

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS - SPECIAL MEETING

The Lyric

September 22, 2023

1. ROLL CALL

Casper City Council met in special session at 9:30 a.m., Friday, September 22, 2023. Present: Councilors Engebretsen, Gamroth, Cathey, Pollock, Haskins, Jensen, Bond, and Mayor Pro Tem Pacheco. Mayor Pro Tem Pacheco led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

2.A. ELECTION OF MAYOR

Mayor Pro Tem Pacheco asked for a motion to elect a Mayor for the remainder of calendar year 2023. Councilor Gamroth nominated Mayor Pro Tem Pacheco. Council discussed that he would be a good leader to provide stability and consistency during this time. Moved by Councilor Gamroth, seconded by Councilor Engebretsen, to, by minute action, elect Mayor Pro Tem Pacheco as Mayor of Casper City Council for the remainder of calendar year 2023. Mayor Pro Tem Pacheco abstained from voting and all other Councilors voted aye. Motion passed.

2.B. ELECTION OF VICE MAYOR

Mayor Pacheco asked for a motion to elect a Vice Mayor for the remainder of calendar year 2023. Councilor Jensen nominated Councilor Pollock, Councilor Pollock nominated Councilor Gamroth, Councilor Jensen self-nominated, and Councilor Engebretsen self-nominated. Councilor Pollock stated that she would decline her nomination given that there was interest from three other Councilors. City Manager Napier asked for a recess so that staff could prepare ballots. At 9:38 a.m. Mayor Pacheco called a brief recess.

At 9:50 a.m., Council reconvened. City Attorney Nelson stated that Council should fill out ballots using a ranked ballot system, where they list their first, second, and third choice for Vice Mayor. Staff will collect the ballots and tally them. City Manager Napier explained that with the unique situation there may be a tie, and if that happens, Council will fill out another ballot to select between the top two nominees. It was emphasized that this is only a straw poll, and Council will still need to formally motion and vote on the appointment afterwards. Staff collected the filled-out ballots and left the room to count the votes. Upon returning from counting the ballots, City Attorney Nelson stated that there was a tie between Councilor Gamroth and Councilor Engebretsen. Councilors then filled out another ballot to vote between the top two nominees; these ballots were collected and counted outside of the room by staff. City Attorney Nelson returned and stated that after counting the second set of votes, Councilor Engebretsen had received a majority of votes from Council.

Moved by Councilor Pollock, seconded by Councilor Jensen, to, by minute action, elect Councilor Engebretsen as Vice Mayor of Casper City Council for the remainder of calendar year 2023. Councilor Engebretsen abstained from voting and all other Councilors voted aye. Motion passed.

2.C. OATHS OF OFFICE

Casper Municipal Court Judge Hand issued the oath of office to newly-appointed Mayor Pacheco and Vice Mayor Engebretsen.

Vice Mayor Engebretsen thanked Council for their vote and stated that she will do her best to lead with patience and understanding.

Mayor Pacheco made remarks regarding Council continuing to operate as a unified body in transparency. He reiterated that the City Council is dedicated to protecting its citizens and those that are vulnerable, particularly with regard to those affected by domestic violence. He also stated that he will not run for Mayor in 2024.

3. ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:13 a.m., it was moved by Vice Mayor Engebretsen, seconded by Councilor Bond, to adjourn into an executive session to discuss matters related to personnel, security, and legal advice. Motion passed unanimously.

At 11:01 a.m., it was moved by Councilor Pollock, seconded by Councilor Haskins, to adjourn the executive session. Motion passed unanimously.

4. ADJOURNMENT OF SPECIAL MEETING

The meeting was opened to the public. At 11:02 a.m. it was moved by Councilor Haskins, seconded by Vice Mayor Engebretsen, to, by minute action, adjourn the special meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Ray Pacheco
Mayor