

COUNCIL PRE-MEETING
Tuesday, October 5, 2021 5:30 p.m.
Casper City Hall - Council Chambers

AGENDA

1. Recommendations from the Federal Transit Authority 2021 Triennial Review
2. Curbwalks, Sidewalks, Curbs and Gutters
3. Agenda Review

Mayor Freel began the pre-meeting session at 5:30 p.m. with Councilmembers Cathey, Engebretsen, Gamroth, Johnson, Knell, Pacheco, Pollock, Quest and Mayor Freel in attendance.

Acting City Manager Henley introduced the topic of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) triennial review and asked for staff to provide further information. Liz Becher, Community Development Director, explained the triennial review process and spoke at length about the improvements that the FTA is requiring as a corrective action by the City. The five key deficiencies that were found included: financial management, which is being corrected by the City taking over the administration of the entire bussing operation; technical/project management, which will be corrected by hiring a transit manager; procurement contracts, which will be corrected by verifying that the required federal clauses are included within contracts; Title VI discrimination and American Disabilities Act (ADA) discrimination procedures, which will both be addressed by transitioning over to the City the processes that are already in place to ensure fair practices.

Councilmember Knell asked if any of the deficiencies in this review had been listed previously. Ms. Becher shared that financial oversight had been a previous concern because of staffing issues, with those needs having been met and the current request is to continue to improve the oversight. She then stated that the procurement component had improved and this review only recommended keeping current with the frequent changes to the federal contract clauses. And the last item that was repeated from a previous review involved continuing to evaluate and meet ADA requirements, which will be addressed in part by route deviations as needed.

Councilmember Pollock asked if Title VI and ADA discrimination was found or if the improvements needed were to further prevent such issues. Ms. Becher said the later was the case and gave two examples for better processes. First, she described how ADA compliance record keeping can be improved and second, that staff receive continuing education for ADA related equipment and safety issues.

Ms. Becher then shared pictures of the new wraps for the Link and Assist vehicles and described the differences from the designs previously used. She indicated that the newly wrapped vehicles would be out in the public tomorrow.

Acting City Manager Henley shared that the next item regarding curbwalks and sidewalks had been an item Council had requested as an information-only topic. Andrew Beamer, Public Services Director, started by summarizing that the majority of the responsibility for maintenance of sidewalks and curbs/gutters lies with the adjacent property owner. He stated that the City is responsible for the ADA wraps and alley approaches, and described the process the City uses when an owner has not carried out necessary maintenance or repair.

Councilmember Cathey asked if detached sidewalks are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner and Mr. Beamer confirmed that was the case.

Councilmember Gamroth asked if a sidewalk, for example, is very damaged, then who would pay for the repairs? Mr. Beamer said that the owner would. Councilmember Gamroth then asked if an old, damaged sidewalk needed repair, would someone who just bought the property be responsible for the cost to repair it. Mr. Beamer indicated they would. Councilmember Gamroth asked about the average cost to repair a sidewalk segment. Mr. Beamer said it is around \$50/foot.

Councilmember Pollock asked if adjacent owners are responsible for the sidewalks that are on the ends of the alley. Mr. Beamer said that the City is responsible for the entire alley, including those sidewalks.

Councilmember Cathey asked about tree damage to sidewalks and the on-going issues that trees can present. Mr. Beamer offered suggestions and said that cases like this can be a challenging situation.

Councilmember Gamroth wondered if deficient sidewalks will someday be overwhelming, because most aren't addressed until there is a complaint. Mr. Beamer said that there are many deficient sidewalks that do not meet the City code, but the City has generally not been aggressive with its enforcement of those codes.

Councilmember Engebretsen asked why the City retains ownership of things like the parkway, when the citizens are the ones who maintain the property. Mr. Beamer said that the cost for the maintenance is cost-prohibitive for the City to manage. Councilmember Engebretsen asked why the City doesn't just give the property to the adjacent land owners. Mr. Beamer said that these areas are right of ways that could be used to add turn lanes or expand the street if needed.

Mayor Freel moved on to agenda review. Acting City Manager Henley had a few items. He informed Council of the COVID procedures for the upcoming Halloween open house at City hall. He then reminded Council that the ribbon cutting for the Old Yellowstone District parking lot will be next week after the work session. And he shared that the one-way to two-way conversion study will be discussed at the work session next week as well.

Mayor Freel indicated that he had sent the Natrona County Commissioners a letter of support for keeping Delta Airlines in Natrona County. Councilmember Knell asked if there would be a monetary commitment. Acting City Manager Henley stated that there were no monetary references in the letter. Mayor Freel emphasized the importance of retaining the existing airline service in the community, if possible.

Mayor Freel adjourned the pre-meeting at 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Christa K. Wiggs
Assistant City Clerk

Steven K. Freel
Mayor