

COUNCIL PRE-MEETING
Tuesday, July 6, 2021 5:30 p.m.
Casper City Hall - Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Metropolitan Planning Organization 5-Year Strategic Transit Development Plan Final Report
2. Porter, Muirhead, Cornia, Howard (PMCH) Engagement Letter
3. Agenda Review

Mayor Freel began the pre-meeting session at 5:36 p.m. with Councilmembers Engebretsen, Gamroth, Johnson, Knell, Lutz, Pacheco, and Mayor Freel in attendance. Absent: Councilmembers Cathey and Pollock.

First, Jeremy Yates, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Supervisor, explained that the MPO had entered into a contract with Moore and Associates to carry out a federally required transit development plan for the transit system in Casper. He further explained the scope and purpose of the 5-year plan as well as the public meetings and opportunities for the public to comment and be involved in developing the plan. He introduced the consultants for the project in attendance, Jim Moore and Allison Moore.

Mr. Moore provided very detailed information about the survey processes used to gather data in-person for the fixed ride and dial-a-ride programs as well as data from a written community survey. He spoke about the top ranked motivators for those using the transit system as well as key opportunities for growth.

Next, Mr. Moore elaborated on the key recommendations for each of the following categories: operations; marketing/outreach; administration/policy; and capital. Mr. Yates indicated it was time for questions from Council.

Councilmember Gamroth asked why longer hours of service hadn't been implemented before and Mr. Moore indicated he was unsure but likely it was a matter of prioritization. Councilmember Gamroth asked about the ideal priorities out of the twenty listed in the report. Mr. Moore explained that the recommendations included a timed/phased approach to manage priorities as well as the capitol available. He shared that the following things were recommended immediately: rebranding; partnerships for managing bus stop sites; and off-site dispatch capabilities. He also said that many of these projects were already underway and that limited funding may require some priorities be pushed to a later time.

Councilmember Knell shared that he had received an e-mail with many concerns about the transit system. Mr. Moore offered to prepare a response to the concerns, which may be helpful if any of the concerns are based on a misunderstanding or miscommunication of facts.

Councilmember Gamroth complimented the quality of the report.

Councilmember Engebretsen asked if bus stops and vehicles could be used to promote the transit system. Liz Becher, Community Development Director, stated that this had been done in the past and could be considered going forward. Mr. Moore said that currently the focus is on providing quality service and then in perhaps six months the shift could be toward advertising.

In closing, Mr. Moore shared that the transit system has great potential and he expects that in the next six months to a year, the improvements made could be an example of a success story for the industry.

Mayor Freel asked if City Manager Napier would like to address the Porter, Muirhead, Cornia, Howard item. He indicated the time could be waived so the regular session could begin.

Mayor Freel adjourned the pre-meeting at 6:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Steven K. Freel
Mayor