

COUNCIL PRE-MEETING

Tuesday, September 1, 2020 5:30 p.m.
Casper City Hall - Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Rail Trail toward Edness Kimball Wilkins
2. Agenda Review

Mayor Freel began the pre-meeting session at 5:43 p.m. with Councilmembers Bates, Cathey, Hopkins, Huber, Johnson, Lutz, Pacheco, Powell and Mayor Freel in attendance.

City Manager Napier introduced Angela Emery, Executive Director of the Platte River Trails Trust (PRTT). Ms. Emery provided information about a donation that will allow the continued extension of the Rail Trail to Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park. She also spoke about a State of Wyoming parks recreational trails grant for soft surface trails that the group would be applying for this fall. She shared that the Rails to Trails Conservancy has offered to assist with other donation and grant opportunities as well as including the trail program in a cross-country trail that is being developed. She indicated that the PRTT would like consent to: remove the old bridge that is no longer usable; apply for the state grant; and plan for trail work in the spring of 2021.

Councilmember Powell asked about easements and land use permission in the area. Ms. Emery explained that the Rail Trail from Spruce Street to Curtis Street is owned by the City of Casper, which was made possible by a federal rail banking program that allows unused railroad property to be given to local authorities for trail use. She shared that the rail line travels through two State of Wyoming parcels, but because the City owns the rail banked land, a lease will probably not be required. She also indicated that the PRTT will need to get an easement for land in the vicinity of the State Park, but they have received letters of support for the project.

Councilmember Cathey asked if the trails grant would require matching funds from the City of Casper. Ms. Emery indicated that the City would not need to provide matching funds.

Councilmembers Huber and Bates spoke in support of the project. Mayor Freel asked if Council needed to take action at this time. City Manager indicated that staff would prepare a resolution to support the grant.

Mayor Freel asked for any concerns for the agenda. City Manager Napier shared that the massage therapy item would not be considered this evening. Councilmember Cathey asked about the timing of the third reading of the Ide Addition, and City Manager Napier indicated that he would get back to Council on this item.

Mayor Freel opened up a discussion about the use of cell phones during the Council meeting by Councilmembers. He shared that the public perception of their cell phone use has come up and he asked Council for their opinions on the use of phones during the meeting. Several Councilmembers shared that they used their cell phones as a contact point for emergencies during the meetings and suggested that they would self-regulate their usage. Council also discussed the possibility of a staff member being a contact point for emergencies during the meeting.

Mayor Freel requested that Council self-regulate their usage of phone during the meeting and be aware of the perception of the public.

City Manager Napier shared that the Ide Addition would not be considered until the next Council meeting because of the standard annexation process. He stated that annexations allow for a delay between the second and third reading to provide time for the annexation report to be completed.

Mayor Freel adjourned the pre-meeting at 5:59 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Steven K. Freel
Mayor