

INFORMATION PACKET

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Friday, July 31, 2020



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We are CASPER

Communication Accountability Stewardship Professionalism Efficiency Responsiveness

The Grid

A working draft of Council Meeting Agendas

August 4, 2020 Councilmembers Absent:

Regular Council Meeting Agenda Items	Est. Public Hearing	Public Hearing	Ordinances	Resolutions	Minute Action
Approve July 21 Executive Session - Personnel					
Public Hearing: 2020 NFPA70 National Electrical Code.		N			
Public Hearing: Annexation and Plat Creating the Ide Addition to the City of Casper, and Zoning said Addition as C-3 (Central Business)		N			
Public Hearing: Vacating Tract G, Mesa Del Sol Addition, as Public Parkland; and Approving a Zone Change of said Parcel from PH (Park Historic) to R-4 (High Density Residential).		N			
Public Hearing: Adoption of Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Amendment No. 1		N			
Public Hearing: Transfer of Ownership for Retail Liquor License No. 26 from Wyoming Novelty Co, d/b/a TJ's Bar and Grill, Located at 2024 CY Avenue to Brenton Properties, LLC., d/b/a Brenton Properties, Located at 2024 CY Avenue.		N			
Vacate West 8th Street, from South David to South Center Street. 3rd reading			N		
Amending Sections of Chapter 6.04 - Animal Care and Control 2nd Reading			N		
Authorizing Revisions to Chapter 13.32.030 of the Casper Municipal Code Related to Local Limits for the Industrial Pretreatment Program. 1st Reading - no public hearing			N		
Authorizing Contract for Professional Services for the Downtown Parking Garage and Parking Lot Management with Republic Parking, LLC.				N	
Authorizing Termination of the Contract for Professional Services for Job Costing Software PubWorks, with Tracker Software.				C	
Authorizing a Contract for Professional Services with Golder Associates, Inc, in the Amount of \$45,665, for Providing Environmental Services for the Construction of First Street Reach of the North Platte River Restoration Project.				C	
Executive Session - Personnel					

August 11, 2020 Councilmembers Absent:

Work Session Meeting Agenda Items	Recommendation	Allotted Time	Begin Time
Recommendations = Information Only, Move Forward for Approval, Direction Requested			
Meeting Followup		5 min	4:30
Coates Road	Direction Requested	30 min	4:35
Massage Therapy Discussion	Direction Requested	30 min	5:05
Council Ethics Discussion	Direction Requested	30 min	5:35
Public Comment Periods for Ordinances	Direction Requested	30 min	6:05
Financial Administration Guidelines Policy Review	Information Only	20 min	6:35
Agenda Review		20 min	6:55
Legislative Review		10 min	7:15
Council Around the Table		10 min	7:25
Approximate Ending Time:			7:35

August 18, 2020 Councilmembers Absent:

Regular Council Meeting Agenda Items	Est. Public Hearing	Public Hearing	Ordinances	Resolutions	Minute Action
Amending Sections of Chapter 6.04 - Animal Care and Control 3rd Reading			N		
2020 NFPA70 National Electrical Code. 2nd Reading			N		
Annexation and Plat Creating the Ide Addition to the City of Casper, and Zoning said Addition as C-3 (Central Business). 2nd Reading			N		
Vacating Tract G, Mesa Del Sol Addition, as Public Parkland; and Approving a Zone Change of said Parcel from PH (Park Historic) to R-4 (High Density Residential). 2nd Reading			N		
Authorizing a Lease Agreement between the City of Casper and the Casper Midget Football Association.				C	
Authorizing a Contract for Professional Services with Highlander Ski Lift Services & Construction, Inc., in the Amount of \$67,780 for the Hogadon Bullwheel Service.				C	
Authorizing a Contract with Motorola Solutions, Inc. as the Designated Primary Consultant Responsible for Oversight and Maintenance of Critical Public Safety Equipment in the Total Amount of \$567,460.				C	

August 25, 2020 Councilmembers Absent:

Work Session Meeting Agenda Items	Recommendation	Allotted Time	Begin Time
Recommendations = Information Only, Move Forward for Approval, Direction Requested			
Meeting Followup		5 min	4:30
Junior Council (Elissa Ruckle)	Information Only	20 min	4:35
COVID-19 Reimbursement Application	Direction Requested	20 min	4:55
Agenda Review		20 min	5:15
Legislative Review		10 min	5:35
Council Around the Table		10 min	5:45
Approximate Ending Time:			5:55

September 1, 2020 Councilmembers Absent:

Regular Council Meeting Agenda Items	Est. Public Hearing	Public Hearing	Ordinances	Resolutions	Minute Action
2020 NFPA70 National Electrical Code. 3rd Reading			N		
Annexation and Plat Creating the Ide Addition to the City of Casper, and Zoning said Addition as C-3 (Central Business). 3rd Reading			N		
Vacating Tract G, Mesa Del Sol Addition, as Public Parkland; and Approving a Zone Change of said Parcel from PH (Park Historic) to R-4 (High Density Residential). 3rd Reading			N		
COVID-19 Reimbursement Application Reso				C	

Future Agenda Items

Item	Date	Estimated Time	Notes
Parking on the Parkways		30 min	
David Street Station 501(c)(3)		30 min	
Meadowlark Park			Spring 2020
Private Operation of Hogadon			
Formation of Additional Advisory Committees			
LAD Billing Process			August
Amending Ordinance No. 18-17 - Rocky Mountain Franchise			September 8
TOPOL Addition Release of Zoning Restrictions (tentative)			
Snow Plow Plans (cost saving proposals)			September 8
Consideration for responsible bidder status			
Off-Season Hogadon Use			
Wind Turbines			

Staff Items

Limo Amendment			
Sign Code Revision			
Wind River Traffic Update			Summer 2020
Community Relations Spec Update Followup		30 min	

Future Council Meeting Items

Sept. 15 - An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 18-17, a Franchise Granting an Electric Utility Easement to PacifiCorp, an Oregon Corporation, doing Business as Rocky Mountain Power.

