

## COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.  
City Hall - Council Chambers

### AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Follow-up
2. Downtown Casper One-Way to Two-Way Conversion Study
3. Casper's Council for People with Disabilities Update
4. Night Skiing Fees
5. Agenda Review
6. Legislative Review
7. Council Around the Table

Mayor Freel called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Knell, Quest, Pollock, Engebretsen, Gamroth, Cathey, Vice Mayor Pacheco and Mayor Freel. Councilmember Johnson was absent.

There were no items for Council follow-up.

City Manager Napier introduced Jeremy Yates, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Supervisor, to discuss the Downtown Casper One-Way to Two-Way Conversion Study. Mr. Yates explained that this study was in the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan and explained that the possibility of changing the streets back to two-way streets has been discussed for decades. He then introduced Paul Silberman from Mead & Hunt, the company contracted to do the study, to discuss the study's results. Mr. Silberman discussed that the purpose of the project was to create a more balanced network in downtown Casper and respond to community requests. He also discussed which things were considered in the design including medians, turn lanes, parking, bike lanes, and traffic control. He then discussed the current conditions of the streets and the process for gathering data for the study, including talking to stakeholders and community members. Some of the elements considered included costs, business access, pedestrian access, bicycle comfort, parking impact, traffic safety, traffic operations, and transit impact. He discussed alternative designs that incorporated different combinations of these elements. After evaluating all of these elements, the consultants and staff settled on alternatives three or six for Durbin Street and alternatives three or seven for Wolcott Street, all of which would minimally impact parking spaces. He stated that there would be little traffic impact on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets and would not cause much delay on traffic, but stated that traffic signals would need to be replaced. He then discussed construction costs which would be \$150K per block with signal modification, \$50K per block without traffic signals, with a total of \$750K for converting all seven blocks. He then reviewed the recommendations from the study, including converting the streets to two-ways, selecting which design alternative, continuing public outreach, incorporating pedestrian safety, seeking grants, and phasing the project to reduce costs.

Council then discussed different options for the design including concerns with eliminating parking spaces and the need for bike lanes. Council also heard support of the plan from downtown

business owners. Mr. Yates explained that staff is looking for approval of the plan so that they can try to get funding for the project. He emphasized that approval of the plan did not mean approval of the project, and staff would come back to Council later for approval of a project. Council gave their thumbs up to move the plan forward for formal approval at the next regular Council meeting.

Next, City Manager Napier introduced Zulima Lopez, Parks, Recreation, and Public Facilities Director, to discuss Casper's Council for People with Disabilities (CCPD). Ms. Lopez gave a brief overview of the CCPD advisory group and introduced Nikki Geene, Vice Chair of the CCPD, to update Council on what the group has been working on over the last year. Ms. Geene discussed the fundraising efforts by the group as well as their work with transit/transportation and their community outreach/public education efforts. City Manager Napier stated that bus stops and snow shoveling issues that affect this group will also be discussed at the next Council work session. Vice Mayor Pacheco expressed his pride in the work that staff and CCPD have done. Councilmember Pollock expressed her support for the "I Count on You Campaign" and suggested that the City do as much as possible to support this campaign.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed night skiing fees at Hogadon. This coming ski season will be the first year of night skiing. He introduced Ms. Lopez to discuss the fees further. She discussed that night skiing will be offered on Friday and Saturday nights from 3pm to 8pm on two of the runs. Staff and the donor for the project researched regional rates to develop a competitive and fair night skiing fee structure. She stated that staff is proposing a night skiing season pass as well as a nightly ski ticket and explained that the reason for offering those separately from the day passes and day season passes is to allow the ability to track the usage and revenue of night skiing. The donor will cover the cost of the subsidy up to \$60K per year for the first three years. The subsidy will cover lift operations, ski patrol, and electricity and staff are confident that the \$60K will cover the subsidy.

City Manager Napier answered questions about the subsidy after the first three years and stated that if the night skiing is not taken advantage of or is too expensive, staff will recommend only using the service for specialized requests. Staff also envisions forming a partnership with the ski teams to utilize the night skiing on additional nights. Those partnerships are currently being put together. These groups will most likely be willing to cover the additional costs for those extra nights. Council gave their thumbs up to move the proposed night skiing rates forward for formal approval.

Next Council reviewed the agendas for upcoming Council meetings and work sessions.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed state legislative issues that are pertinent to the City of Casper. Some of the issues discussed included a \$300K per year commitment to Fire Pension A by the City, a missing persons database, bias crime legislation, community development districts, tourism improvement legislation, and special districts.

Next, Council went around the table to discuss their respective board and committee meetings as well as matters of public interest. Councilmember Gamroth discussed progress on the Nolan Development. Councilmember Knell discussed mental health services for employees. Mayor Freel

stated he would like to know what is already being done for employees' mental health before moving forward on additional measures.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING  
A Municipal Corporation

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Fleur Tremel  
City Clerk

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Steven K. Freel  
Mayor