing persons, human trafficking, and serial violent offenders.

In answer to these identified needs, staff believes the City of Casper can address, and be a catalyst for, missing persons legislation in Wyoming. In order to better understand the appropriate role the City of Casper should play in addressing this statewide, societal need, follow up meetings with Wyoming legislators have occurred; legislation from other states has been reviewed; and discussions with statewide associations and state agencies have occurred.

The Casper Police Department has cases of missing persons and recognizes the value of establishing a statewide standard for reporting and investigating missing persons. Because missing persons legislation will be beneficial to Casper as well as Wyoming, staff is recommending Council consider authorizing staff to work to position the City of Casper in a leadership role in advocating for Wyoming missing persons legislation and to work with state legislators to introduce and support a bill through the Judiciary Committee and the state's legislative process. Dependent on WAM board approval, it is believed that WAM may likely join the City of Casper to advocate for missing persons legislation.

Financial Considerations

No cash outlay from the City will be required, though it will require City staff time.

Oversight/Project Responsibility

Keith McPheeters, Police Chief
Jolene Martinez, Assistant to the City Manager