Public Hearing on September 15, 2020: Resolution certifying Annexation compliance with Title 15, Chapter 1, Article 4 of the Wyoming State Statutes to determine if the Annexation of the Ide Addition to the City of Casper complies with W.S. §15-1-402.

1. Resolution.
2. Third reading Ordinance Approving Annexation, and Zoning of the Ide Addition.

Retreat Items

Economic Development and City Building Strategy

From: Charter Policy <policy@charter.com>

Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 6:27 AM

To: Renee Jordan-Smith <rjordansmith@casperwy.gov>

Subject: Supporting communities through COVID-19, virtual career fairs, and more!



[VIEW IN BROWSER](#)

NEWS & UPDATES | JUL 31, 2020

Continuing to Support Communities Through COVID-19

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Charter has helped to ease the strain on millions of Americans, including by connecting hundreds of thousands of students, teachers, and their families to 100 Mbps or 200 Mbps broadband service for 60 days at no cost to them. We were honored to have recently had our company's response to the COVID-19 pandemic recognized by Forbes as one of the best in the nation.

As Americans begin to find a new normal, we will continue helping those facing significant connectivity challenges with:

- **Broadband program for low income families and seniors** offering high speed broadband to eligible households through our industry-leading low-cost program – Spectrum Internet Assist.

- **No penalty for disconnection** for consumers that no longer need at-home internet access—as always Charter has no long-term contracts and consumers can cancel service at any time.
- **Supporting small businesses** with a month of free services to new business customers.
- **Investing in minority-owned small businesses** by partnering with the National Urban League and National Action Network on a [\\$10 million investment](#) to increase access to much-needed low-interest capital.

We are proud to have been able to offer extensive support to our customers when they needed it most while also delivering uninterrupted access during a record-breaking spike in demand. These efforts were made possible by significant investments in and expansions of our network infrastructure and technology, which totaled nearly \$40 billion over the past five years.

[Learn more about how we're helping keep communities strong through COVID-19.](#)

Virtually Connecting the Military Community with Meaningful Careers at Charter

Our efforts to continue growing our highly-skilled, diverse, and insourced workforce includes hiring more veterans and reservists and increasing employment opportunities for military spouses. Charter is proud to employ nearly 10,000 veterans and military reservists – 10% of our total workforce.

Our military community has valuable skills and a mission-oriented mindset and we are helping them build meaningful careers within our company. This summer we hosted several virtual careers fairs alongside our military partners – the USO, Department of Defense Military Spouse Employment Partnership, Hiring Our Heroes, Wounded Warrior Project, Centurion Military Alliance, and Student Veterans of America – to connect directly with members of the military community and discuss careers with Charter.

Over the next six months, roughly 100,000 service members will transition into the civilian workforce, and we are committed to helping build on talents developed during military service and translate them into meaningful careers with our company.

[Learn more about our virtual career fairs for veterans.](#)

Investing \$10 Million in Minority-Owned Small Businesses

Small businesses are the lifeblood of the U.S. economy, [creating two-thirds of net new jobs and accounting for 44% of our economic activity](#). Unfortunately, throughout our country's history Black and minority-owned businesses have not received equal access to the critical financial resources needed to survive and grow. More recently, the disproportionate devastation experienced by these businesses has come into clearer focus through widespread civic unrest and the COVID-19 pandemic: 41% of African-American-owned and 32% of Latino-owned businesses disappeared between February and April of this year according to a recent [National Bureau of Economic Research](#) study.

To help do our part to support Black and other minority-owned small businesses in underserved communities, Charter recently announced a [\\$10 million investment](#) in partnership with the National Urban League (NUL) and National Action Network (NAN). This investment partnership will help strengthen minority-owned small businesses and have a positive long-term economic impact on the development and growth of communities across Charter's 41-state service area. We look forward to working with both organizations on this important effort alongside our other ongoing commitments to ensure the communities we serve remain vibrant and strong.

[Read about our investment in minority-owned small businesses.](#)

Expanding Diverse Programming Offerings

Charter is committed to providing programming that reflects the vibrant diversity of the communities we serve and recognizes the growing customer demand for diverse programming choices.

Charter recently expanded its Latino-focused programming options with the announcement of five new Latino-targeted TV networks that offer family-friendly, lifestyle, home and garden, and educational programming. These include: Kids Central, Inglés Para Todos, ¡HOLA! TV, Tarima TV, and Hogar de HGTV. These new networks add to Charter's already impressive lineup of Latino-targeted, English and Spanish-language programming for Spectrum TV subscribers. Charter's Mi Plan Latino offers one of the most robust Latino packages of any major cable provider, with more than 140 channels in English and Spanish, including more than 75 Spanish-language channels.

Earlier this year, the nation's only 24/7 African American-focused news network, the Black News Channel (BNC), launched and Charter is proud to have been one of the first pay TV providers to carry the channel in some of our largest markets. Recently, we announced that we will be significantly expanding the distribution of BNC to make it available to Spectrum TV subscribers across our 41-state footprint. As an innovative and life-changing network, BNC's mission is to provide intelligent programming that is informative, educational, inspiring, and empowering to Black audiences.

Learn more about our [robust Latino programming and new channels](#) and our [expanded distribution of BNC](#).

Charter Policy 601 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite
400W Washington, DC 20001 USA

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From: Liz Becher

Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 2:07 PM

To: Renee Jordan-Smith <rjordansmith@casperwy.gov>; Jolene Martinez <jmartinez@casperwy.gov>

Cc: Carter Napier <cnapier@casperwy.gov>

Subject: For Info Packet: Photo of Covered Construction Debris Container at new Wells Fargo Bank project downtown

Our Ordinance update in action!!

