

**COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.  
City Hall – Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Follow-up
2. Draft Budget Delivery
3. USS Wyoming
4. Parks Watering
5. Coates Road LAD
6. Open Container Area
7. Agenda Review
8. Legislative Review
9. Council Around the Table

Mayor Pacheco called the work session to order at 4:36 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Pollock, Knell, Sutherland, Cathey, Engebretsen, Gamroth, Vice Mayor Freel, and Mayor Pacheco. Councilmember Johnson was absent.

1. Council Follow-up

City Manager Napier introduced Interim Fire Chief Jacob Black to the City Council.

2. Budget Draft Delivery

City Manager Napier explained that the draft budget provided to Council is just a summary and is providing these figures fulfills a statutory obligation. The entire budget will be provided to Council later this month. Councilmember Engebretsen asked about the Miller House and City Manager Napier explained that it provides housing to employees transitioning from other locations. Councilmember Knell stated that he would like explanations for the jump in the budget this year during budget discussions.

3. USS Wyoming

City Manager Napier discussed the shipbuilder's model of the USS Wyoming that is currently on display at the Ford Wyoming Center. He explained that staff has been in discussions about moving the model to the National Museum of Military Vehicles in Dubois, Wyoming, which would be a safer and more appropriate permanent home for the piece. He explained that the model is actually the property of the US Navy. The City currently has a loan agreement with the US Navy, and they will have a similar agreement with the museum if it is relocated. Councilmember Knell asked if the City has contacted the original orchestrators of the loan, and Zulima Lopez, Parks and Recreation Director, responded that staff has not been able to get in contact with his family but has contacted the veterans commission, and they are in favor of the relocation. She also described the process for safely moving the model to Dubois. Council gave their thumbs up for the relocation.

4. Parks Watering

City Manager Napier updated Council on watering of City parks. He discussed strategies staff has considered in order to decrease costs, including irrigation controls, raw water conversion, decreasing turf area, and billing of the general fund. He then introduced Ms. Lopez to discuss irrigation and raw water conversion in more detail.

Ms. Lopez began by explaining that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is currently looking into park conversion and rate changes, so those will not be discussed further tonight. She then elaborated on the irrigation control project. She stated staff requested \$610K in the FY23 proposed budget for an irrigation controller system with soil moisture sensors and flow meters. The return on this investment is estimated to be five to eight years. She stated that they did a pilot project with the system at City Hall and reduced water consumption by 19%. She then discussed converting additional irrigation systems to raw well water irrigation. The locations discussed included Bryan Stock Trail Blvd, Riverview Park, Casper Central Service Facility, and the Water Distribution Garage. She stated that staff believes these conversion projects will have a return on investment of five years or less. Staff also discussed options for an arboretum and a tree nursery to educate the public and to reduce the cost of trees for city properties. Council discussed the funding for these projects and gave their thumbs up to move forward with both the irrigation control conversion and the raw water conversion projects.

#### 5. Coates Road LAD

City Manager Napier then discussed the Coates Road LAD. He stated that this was a follow-up item in preparation for deliberation on the third reading of this ordinance next week. He gave a history of the formation of the LAD, explaining that the property owners adjacent to Coates Rd requested the improvements and that it is a three-way agreement between the City, Natrona County, and the neighbors. He stated that staff has been transparent from the beginning with the property owners. They have met with property owners, sent letters to property owners, and given them chances to object to the LAD before Council proceeded with the improvements. He explained that there are different methodologies to create the assessments but asked Council to keep in mind that if an assessment is decreased for one property owner, it would need to increase for another property owner, or the City would have to increase its share of the cost. He stated that staff's recommendation would be to move forward with the LAD as is, using the methodology for the assessment roll as proposed. Andrew Beamer, Public Services Director, explained that a LAD proposal can be defeated if more than 50% of the land acreage is opposed. In this case, the proposal had a majority of the land acreage in support, so the LAD was not defeated and moved forward. Councilmembers discussed concerns they have with potential homebuyers not being notified of a LAD that they will be obliged to pay after they purchase a property. Council discussed ways that this concern could be resolved, including putting up a sign, similar to the "One Cent" signs, to indicate that a road is being improved with a LAD. They also discussed ways to flag properties before an ordinance is passed so that title companies can let potential homebuyers know a LAD is being implemented. Council gave their thumbs up to move forward with the Coates Road LAD as is with the proposed assessment roll.

#### 6. Open Container Area

Councilmember Pollock recused herself from discussion of the open container area and left the room. City Manager Napier discussed the proposed open container area for the summer season. He presented a map to Council of the current proposed area. He also presented a proposed map from the Downtown Casper Business Association (DCBA) which would extend the area across Collins Drive to include Frosty's Bar and extend north to 1<sup>st</sup> Street, to a location that does not have any businesses with liquor licenses that would allow them to participate. The DCBA's map also excluded the Old Yellowstone District area going to Yellowstone Garage. Fleur Tremel, Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk stated that staff has been made aware that Rock the Block will continue this summer, so it would make sense to include this area in the open container area. Council discussed that the purpose of the open container area was to allow open containers in the core of downtown. Councilmember Gamroth discussed changing the hours of the open container area. Police Chief McPheeters stated that it costs money and requires police staffing for each additional hour of the open container policy. Council gave their thumbs up to the original map provided by staff for the open container area as well as the proposed 10 p.m. closing time. City Manager Napier stated that staff will prepare a resolution for Council's formal approval reflecting this direction.

7. Agenda Review

Next, Council reviewed upcoming Council meeting and work session agendas. City Manager Napier reminded Council that next week's pre-meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. to accommodate the Casper Youth Council.

8. Legislative Review

There were no legislative items discussed.

9. Around the Table

Next, Council went around the table to discuss their respective board and committee meetings as well as matters of public interest. Mayor Pacheco reminded Council that there will be a press conference for the purchase of the Casper Business Center at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING  
A Municipal Corporation

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Fleur Tremel  
City Clerk

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Ray Pacheco  
Mayor