

## COUNCIL PRE-MEETING

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 5:30 p.m.  
Casper City Hall - Council Meeting Room

### AGENDA

1. Meadowlark Park
2. Portable Classroom Buildings for the Fire Training Facility
3. 7<sup>th</sup> Street Vacation
4. Municipal Golf Course Improvements & Equipment
5. Agenda Review

Mayor Freel began the pre-meeting session at 5:39 p.m. with Councilmembers Cathey, Engebretsen, Gamroth, Johnson, Lutz, Pacheco, Pollock and Mayor Freel in attendance. Absent: Knell.

City Manager Napier provided background information on Meadowlark Park and requested direction from Council. Tim Cortez, Parks and Recreation Director, spoke about the possible uses for the park and what feedback was provided by the neighbors for the use of the land. He also stated that many other capital projects have a higher priority than this park, and the City will increase the mowing of the area.

Councilmember Gamroth had questions about using the park for a community greenhouse or to allow the neighbors to control use of the area. Mr. Cortez explained that there currently wasn't interest in developing a garden or greenhouse at this time but perhaps in the future. He also shared that without a good, unified neighborhood consensus it would be difficult for the neighbors to organize their own use of the area.

Mayor Freel asked for direction and Council supported the staff recommendation of waiting to develop the park until higher priority projects are addressed.

City Manager Napier spoke briefly about the donation from Mills of two portable classroom buildings for use at the fire training facility on Metro Road and requested further information from staff. Acting Fire Chief Siplon provided an overview of the project. Council did not have any questions.

City Manager Napier provided information about the vacation of the portion of East 7<sup>th</sup> Street by South Jackson Street. He shared that unlike other properties this land cannot be sold on the open market and that it must be vacated to be disposed of by the City. He also said that the City may receive compensation for the land. He provided an overview of the five following options for this matter: leave the land as-is and have the City maintain the property; table the ordinance so the property can be appraised and request compensation from the adjacent owner; place a pedestrian easement across the property and build a pathway; construct the extension of East 7<sup>th</sup> Street; or vacate the land as initially proposed.

Council discussed the division of the parcels and both City Manager Napier and Liz Becher, Community Development Director, addressed questions about the parcel. Council also discussed the value of the land, and the cost of an appraisal. City Manager Napier addressed questions about the cost of an appraisal and the likely value of the land. Council supported vacating the property as initially proposed.

Next, City Manager Napier requested that Council consider using the unspent monies from the fire sprinkler project at the municipal golf course to make several improvements to the facility. He explained the proposed improvements and shared that there would still be \$15,000 that could be put back into reserves, and asked for direction tonight so work could be completed before the season.

Councilmember Gamroth asked about the golf course reserve fund. City Manager Napier explained that the monies generated come from user fees rather than taxes or other sources and are set aside for use at the facility. He also said that the fund is in good shape. Councilmember Gamroth asked about the recent restaurant concessionaire change at the facility, which City Manager Napier addressed. Councilmember Engebretsen asked about the LVT flooring, which Mr. Cortez addressed. Council provided support to moving forward with the improvements.

City Manager Napier asked if Council could give approval for Council appointees for the Police Station Building Committee. Mayor Freel said that he would participate as well as Councilmembers Engebretsen, Knell, and Cathey.

Mayor Freel adjourned the pre-meeting at 6:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING  
A Municipal Corporation

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Fleur Tremel  
City Clerk

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Steven K. Freel  
Mayor