The construction site looks great.





CASPER POLICE DEPARTMENT

City of Casper, Wyoming

Keith McPheeters
Chief of Police

201 North David Street
1st Floor
Casper, Wyoming 82601

Date: July 30, 2020
To: Carter Napier and City Council
From: Chief Keith McPheeters
Subject: Downtown Parking

The Casper Police Department is authorized and funded for four Community Service Officer (CSO) positions. Historically, an additional, part-time CSO was authorized, dedicated to the sole purpose of Downtown Parking Enforcement. However, this part-time position was eliminated due to budget constraints when the person in this position left the organization.

Community Service Officers serve in a variety of capacities, the entirety of which are designed to keep armed officers available for crime prevention. The CSOs accomplish this by undertaking responsibilities that do not require an armed response. Among their duties are the dozens of daily VIN inspections, the fingerprinting of citizens needing backgrounds for employment, parking enforcement, crime scene processing, traffic control, special events, cold reports, and other myriad responsibilities. As a direct service to our citizens, VIN inspections and fingerprinting occupy a significant number of hours of every business day.

In late 2018 the challenge to hire and keep a full roster of CSO's began. Since then, at no point have we had a full complement of CSOs. We have hired eight replacement CSOs. Of the eight replacement CSOs, five left the organization for a variety of reasons either during training or soon after completing training: one left from inability to complete training; two chose to apply for and become sworn officers; and two left due to unexpected life changes.

In other words, soon after becoming eligible for use in Parking Enforcement, we were quickly back down to none available. Of the three remaining replacement CSOs hired, two just completed training on the week of July 27, 2020 and one newly hired CSO has approximately four additional weeks of Field Training before she can be released from training. Until this week, we have been down to one veteran CSO. Beginning this week, we have finally reached a level of three CSOs, allowing, for the first time in months, the capacity to conduct routine parking enforcement.

When the only remaining CSO is occupied with the VIN and fingerprint responsibilities or conducting the training of new CSOs, many other services will be greatly diminished, including parking enforcement. The necessity of accomplishing the timely field training of new CSOs has required the reassignment of a veteran Traffic Officer to facilitate this critical task while keeping our one CSO taking care of the services our citizens have come to expect.



CASPER POLICE DEPARTMENT

City of Casper, Wyoming

Keith McPheeters
Chief of Police

201 North David Street
1st Floor
Casper, Wyoming 82601

As a function of the training regimen of the CSOs, hands-on parking enforcement training was undertaken whenever possible. For example, just a few weeks ago, 29 parking citations were issued in the Downtown area alone during just one episode of CSO training.

Since this week's release from training of the newly commissioned CSOs, daily downtown parking enforcement has been occurring, with multiple tickets issued out. On Tuesday, July 28, just one CSO's enforcement efforts resulted in seven citations and one (1) written warning in the Downtown area. In addition, there has been a significant effort to cite and tow abandoned vehicles and trailers throughout the city during this same time-period.

Having finally reached a staffing level commensurate with the need, parking enforcement will now be available as a matter of routine. The overseeing Sergeant has developed operational plans for several highly concentrated parking enforcement operations.

Furthermore, the planned upgrades to our parking enforcement equipment and infrastructure are underway with the new fiscal year. Lastly, Judge Lund is reporting a substantial increase in compliance with issued parking ticket payments due to the adhesive envelopes the Department introduced earlier this year.

Respectfully,

Keith McPheeters
Chief of Police
307-235-8201 (Office)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLACKMORE MARKETPLACE FREE OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, August 1st, 2020 at 4:00pm

2nd Street and Newport Rd., Casper

Blackmore Marketplace invites the community to enjoy an afternoon of sidewalk sales, food trucks, music, and movies at Blackmore Marketplace Shopping Center. Come join us for the afternoon, dine outside at food truck alley, sway to the beats with The Mad Katter Band and the Red Butte Band, and watch the movie Missing Link on TWO HUGE SCREENS. Drive up, walk up, everyone is welcome.

Food concessions start at 4:00 p.m., and the movie starts at dusk. Watch from your car or bring your lawn chairs or a blanket and enjoy the show under the stars.

REMEMBER TO FOLLOW THE WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH COVID – 19 ORDERS AND GUIDANCE TO PROTECT YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY. STAY SOCIALLY DISTANT AND WEAR A FACE COVERING AS APPROPRIATE.

Media Contact: Karen Blumenstein

karen@flowerandstone.ltd



From: Liz Becher

Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 1:32 PM

To: Renee Jordan-Smith <rjordansmith@casperwy.gov>; Jolene Martinez <jmartinez@casperwy.gov>

Cc: Carter Napier <cnapier@casperwy.gov>

Subject: For the Info Packet: FTA CARES ACT funding: Beech Street Bus Shelters

Here are photos of the new panels that were installed in the 2 bus shelters along Beech Street with our allocation of CARES ACT funding from FTA!!!

The cost was \$7,000. They look fantastic!!!

Just look at how nice and clear the panels are. No more scratches that make it dangerous to see in or out.....







It's All Home Water: The People's River

Dave Zoby / 12 Min Read

How Casper reimaged the North Platte.

When I first moved to Casper, Wyoming, I did what almost every eager fly angler does—I drove the 20-plus miles to the dam at Grey Reef and started flogging the obvious pools and tail-outs. I wasn't alone that first time, or any of the thousands of times I've fished the Reef since. When I settled into a boxy rental on Odell Street, the Game and Fish estimated that there were up to 3,000 fish per mile in the upper sections. I knew that I had stumbled into something special by moving to Casper. But I also knew that there was a lot more to the North Platte River than the three miles of frothy water below the towering cement structure at Grey Reef.

Vaguely, I knew the shameful history of how the river was treated. Fortunes were made. But extraction industries always seem to export the lion's share of the money elsewhere. Today there are a few austere mansions in Casper's Big Tree Area, but the vast wealth that was pumped from the ground is merely a whisper. Like many rivers in America, the North Platte was seen as a place to dispose industrial and human waste. Fish kills, all the way downstream to Guernsey, 100 miles and beyond, were common occurrences. In fact, in 1958, a government survey determined that the North Platte near Casper was the most polluted waterway in the country.

“Rumors that large brown trout lurked within the city limits never tempted me enough to do any real investigations. What flowed through town was degraded beyond hope, saturnine, sacrificed for profit.”

The smart money predicted that the river would never recover, that, like so many other casualties of the West, it was lost. Though the pump jacks and storage tanks have been dismantled and hauled away, you can still discern the echo of unencumbered industrial pursuits stamped into the ground. The long, slow sections that ran through town were full of riprap and debris. The banks were caved in, sediment clogged the channel, and the riverine habitat was overgrown with Russian Olive trees, an invasive species. Rumors that large brown trout lurked within the city limits never tempted me enough to do any real investigations. As far as I was concerned, fishing in the North Platte only began well upstream of Casper. What flowed through town was degraded beyond hope, saturnine, sacrificed for profit.

Quintessential Wyoming

Roughly the same time I moved to Casper, the city and its residents identified the North Platte as a major economic and cultural driver for the region. People didn't give up on the river. They decided to

do something about it. The former site of the Amoco refinery was well into its remediation plan. The Two-Fly Organization, a nonprofit that raises money through its celebrated fly fishing tournament, partnered with the city to study the viability of a complete hydrology project that would restore the river channel, stabilize the banks, create fish habitat and improve spawning areas. Invasive Russian Olives would be removed by the tens of thousands, while native shrubs and cottonwood galleries would be encouraged to take root.

What began as a modest idea of an annual river cleanup grew into a multifaceted conglomeration to overhaul seven sections of river, from city border to city border, 13.5 miles of river in total. The Platte River Revival Committee is made up of citizens who believe that the North Platte, as it flows through town, deserves a chance at redemption. One of the names that often comes up when inquiring about the project is Jolene Martinez, the assistant to the city manager.

Martinez and her group envision a natural swath of riparian habitat running through Casper. She talks about "democratizing the river." She sees fishing the river as a birthright. She imagines a legacy of wetlands complete with migrating waterfowl and wild birds, smackdab in the middle of the city. During an interview in her office, she reminded me several times that we have Blue Ribbon trout fishing right in town, right under our noses. She showed me binders of maps, proposals and scientific studies.

"I love to go fly fishing up at the Grey Reef area. I love hiring a guide and being out there. But not everybody can afford that," she said. "If you live in Casper, and you can purchase a fishing license and get some gear, you should be able to make your way to a public park, and not necessarily have to go to Grey Reef." She talked about the legacy of this project. "How do we do right by the river, for Casper, for generations to come?" she asked.

Martinez is quick to point out the many entities involved in the restorations project: Natrona County Weed and Pest, the Bureau of Land Management, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the National Audubon Society, the Two-Fly Foundation, the Department of Environmental Quality and, of course, the City of Casper. Bringing all of these disparate groups together for one goal, Martinez tells me, is the essence of Wyoming. To call public attention to the project, the Platte River Revival group hosts an annual river cleanup days in September that culminates in a community BBQ at Mike Lansing Field, just off the river. This year saw more than 400 volunteers.

"We're taking all comers—we've never been exclusive—but we pulled in the people who had the scientific knowledge to do what we needed to do," said Martinez.

Bulldozers in the River

Without knowing it, I have been walking atop restored riverbanks these last few years. The first section the project tackled was Morad Park, a popular off-leash dog park with well-established cottonwood galleries, groves of hawthorn and lots of river access. Using granite boulders and trees harvested from the Nordic trail on Casper Mountain, engineers built a wood toe bank structure and planted willows on top. (Wood toe is the preferred bank restoration process. It stays in place, halts erosion and provides a natural habitat for fish.) Runoff and freshets were encouraged to flow over

flat, boggy sections of the park; the results are obvious wetlands. When I walk my dogs here it is not unusual to startle a pair of mallards or to annoy a gaggle of Canada geese that winter in the area. This work was completed in the summer and fall of 2016.

While tossing the training dummy for my Labs along this stretch, I've noticed pods of feeding trout sipping midges on late-fall afternoons. The channel restorations make the river sing. I can see clean plains of gravel where fish might spawn. And people who fish this section are reporting surprising encounters with large fish. For the first time in 20 years, I am seeing a rare drift boat, complete with clients and a taciturn guide at the sticks, drifting through this section.

“History vibrates though Casper and you feel it most on windy nights. The wind howls with such ferocity you expect to wake up and find the whole city rearranged. But it’s there in the morning, frosty and contradictory, just like you knew it would be.”

But still, citizens were understandably alarmed when they spotted two huge bulldozers doing channel restoration in the section under the Poplar Street Bridge. The river restoration project came into full view in the fall of 2019, when the work began right beside the popular fast-food restaurants and other downtown attractions. While engineers had set up absorbent booms to catch any carbon residue that might seep up from the riverbed as the machines worked, citizens were suspicious. Engineers had predicted that leftover pollutants from our oily past might emerge as the work began. They planned for this, but there was more industrial waste than the project managers had anticipated. Conspiracy theories emerged. People had to be assured that the heavy machinery was not degrading the river.

