



# City of Colorado Springs

City Hall  
107 N. Nevada Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO  
80903

## Meeting Minutes Council Work Session

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Tuesday, June 16, 2020

3:30 PM

Council Chambers

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### Special Work Session Meeting

#### How to Watch the Meeting

Coloradosprings.gov/springstv | Facebook Live: Colorado Springs City Council  
Facebook Page @coscity Council | SPRINGS TV - Comcast Channel 18 / 880 (HD)  
- CenturyLink Channel 18

#### 1. Call to Order

**Present** 9 - Councilmember Yolanda Avila, Councilmember Jill Gaebler, Councilmember David Geislinger, Councilmember Don Knight, Councilmember Bill Murray, Councilmember Andy Pico, President Richard Skorman, President Pro Tem Tom Strand, and Councilmember Wayne Williams

#### 2. Items Under Study

2.A. [20-282](#) Formation of a Colorado Springs Police Department Accountability Advisory Committee

Presenter:

Richard Skorman, City Council President and Third District Representative

Wayne Williams, City Council At-Large Representative

**Attachments:** [Citizens Accountability Advisory Board](#)

[ADVISORY-Application Process now open for new Police Accountability Advisory Committee](#)

President Skorman stated the purpose of the discussion regarding the formation of a Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) Advisory Committee is to bring forward a joint proposal from the two groups of people working on this issue.

Citizens Robbie Johnson and Justin Baker, representing The People, identified their purpose, how their group came together, the structure of the City Council appointed committee, term limits, meeting schedule, audit policy, facilitation of community forums/events, and award system.

Citizens Talon Turman, Martin Lewis, Renee Alexander, and Derek "Wavy" Matthews identified how long and which area of the City they lived in.

Citizen Belinda Gardner a member of the group who attended the exploratory panel on police transparency and accountability symposium that was held in Austin, TX, (Austin group) stated she is in support of an independent CSPD review board, but not an advisory board because an advisory board does not have any authority.

Citizen Reverend Dr. Stephany Rose Spaulding, representing the Austin group, stated Jody Allen who spoke at the June 11, 2020 Work Session was not speaking for a community of people, but was standing with a community of people who have invested years in working to resolve these issues and gave an overview of many of the long standing efforts they have made. She stated the proposal they have brought forward is a long invested work for justice, it is not something new, and stated City Council should already have a proposal in place for addressing the issues with the CSPD. Dr. Spaulding spoke about the death of De'Von Bailey, the death of George Floyd, the attendees of the exploratory panel on police transparency and accountability symposium that was held in Austin, TX, and the lack of trust in the community.

President Skorman stated in order to expedite the process, he would be willing to create an independent City Council President's Committee if that is what the community prefers. He stated he supports The People's proposal, but does not believe there needs to be district representation from every district within the committee.

Councilmember Geislinger stated both groups have the same mission, but have a difference of opinion in who has authority over it.

Ms. Alexander stated giving the President of City Council all the power rather than giving the power to a group of people would be disastrous. She stated The People want an accountability board and want it to be a democracy.

Dr. Spaulding stated they have identified individuals from different sectors of the City who should be part of this committee.

Councilmember Geislinger asked if both groups could form this committee. Dr. Spaulding confirmed they could, but The People were not in favor of that option and stated the empowered body of people need to be the ones closest to the harm.

Ms. Alexander stated The People do not have an issue with bringing the two groups together, but are not supportive of the “our way, or the highway” approach in regards to the committee.

Mayor Suthers stated the Mayor’s Office and CSPD support the creation of a formal City Council appointed advisory committee, not a Presidential Commission. He stated City Council should select the committee from a broad and diverse set of citizens who would make recommendations to City Council on a whole range of issues impacting the CSPD. Mayor Suthers stated this group would also have to be educated on the CSPD in order to fully comprehend the existing system. He stated City Council will ultimately hold responsibility as elected officials and need to ensure the community is well represented without a predetermined agenda.

Citizen Jody Allen representing the Austin group, gave an overview of the members of The People, stated advisory committees do not work, and requested President Skorman commission the independent committee.

Councilmember Williams stated any group of people can share their input to City Council at any time, but for a long term issue, a diverse formal City Council appointed committee would be the better solution. He asked if the application process for the committee positions could be posted before the passage of the Ordinance. Wynetta Massey, City Attorney, stated City Council could proceed with posting for applications, but the Ordinance would need to be passed before anyone is appointed.

Councilmember Avila stated the agenda of the Austin group is justice, police accountability, and transparency and she think the Mayor’s Office agenda is to maintain the status quo and go with a group who will support that. She said she does not believe that agenda comes from a place of malice, but from perspective and stated the committee needs to be independent in order to understand what is occurring in the community.

Councilmember Pico stated the fundamental difference between the two types of committees is whether the board is appointed by one man,

President Skorman, or a group of people, City Council, and whether it has staff support or it is an independent committee. He stated an independent committee can be formed at any time without City Council oversight and City Council does not control City supported commissions and he supports the formation of a City Council appointed committee.

Councilmember Geislinger stated even though he trusts President Skorman, he fully supports the proposal from The People and encouraged everyone involved to apply for a position on the City Council appointed board.

Councilmember Murray stated resolution needs structure and the goal is accountability and transparency of the CSPD. He stated he supports a City Council appointed board and believes they will select the correct and diverse representatives from the community and requested both proposals be merged into one.

Councilmember Gaebler stated common ground can be achieved and creating a board initially appointed by City Council is the right way to make an incremental change.

Councilmember Knight stated he supports a City Council appointed committee and communication is the key to accomplishing the objectives, not dictatorship.

President Pro Tem Strand stated he knows President Skorman would do a terrific job convening a presidential commission, but believes a traditional City Council appointed board is the best option in this situation to obtain a diverse, fully committed, staff supported committee.

President Skorman stated City Council will move forward with the formation of City Council appointed committee and if needed due to the sense of urgency he will also form an independent City Council President's Committee.

Councilmember Avila stated the institutional knowledge and experience from the Austin group is invaluable.

Councilmember Geislinger requested a discussion of the proposed Resolution at the June 22, 2020 City Council Work Session and at the June

23, 2020 City Council Regular meeting. Consensus of City Council agreed.

**3. Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before City Council, Council adjourned.

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk