

COUNCIL PRE-MEETING

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 5:00 p.m.

Casper City Hall – Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Casper Youth Council
2. Audit
3. Russin Update
4. Agenda Review

Mayor Pacheco called the pre-meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Cathey, Sutherland, Pollock, Engebretsen, Gamroth, Vice Mayor Freel and Mayor Pacheco. Councilmembers Knell and Johnson were absent.

1. Casper Youth Council

Mayor Pacheco welcomed Casper Youth Council (CYC) members Bryce Hebert (NC), Sara Loghry (KW), and Zoe Johnson (KW) to give Council an update on their work providing local high school students with the opportunity to better understand the various processes and functions of City Government while participating in important community issues. They expressed how important it is for them to represent the youth perspective, bringing their voice to the decisions that shape their community. In their presentations they discussed marketing campaigns to increase engagement with Casper's youth, utilizing social media platforms like Instagram and Tik-Tok. CYC Advisor Elissa Ruckle explained that focus groups and surveys will be done at Casper's high schools with CYC and Natrona County School District officials collectively working on survey questions. She also announced that a statewide youth council group bringing together youth council members from communities around Wyoming is in the works, with the primary goal of informing and learning from each other on multiple topics. Also present to express the importance of the work CYC is doing was Education Coordinator Bryce Mittelstadt. Mayor Pacheco then announced that CYC would be doing short individual one on one interviews with City Council Members and himself.

2. Audit

Mayor and Council reconvened at 5:32 p.m. Mayor Pacheco announced that City Attorney Henley would be filling in for City Manager Napier for the next agenda items. City Attorney Henley addressed Council and announced that Director of Financial Services, Jill Johnson, would be going over audit information with the Council this evening. Ms. Johnson began by stating this audit refers to the FY21 financials and statements as well as the Schedule of Federal Expenditures (SEFA) as audited and prepared by Porter, Muirhead, Cornia and Howard (PMCH). The audit report was presented to the City's Finance Committee on March 15, 2022. A note was made that during the auditor's presentation to the Finance Committee, reports showed that the City had overspent appropriations by \$5.1 Million. Following research into the reason for this, it was determined there were errors in calculations of the schedules. Auditors will provide an updated schedule and letter of explanation for these findings. Ms. Johnson acknowledged that staff recognizes that it. She explained the City will be instituting a month end closing procedure where financial information will be available for reporting to Council on a cash basis each month and available by the 3rd week of the month for the prior month.

3. Russin Update

Mayor Pacheco asked City Attorney Henley and Assistant to the City Manager, Jolene Martinez, for an update on the Russin statue outside of City Hall. Ms. Martinez explained that the City has been having issues with the maintenance and preservation of this piece of artwork and continued efforts would be costly. She stated the City has been working closely with the Russin Family/Estate to preserve this piece but that some things need to be altered in order for it to be preserved properly. The work is proposed to be phased, with phase 1 decommissioning the fountain water pool portion of the artwork and filling in the underground pump area to prevent it from collapsing or incurring foundation problems. Phase 2 would entail restoring and preserving the actual statue. Alternatives and methods of restoring and preserving the statue were mentioned by Councilmember Cathey. Councilmembers gave their thumbs up to proceed with the phased approach.

4. Agenda Review

Mayor Pacheco moved on to the agenda review. Announcing the removal off consent of one item: Authorizing a Contract for Architectural Services to Renovate and Expand the Currently Named Casper Business Center for the Purpose of a Public Safety and Training Headquarters with Police Facility Design Group, P/A. No one had any further questions or concerns on the agenda. The pre-meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Ray Pacheco
Mayor