On a windy day in November, I attended a press conference on the banks of the North Platte. Martinez had gathered many of the members of the river restoration project to answer questions from the press and the public. We stood in a knot in the parking lot of the Jonah Bank. There were Game and Fish reps in their red button-down shirts, hardhat-wearing project managers from Stantec, the environmental firm hired to do the restoration, and journalists and their corresponding notepads. The bulldozers were idle in the background. A few geese fed in the main channel as we gathered.

Brian Connelly, from Natrona County Weed and Pest, has a way of talking about history that makes you want to listen. He wove tales of just how devastated the river was before the restoration work began. A stout man in Rooseveltian spectacles (Teddy, not Franklin), he seemed to be enjoying himself. “If you would have shown up here in the ‘70s you would have found a fairly large refinery—and, as we know, refinery landscapes are industrial. It didn’t look like someplace you wanted to walk along the river. In fact, it was just refinery access on that side of the river,” Connelly said.

“The trash was insane. There was nobody cleaning it up—there was nobody that cared. It wasn’t trout habitat by any means,” he added. Native species such as the shovel-nosed sturgeon, river redhorse, longnose sucker and the brassy minnow could not survive the vulgarities of an unchecked oil industry. They disappeared one by one.

Connelly explained that the attitudes of those times were dramatically different to our attitudes today.

Randy Walsh, the senior restoration scientist for Stantec, talked about some of the improvements the project would make, especially for fish, but for other species as well. Walsh said that large trout inhabit the downtown section of the river, but they migrate and are constantly on the move. "There was no structure. No cover. No feeding lanes," he said.

Most of the riverbed, as it runs through town, suffered from silt buildup. There were few suitable gravel beds for trout to make their redds, these stretches didn't feature deep pools where juvenile fish might thrive, and the entire area lacked ambush habitat where large trout can prey on smaller fish.

Trout Culture

Walsh, who has worked on river restorations in Wyoming for years, always buys an annual fishing license so that he can tote his fly rod along and test the results of his projects on his days off. Walsh and I had a lot in common. Both of us had spent our 20s crisscrossing the West to catch one hatch or another. Both of us were acquainted with the trout towns that dot the map: Twin Bridges, Fort Smith, Gunnison, Dutch John. These are iconic destinations with populations that rarely exceed 400 souls. But what they lack in population, they make up for in trout culture. Drift boats slide through town each morning, anglers hang out at the local coffee roasters and breweries and public art depicts colorful fish rising to take insects off the surface.

I asked Walsh if Casper could ever be a trout town in the same manner. He said, not quite. He reminded me that Casper is the largest city in Wyoming. But that is the interesting thing about what's happening here—Blue Ribbon trout habitat in an urban setting. He said Casper's potential to provide a quality city fishery has no analog.

"People here understand that what they have is special and unique—you have a metropolitan area with some of the finest trout water in the country," he said.

He told me that one of the priorities of the project was to install a new boat ramp in the middle of downtown Casper. He sees a future where anglers and guides can walk to a restaurant or brewery after a day of fishing. "I'll know we did a good job when I come back and see a group of kids fishing in this downtown section. Then I'll know we were successful. That will be the legacy of all of this," he said.

Already there are measurable outcomes for the first phases of river restoration. Blake Jackson is the co-owner of the Ugly Bug Fly Shop and a longtime member of the Wyoming Flycasters, a conservation group that is involved in the North Platte River at every level.

“Since the completion of the upper stretch—Roberson Road down to the Tate Pump House—we’ve increased our guiding because the quality keeps improving. It’s cleaner; it’s more scenic; there seems to be more wildlife.”

Jackson says that we’re known for a great upstream fishery, but to add 15 to 20 miles more seems like a homerun for everyone involved. He describes these sections as being chock-full of rainbows in all sizes. But there is another reason fly fishers like these new stretches. “It’s become hunting grounds for big brown trout. My thought on it is that they’re targeting some of those smaller rainbows.”

Jackson says that the bank improvements and the structure of town acts as a windbreak and dry fly opportunities that didn’t exist years ago are now possible. “This past fall we had a phenomenal blue wing hatch coming off. When that happens in an urban setting it’s unique,” said Jackson. “If I can have people walk four blocks from my retail store and be in Blue Ribbon trout fishing—or the backdoor of their hotel—it becomes a game changer as far as the economic revenue it could lead to.”

The Heart of Wyoming

Brian Connelly and I met again in January to talk about the river over espresso at a downtown coffee house. Perhaps it was the caffeine or the effects of a long winter, but both of us wanted to stretch our legs. We rumbled through town in Brian’s truck, stopping at various points of interest, such as the empty lots where thousands of beetle-killed spruce trees waited to be used in bank restoration. We stepped over some temporary fencing to get a close-up look at the sod mats and young willow saplings that would hold the new riverbanks in place. Next, we flowed across town and found ourselves at Morad.

“You won’t believe how many 12 to 14-inch fish this section holds,” he said. He said he caught a half dozen fish during a lunchbreak last spring by simply drifting a prince nymph along the restored riverbank. We were standing on a plateau that bristled with young willows and, more importantly, cottonwood saplings. I could see exposed root bundles from the wood toe construction that took place a few years ago. The river was healing itself, right there in plain view of passing traffic. Brian showed me some of the wetlands and anti-erosion structures that had been put in place. Tiny finches and juncos flashed between ancient cottonwoods. He was particularly concerned with a type of small, invasive tree called buckthorn.

“See the way the sun hits those branches and makes them look silvery? Those are native chokecherries. Buckthorn doesn’t do that,” he said. He found a likely candidate and

scraped a section of bark off with a pocket knife. “Yep, that’s buckthorn. I didn’t know we had it, but we do. It will have to dealt with,” he said.

