

**COUNCIL PRE-MEETING**  
Tuesday, May 4, 2021 5:30 p.m.  
Casper City Hall - Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Transit Budget
2. Agenda Review

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

City Manager Napier spoke briefly about the new budget for the transit system, as the City will soon take over operations which have been managed by the Casper Area Transportation Coalition (CATC). He requested additional information from staff.

Liz Becher, Community Development Director, shared that the operating budget for the transit system had increased from roughly \$2.1 or \$2.2 million to \$3 million dollars because of increased capital improvements. The proposed improvements would include fleet additions, a shelter by the Rescue Mission, air filtration improvements, new radios, and dispatch software. She explained the various revenue sources for the budget, which included additional federal funds that have not been available previously. She also spoke about the staffing needs as the program transitions into the management of the City and shared that many of the drivers and experienced staff have been retained. She indicated that City management of the system would begin Monday, May 10, 2021, and shared that every effort for a smooth transition is being taken. She also spoke about on-going projects to re-brand the program which includes new wraps for the fleet, changing signage and artwork on shelters.

Mayor Freel spoke in favor of a shelter being added near the Rescue Mission and asked if staffing had been filled. Ms. Becher indicated that positions were filled. Mayor Freel asked if existing transit tickets would be honored under the new program, and Ms. Becher indicated that distributing agencies had been notified and that the tickets would be honored.

Councilmember Gamroth asked if all of the one cent funds involved with this budget had already been allocated. Ms. Becher stated that most had been allocated but some additional monies will be needed for the additional capital projects and to show a local match for the supplemental federal funding.

City Manager Napier asked if the City is spending more money by taking the transit operations in-house compared to when it was operated by CATC. He clarified, with operations rather than capital. Ms. Becher said that any increases were in capital spending not operations, that personnel changes are being covered by federal funding, and that the City is not going to be spending significantly more money.

Councilmember Knell asked how to best explain the overall increase in the budget to the public. Ms. Becher stated that the dispatch software is an immediate cost and that federal funding is allowing us to invest in our fleet and equipment. Councilmember Knell asked if the fleet doesn't need to be added to in the near future would the overall budget adjust back to normal and would the increased costs flatten out. Ms. Becher indicated that would be the case, and she mentioned that some of the federal funding would no longer be available.

City Manager Napier asked if the City would have future out of pocket expenses going forward, other than matching capital expenses. Ms. Becher verified that is the case.

Councilmember Gamroth asked if the special pickups offered by the transit system would continue to be offered. Ms. Becher said that those services will still be offered as part of the Dial-a-Ride program, which are critical to many in the community. She also shared that this program requires the dispatch software previously discussed.

Police Chief McPheeters shared that next week is National Police week and that staff had worked on a marketing campaign to promote the department. He suggested Council post their support on-line or thank an officer for their services. Council did not have any questions.

Mayor Freel moved on to agenda review. There were no questions or concerns.

Mayor Freel adjourned the pre-meeting at 5:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING  
A Municipal Corporation

---

Fleur Tremel  
City Clerk

---

Steven K. Freel  
Mayor