

**COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.  
City Hall – Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Follow-up
2. Birds Scooters Update
3. FY23 Budget Amendment #1
4. Armored Tactical Rescue Vehicle
5. Hogadon Subsidy
6. Outdoor Recreation Grants
7. Cordico Wellness App
8. Agenda Review
9. Legislative Review
10. Council Around the Table

Mayor Pacheco called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Cathey, Pollock, Engebretsen, Gamroth, Sutherland, Vice Mayor Freel, and Mayor Pacheco. Councilmembers Johnson and Knell were absent. Zulima Lopez, Parks, Recreation & Public Facilities Director filled in for City Manager Napier who was absent.

1. Council Follow-up

There were no items for follow-up.

2. Birds Scooters Update

Ms. Lopez introduced Taylor Kenney, representative from Bird Scooters, to update Council on the scooter business over the past year. Ms. Kenney presented usage statistics, stating that the 25 minute average ride time is a long average and the repeat ridership is also impressive. She stated that there are a lot of commuters utilizing the scooters and the usage is very spread out around town. The average response time to pick up a scooter when a complaint is placed is 2.5 hours. She stated that users do have to sign a waiver verifying their age. Chief McPheeters stated that he is unaware of any injury issues related to the scooter use. Ms. Kenney stated that the demand for scooters has been high throughout the community, so Bird Scooters would like to possibly install more scooters if the high per scooter fee could be negotiated in the future. Councilmembers discussed that the high fees are passed down to the users and discussed considering a renegotiation of the fees in the future.

3. FY23 Budget Amendment #1

Next, Ms. Lopez discussed the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Amendment #1. She explained that the majority of the amendment is rollover expenses and encumbrances from FY22. Jill Johnson, Finance Director, explained other pieces of the amendment, including the Fire Fund A sinking fund as well as reserved wind impact funds. Council gave their thumbs up to move the budget amendment forward for formal approval at a future Council meeting.

4. Armored Tactical Rescue Vehicle

Ms. Lopez stated that Chief McPheeters has requested to start negotiating the purchase of an armored tactical rescue vehicle. The Police Department has the opportunity to buy a refurbished vehicle with a new engine and new warranty for half of the price of a new vehicle; the price is \$169K or best offer. The funding would come from the opportunity fund. Police Chief McPheeters then discussed why this vehicle is needed, explaining that it helps to deescalate situations and to mitigate injuries to officers. He stated that many municipalities our size or smaller in Wyoming have a vehicle of this nature, and some have two, while Natrona County only has one. He also explained that the vehicle can be used in many different types of situations including search and rescue incidents. Councilmembers discussed concerns that the vehicle may be seen as militarizing the department and therefore increasing crime. Chief McPheeters responded that he is unaware of any data showing an increase in crime due to the presence of these vehicles. He also explained that it will be painted and labeled clearly as a Casper Police Department vehicle. He added that it would be the norm for a community of our size and complexity to have a vehicle like this. Council gave their thumbs up for the Chief to start negotiating a contract for the purchase of the tactical vehicle. Councilmember Gamroth added that the City should consider giving more money towards mental health resources for officers.

#### 5. Hogadon Subsidy

Next, Ms. Lopez discussed Hogadon. She began by discussing highlights from last year's ski season. She stated that the season opened late due to lack of snow, but even with the late start there was a 70% cost recovery for Hogadon which is the best recovery to date. Night skiing also started last season and went very well and was well utilized. She then reviewed staff's proposed actions to reduce the investment into the Hogadon subsidy from the general fund. This included a complete report of all funding/revenue sources: lift tickets, season passes, classes, rental/leases, general fund, and perpetual care fund. She then discussed adverse reactions to programs being cut, including rate increases, reduced/eliminated discounted and comp tickets, elimination of ancillary services, and weekday closures of facilities. She explained that some of those options would lead to a reduction in revenue, so they would not make sense, and a substantial increase in rates would be needed to breakeven. She then reviewed staff's proposed strategies to reduce expenses and increase revenue, including restructuring the Mountain Sports, OVG360, and comp pass agreements; eliminating credit card fees and adjusting personnel; adding value to season passes; implementing the new ArcGIS web app; implementing the Indy Pass program; holding user group meetings; working on marketing strategies; and expanding snowmaking and lighting. She stated they are proposing a nominal 3% increase in rates this year and are also working with the communications team to help market Hogadon. They are also exploring summer activities to increase usage of Hogadon during the off-season. Council gave their thumbs up to move forward with the proposals and to increase fees.

#### 6. Outdoor Recreation Grants

Ms. Lopez stated that the Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Department intends to apply for outdoor recreation grants from the Wyoming Office of Outdoor Recreation. They will be distributing \$12M of ARPA funds for eligible recreation projects. The City partnered with user groups to identify projects that may qualify for the grants. The City's proposed projects include upgrades to three boat ramps and adding water connections and upgrading power service at the campsites at the Izaak Walton campground. The other partners and user groups will apply for the

grants for their own projects. These partners include Stuckenhoff Shooters Club, Platte River Trails Trust, and the Hogadon Nigh Skiing Project. Council gave their thumbs up to support these applications.

7. Cordico Wellness App

Next, Nicole Carlson, Human Resources Manager, discussed the uses for the Cordico Wellness App. She explained that Council recently approved an agreement with Lexipol for this app to help address mental health and wellness of all employees. She then reviewed the highlights of the app, explaining that it is very confidential and is customizable for first responders. She stated that the reason there are not a lot of statistics about the outcomes of the app is because the company places a high value on anonymity and users' confidentiality. She stated that this is an annual subscription service, so it can or cannot be renewed in the future based on the value that the City feels it is getting from it. The app will be available for all employees and volunteers for the City.

8. Agenda Review

There was no discussion on agenda review.

9. Legislative Review

There was no discussion for legislative review.

10. Council Around the Table

Next, Council went around the table to discuss their respective board and committee meetings as well as matters of public interest.

The work session was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING  
A Municipal Corporation

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Fleur Tremel  
City Clerk

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Ray Pacheco  
Mayor