“This isn’t a one-time deal. We’re going to have to continue these projects and maintain the river. It goes on and on,” he said. There were mule deer tracks in the rinds of old snow.

We traded the usual Wyoming hunting and fishing tales. He told me about a time he was camped in Yellowstone and a downpour interrupted a dish of clams Alfredo. He and his girlfriend at the time crawled into their bags early. The next day he found grizzly bear tracks at the vestibule of tent, as if the bear was lured in by a whiff of garlic. The animal had looked in for a moment, then moved on. He said that what he loved about Wyoming is that it’s big. “I don’t mean size. What I mean is that Wyoming—the people and the place—it has a big heart. We are big enough to have grizz and wolves. We have the heart that take care of what we have. We are big enough to make things right.” He touched his chest to illustrate.

That night, with my notes, I tried to write about the river and our industrial past, but it was no good. The wind was up. I could hear it strafing my little house. My home was built in 1949, when the refineries were the only game in town. Perhaps an Amoco employee lived here with his family. Perhaps he liked to fish but rarely found the time. History vibrates though Casper and you feel it most on windy nights. The wind howls with such ferocity you expect to wake up and find the whole city rearranged. But it’s there in the morning, frosty and contradictory, just like you knew it would be.

We have this one river cutting through town. Rivers are finite things. We can’t make more of them once we lose the ones we have. I hope Brian is right about the size of Wyoming’s heart. I hope he’s right about our willpower to reimagine ourselves and make things right.

Author Profile

Dave Zoby

Dave’s work has appeared in *The Sun Magazine*, *The Missouri Review*, *The Drake*, *Flyfish Journal* and many others. He is the fly fishing editor of *Strung Magazine*. His first book, *Fire on the Beach*, tells the story of Richard Etheridge, an African-American hero who served in the United States Life-Saving Service, (circa 1890). Dave lives in Casper, Wyoming, with his two black Labs, Henderson and Rocket. Despite mounting evidence to the contrary, Dave believes that a trout from the bank is worth 10 from a boat.

From: Justin Schilling <jschilling@wyomuni.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 12:43 PM
Subject: Federal Aid - Keep your fingers crossed


Good Afternoon WAM!

As most of you know, the final Federal Coronavirus relief package is being negotiated in Washington as we speak. Negotiations have reportedly been contentious, and no clear picture of what the final compromise will look like has come in to focus yet, but there are some potentially beneficial proposals that stand a good chance of surviving. You'll remember the HEROES Act that passed the House over a month ago contained around \$1 trillion for local government revenue replacement. That bill was largely dead on arrival in the Republican-controlled Senate, but the new HEALS Act unveiled Monday by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell does contain some hope for significant additional funding for local governments, especially here in Wyoming. Simply put, the HEALS Act would change the guidance on the \$1.25 billion pot of CARES Act funding that the state already received to allow for revenue replacement. Better still, it would require the state to distribute at least 25-percent (\$312 million) to local governments before they could use any of the remainder to cover their own shortfalls. According to recent estimates, less than \$300 million has been spent of the original CARES Act funding here in Wyoming, and only a small fraction of that has made it to local governments. We see the potential of accessing these CARES Act funds as an incredibly well-timed lifeline, especially when all signs are pointing toward the state legislature considering cuts to direct distribution. National League of Cities continues to fight for inclusion of some if not all of the local government funding proposed in the HEROES Act in this new compromise package, and we support those efforts wholeheartedly, but with the focus of both political parties seemingly on provisions with immediate impact on individual Americans (enhanced unemployment, stimulus checks, etc.) it seems unlikely that the Democrats will make local government relief funds a key bargaining chip. That said, we're extremely optimistic that the unbinding of the CARES Act funds will win bipartisan support, and that the provisions of the proposal as written would ensure delivery of those funds to municipalities in an efficient and timely manner. WAM has already entered into conversations with state leaders about what those distributions would look like should the HEALS Act provision survive and pass with the rest of the package. If you have any opportunity to communicate with Wyoming's Congressional delegation, please encourage them to support the HEALS Act and let them know how much this extra funding would help your municipality weather these challenging times, and as always we'll do our best to keep you informed as things in Washington progress.

Stronger together,
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July 29, 2020

MEMO TO: J. Carter Napier, City Manager

FROM: Liz Becher, Community Development Director 

SUBJECT: Project Stats for the 2020 Casper Area Wayfinding Master Plan

Summary:

One of the Goals of the City Council is to Enhance the Attractiveness of the Community for Business and Workforce Development. A corresponding focus area for that goal is Marketing Casper as a great community, and to communicate Casper's amenities with a Wayfinding Plan.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) project kicked off the Casper Area Wayfinding Plan project in September 2019, with its partners in Evansville, Bar Nunn, Mills, and the County, and met the scheduled completion of March 2020. Council formally adopted the Plan, by resolution, on April 21, 2020.

The Wayfinding Master Plan project includes:

1. Incorporation and consideration of key Casper Area municipalities, community assets, and destinations into the geographic scope of the Master Plan.
2. Identification, inventory, and analysis of existing signage and locations.
3. Incorporation of public participation into the design process.
4. Design of a framework for sign and wayfinding types for a wide range of users and environments.
5. Provision of construction and installation specifications and guides.
6. Development of implementation and capital plans.

The Plan is a system, by which each municipalities' signs will work in coordination with one another to give residents and visitors a holistic experience. Each municipality separately adopted the Plan, and will fund their own signs.

While many citizens have phone apps that can get them to requested destinations, wayfinding signage is critical for directing residents or guests to destinations they may not be aware of, and providing information about the destination.

