

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

May 14, 2013

MINUTES

Casper City Council met in work session at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 14, 2013. Present: Councilmen Bertoglio, Cathey, Hedquist, Hopkins, Meyer, Powell, Sandoval and Mayor Schlager. Absent: Councilman Goodenough.

Mayor Schlager introduced Robin Mundell, who introduced Tom Crull, the new President of the Casper Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Tom thanked the Council for their past support and reviewed some of the services that the Chamber provides to the community and their membership.

City Manager John Patterson introduced Liz Becher and Kristin Edwards to present the 2013-2014 Community Development Annual Action Plan. The public hearing on the plan will be May 14, 2013, and then the final document, including any comments, will be sent to the U. S Department of Housing and Urban Development on May 15, 2013.

City Manager Patterson introduced Jay Martin and Jeff Gosman with Joshua's Storehouse. Mr. Martin presented a request for funding from the City to assist in the construction of an addition to their building at 334 South Wolcott Street to expand their service capabilities. Council asked questions, and then responded that this request would be considered as part of the upcoming budget meetings.

City Manager Patterson introduced Cory Cosner Burton and Jen Dyer with Mercer Family Resource Center. Cory introduced Jean Davies, Board President, to make a few comments about the importance of the programming that is provided by the Mercer Family Resource Center. The presentation covered their relocation to the new building and their plans for completing their capital fund drive. The request to Council was for \$100,000, in \$25,000 increments, to be used to support operations based on the recent cuts to the center by the Wyoming Department of Health. Council expressed appreciation for the work that is done by the agency, and agreed to consider this request as part of the upcoming budget discussion.

Sally Kerpchar, MPO Coordinator, introduced Ann Bowers from Fehr and Peers to present the final report for the Blackmore Road Sub Area Transportation Plan. Ms. Bowers reviewed the areas of concern which were identified in the public engagement process, and then discussed the potential solutions and recommendations contained in the document.

Council asked questions regarding the practicality of some of the proposed traffic calming measures. Many of the intersections were recommended for continued monitoring as they did not meet the required traffic warrants for new traffic control measures, and some low cost solutions were suggested at intersections where additional signage or improved signal timing were thought to be sufficient to address the concerns at this time.

Ms. Bowers indicated that it was the opinion of Fehr and Peers that traffic was changing drastically in this area and could require additional investments in the near future. She also noted that the City should consider the addition of sidewalks to some of the collector and arterial streets where new commercial development is attracting more pedestrian traffic. Council noted that there does seem to be additional development occurring to the east of Wyoming Boulevard, and some effort may be needed to handle the traffic that is currently moving through some of the residential areas.

Representatives of the Natrona County School District, including Dennis Bay, Brad Diller, and Kelly Walsh High School Student Body President Ray Cadis addressed the Council regarding the construction of a new Kelly Walsh High School. The project architect, the contractor's project manager, and a representative from WLC Engineering were also present to review the site plan, construction schedule and plans for handling student, staff and construction workers parking. The number of parking spaces that will be provided on the school property will be significantly reduced, but will comply with the City's minimum standards.

Council expressed concern with the impact of the traffic on Forest Drive and the impact of student parking in the adjacent neighborhoods. Staff noted that at some point, it may be necessary to put a critical parking zone in place to help deter students from parking in the residential neighborhoods, and get them into the designated parking lots. The construction schedule will begin with demolition of some of the structures this summer, and construction of the new school beginning this fall. The school should be ready for occupancy by the end of 2015, with the remaining demolition and reconstruction of parking and landscaping of the site to be completed by 2017.

The Council requested that the District and their contractors host neighborhood meetings to make certain that people have an opportunity to comment on the proposed construction plan. The site plan will be presented for formal approval at the May 21, 2013, regular Council meeting.

Mayor Schlager asked that Council give more thought to how they want to handle future requests from social service agencies for funding of capital and operations in the future.

At 7:55 p.m., it was moved by Councilman Meyer, seconded by Councilman Powell, to adjourn into executive session to discuss potential litigation. Motion passed unanimously.

At 8:25 p.m., it was moved by Councilman Cathey, seconded by Councilman Bertoglio, to adjourn the executive session and work session. Motion passed unanimously.