At the Council Work Session on July 14, Council directed staff to prepare a Request for proposal (RFP) to solicit cost estimates from professional sign companies to fabricate and install the signs. There was NO commitment on whether Council would move forward with the fabrication and installation. The issuance of the RFP is only for fact-finding to see if the unit cost can be bid lower than the estimated \$6,500 quoted in the actual Wayfinding Plan. There were 189 signs projected for the City of Casper. The rollout of the signs was proposed in

2 phases. Each phase would include approximately 94 signs. Phase 1 was proposed for spring 2021.

Staff pulled together the technical specifications for the 4-signage designs proposed in the Plan to prepare the RFP. The completed signs will range in size: 60 inches wide x 72 inches high; 68 inches wide x 81.5 inches high; 47.4 inches wide x 39.5 inches high; 70 inches wide x 60 inches high. The respective technical sheets are attached.

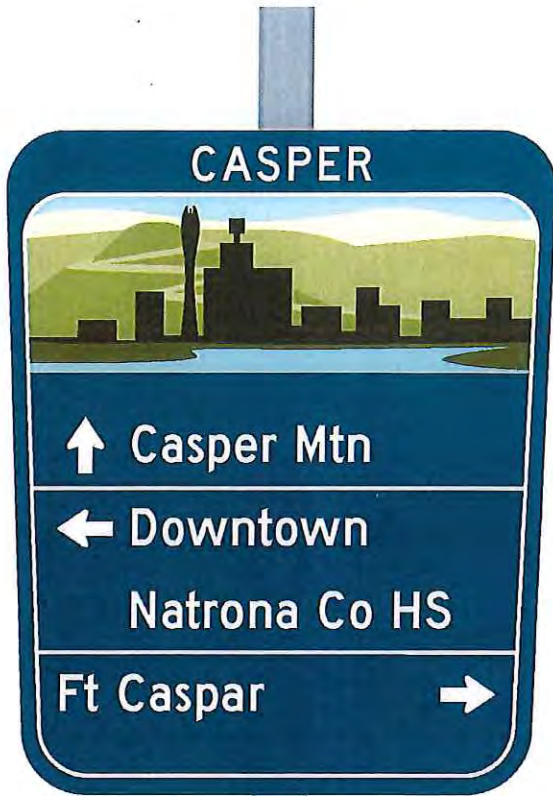
The RFP should be issued within the next two weeks. Staff is also preparing maps that would indicate the exact location of the Phase 1 signs for Council's consideration when staff brings back the results of the RFP this fall.

Funding for the Implementation would need to come from the City's General Fund or Opportunity Fund.

MPO Staff in the Community Development Department will oversee this project, with assistance from Public Services and Parks.

VEHICULAR - DIRECTIONAL - LESS THAN 30 MPH

Signs in this category will be located mainly within city and town boundaries along roadways with speed limits less than 30 mph.



HISTORIC DOWNTOWN



LEGIBILITY

Font: FHWA Series D

Legible Directional Viewing Distance: 160 FT

Preferred # of Characters Per Line: 12

Max # of Characters Per Line: 16

Preferred # of Lines Per Destination: 1

Max # of Lines Per Destination: 2

Max # of Destinations Per Sign: 4

Max # of Lines Per Sign: 4

SYMBOLS

↑ : 4 IN wide x 6 IN high MUTCD Type D

← : 6 IN wide x 4 IN high MUTCD Type D

→ : 6 IN wide x 4 IN high MUTCD Type D

SIGN SPECIFICATIONS:

Size: 60 IN wide x 72 IN high

District Identifier: 56 IN wide x 8 IN high

Text: Top Identifier: 3.75 IN (Kerning: 50)

Destinations: 4 IN

District Identifier: 3.5 IN

Divider Line: 3.75 IN (Kerning: 50)

FABRICATION

Material: Aluminum* with ASTM Type IV Sheeting

Note: Sign back is not reflective.

Colors: Pantone/CMYK color reproduction necessary to maintain color integrity. Full color palette and graphics will be provided.

PRIMARY COLORS



SECONDARY COLORS



MOUNTING

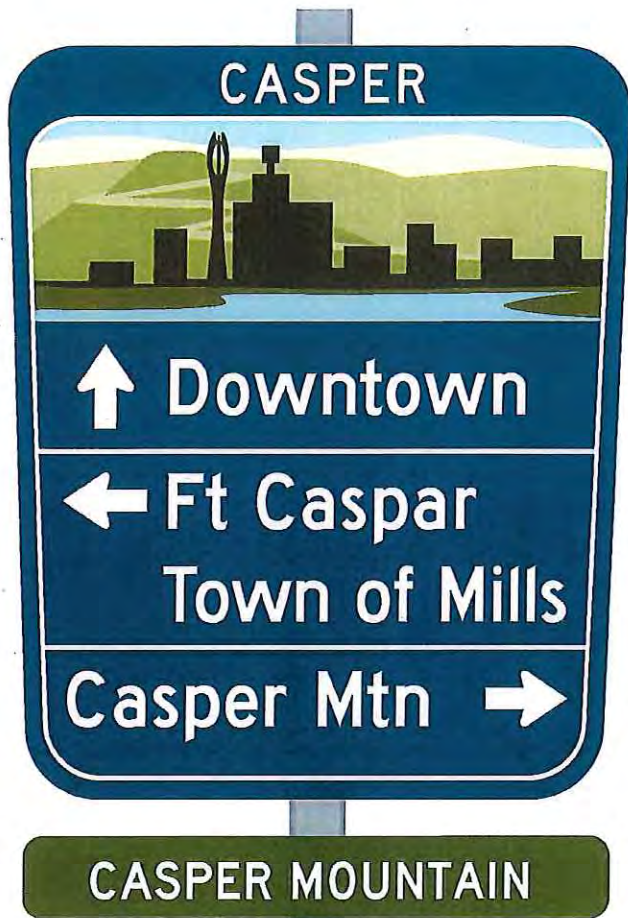
Posts: mounting will vary depending on the pole type, pole type will vary based on location

QUANTITY

Estimated number of signs of this type:: 137

VEHICULAR - DIRECTIONAL - MORE THAN 30 MPH

Signs in this category will be located near or outside of city and town boundaries along roadways with speed limits more than 30 mph.



LEGIBILITY

Font: FHWA Series D

Legible Directional Viewing Distance: 240 FT

Preferred # of Characters Per Line: 6

Max # of Characters Per Line: 8

Preferred # of Lines Per Destination: 1

Max # of Lines Per Destination: 2

Max # of Destinations Per Sign: 2

Max # of Lines Per Sign: 4

SYMBOLS

↑ : 6 IN wide x 9 IN high MUTCD Type D

← : 9 IN wide x 6 IN high MUTCD Type D

→ : 9 IN wide x 6 IN high MUTCD Type D

SIGN SPECIFICATIONS:

Size: 68 IN wide x 81.5 IN high

District Identifier: 64 IN wide x 9 IN high

Text: Top Identifier: 4.25 IN (Kerning: 50)

Destinations: 6 IN

District Identifier: 4 IN

FABRICATION

Material: Aluminum* with ASTM Type IV Sheeting

Note: Sign back is not reflective.

Colors: Pantone/CMYK color reproduction necessary to maintain color integrity. Full color palette and graphics will be provided.

PRIMARY COLORS



WHITE
CMYK: 0 0 0 0



BLACK
CMYK: 0 0 0 100



PANTONE NAVY 7693
CMYK: 100 76 50 14

SECONDARY COLORS



PANTONE BLUE 660
CMYK: 76 47 0 0



PANTONE YELLOW 457
CMYK: 50 33 100 3



PANTONE ORANGE 139
CMYK: 25 50 100 14



PANTONE GREEN 371
CMYK: 64 42 100 31

MOUNTING

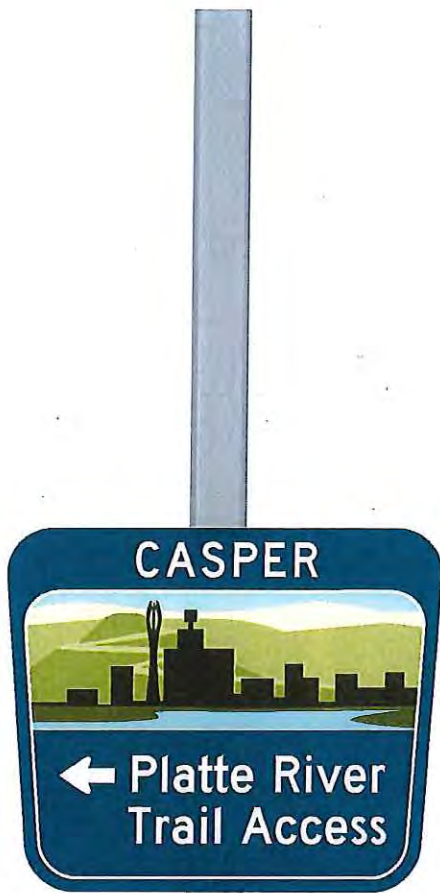
Posts: mounting will vary depending on the pole type, pole type will vary based on location

QUANTITY

Estimated number of signs of this type: 63

VEHICULAR - DIRECTIONAL/DESTINATION - LESS THAN 30 MPH

Signs in this category will be located near single destination access points along roadways with speed limits less than 30 mph.



LEGIBILITY

Font: FHWA Series D
Legible Viewing Distance: 120 FT
Preferred # of Characters Per Line: 10
Max # of Characters Per Line: 12
Preferred # of Lines Per Destination: 1
Max # of Lines Per Destination: 2
Max # of Destinations Per Sign: 1
Max # of Lines Per Sign: 2

SYMBOLS

↑ : 4 IN wide x 6 IN high
← : 6 IN wide x 4 IN high
→ : 6 IN wide x 4 IN high

SIGN SPECIFICATIONS:

Size: 47.5 IN wide x 39.5 IN high
Text: Top Identifier: 3.75 IN (Kerning: 50)
Destinations: 4 IN

FABRICATION

Material: Aluminum* with ASTM Type IV Sheeting
Note: Sign back is not reflective.

Colors: Pantone/CMYK color reproduction necessary to maintain color integrity. Full color palette and graphics will be provided.

PRIMARY COLORS



WHITE
CMYK: 0 0 0 0



BLACK
CMYK: 0 0 0 100



PANTONE NAVY 7693
CMYK: 100 75 30 14

SECONDARY COLORS



PANTONE BLUE 660
CMYK: 74 47 0 0



PANTONE YELLOW 457
CMYK: 30 33 100 3



PANTONE ORANGE 139
CMYK: 25 59 100 11



PANTONE GREEN 371
CMYK: 61 42 100 31

MOUNTING

Posts: mounting will vary depending on the pole type, pole type will vary based on location

QUANTITY

Estimated number of signs of this type: 29

VEHICULAR - DIRECTIONAL - DESTINATION

Signs in this category will be located near city, town or district access points.

LEGIBILITY

Font: FHWA Series D

Legible Viewing Distance: 120 FT

SIGN SPECIFICATIONS:

Size: 70 IN wide x 60 IN high

FABRICATION

Material: Aluminum* with ASTM Type IV Sheeting

Note: Sign back is not reflective.

Colors: Pantone/CMYK color reproduction necessary to maintain color integrity. Full color palette and graphics will be provided.



PRIMARY COLORS



SECONDARY COLORS



MOUNTING

Posts: mounting will vary depending on the pole type, pole type will vary based on location

QUANTITY

Estimated number of signs of this type: 10