



City of Colorado Springs

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

Meeting Minutes Council Work Session

City Council meetings are broadcast live on Channel 18. In accordance with the ADA, anyone requiring an auxiliary aid to participate in this meeting should make the request as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

Monday, August 26, 2024

10:00 AM

Council Chambers

How to Watch the Meeting

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Facebook Page @coscity Council | SPRINGS TV - Comcast Channel 18 / 880 (HD)
- Stratus IQ Channel 76 / 99 (Streaming)

Estimated agenda item times are provided for planning purposes and do not constitute notice of a specific time for any item. Items may take more or less time than estimated. City Council may amend the order of items.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Helms called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

- Present** 7 - Councilmember Yolanda Avila, President Pro Tem Lynette Crow-Iverson, President Randy Helms, Councilmember Nancy Henjum, Councilmember David Leinweber, Councilmember Brian Risley, and Councilmember Michelle Talarico
- Excused** 2 - Councilmember Dave Donelson, and Councilmember Mike O'Malley

Councilmember Talarico attended the meeting virtually.
Councilmember Risley arrived at 10:10 AM.

2. Changes to Agenda

There were no Changes to Agenda.

3. Regular Meeting Comments

There were no Regular Meeting Comments.

4. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

- 4.A. [24-463](#) City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes August 12, 2024

Presenter:
Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

Attachments: [8-12-24 City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes Final](#)

The minutes of the August 12, 2024 Work Session were approved by Consensus of City Council.

5. Presentations for General Information

- 5.A. [24-403](#) Visit COS - 2024 mid-year Lodgers and Auto Rental Tax (LART) contract update to City Council

Presenter:

Doug Price, President and CEO, Visit COS

Attachments: [Visit COS - LART - 2024 first half-yr VCOS KPI Presentation City Council](#)

Doug Price, President and CEO, VisitCOS, presented the 2024 mid-year Lodgers and Auto Rental Tax (LART) contract update. He provided an overview of the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) report which reflected results through May 2024, Revenue per Available Room (RevPAR), and group sales.

Melissa Williams, Director of Marketing, VisitCOS, went over their marketing, communications, partnership, and visitor services.

Councilmember Leinweber asked how Colorado Springs' tourism is doing compared to other jurisdictions. Mr. Price stated a majority of cities are down in comparison.

Councilmember Leinweber asked why the Chamber of Commerce and EDC did not receive as many visits to their website as a campground. Ms. Williams stated it may have to do with the placement of those links.

Councilmember Leinweber asked why the City does not receive as much business travel as Denver, CO. Mr. Price stated it is due to Denver having a convention center and the Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center which draws more business travelers, so VisitCOS focuses more on promoting the City to families as a leisure and outdoor recreation destination.

Councilmember Leinweber asked why VisitCOS does not work more with the Chamber to attract more of the business community. Mr. Price stated they work closely with the Chamber, and identified the summer internship programs, but they know what the City has to offer and that is what they promote.

Councilmember Leinweber stated tourism is vital to the City. Jamie Fabos, Chief of Staff, provided some information regarding the LART Solution Team which are looking at LART very closely to make sure the tourism tax is correct.

Councilmember Henjum requested additional information regarding the

increase in their advertising budget. Ms. Williams stated it is due to receiving a very large amount of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Councilmember Henjum asked where the ARPA funding came from. Ms. Williams stated the Colorado State Tourism Office.

Councilmember Leinweber requested additional information regarding the number of redirects to partners from the digital online vacation planner. Ms. Williams stated they will provide that information.

Councilmember Avila requested an update regarding Wheel the World. Mr. Price stated there are over thirty hotels and attractions which are online with Wheel the World, and they are preparing a video illustrating what it would be like to visit Colorado Springs.

Councilmember Leinweber requested additional information regarding the visitor average spend and if the top ten percent of earners are being targeted. Mr. Price stated in order to increase a visitor's spend amount is to increase their length of stay, so they are working toward extending visitor stays.

Councilmember Leinweber asked if they have been successful in extending visitor stays. Ms. Williams stated they have by targeting their audiences to outside of the drive market.

President Pro Tem Crow-Iverson asked why type of activities are the travelers doing. Ms. Williams stated they can anecdotally tell by which webpages are being visited from their site.

5.B. [24-484](#) Careers in Construction Colorado Update

Presenter:

George Hess, Chairman, Careers in Construction Colorado

Renee Zentz, President, Careers in Construction Colorado

Maro Asher, Operations Manager, Careers in Construction Colorado

Attachments: [Careers in Construction Update](#)

Renee Zentz, President, Careers in Construction Colorado (CICC), introduced the CICC update.

George Hess, Chairman, CICC, provided a briefing on the CICC program, a workforce development initiative of the Associated General Contractors and the Housing and Building Association (HBA). He identified the CICC vision, mission, values, organizational structure, school locations. Mr. Hess gave an overview of their goals by 2028, cumulative statistics, number of

students enrolled, number of schools, certifications, Colorado Springs statistics, and CICC Home Build Program.

Councilmember Henjum requested additional information regarding the impact to the construction workforce. Mr. Hess stated this program is a partnership between the Association of General Contractors and the Housing and Building Association (HBA) of Colorado Springs and they do not track where the students are employed as long as it is within the construction industry. Ms. Zentz stated there 38,000 construction employees needed within the next five years because of individuals exiting, eighty-six percent of their students at the end of the year are wanting to go into the construction industry, and they are the only work career connected learning program actually placing students in the state of Colorado.

Councilmember Henjum asked if CICC is looking for additional sites to conduct the training. Ms. Zentz stated they partner with any school system who would like to, so they are fully scalable.

Marla Asher, Director of Operations, CICC, provided a brief overview of the two of their success stories.

Councilmember Leinweber asked how CICC has assisted with addressing the affordable housing. Mr. Hess stated the HBA is working on it and an adequate labor supply helps bring the cost down.

6. Staff and Appointee Reports

6.A. [24-477](#) Certification of Sufficiency for Petition IO 2024-001

Presenter:

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

Attachments: [MJBallotReferralRES-2024-08-26.pdf](#)
[Statement of Sufficiency IO 2024-001 \(2024-08-22\).pdf](#)

Sarah B Johnson, City Clerk, presented the Certification of Sufficiency for a citizen-initiated Ordinance for the Authorization of Recreational Marijuana and per City Charter, the City Clerk's Office reviewed those signatures, which is now deemed sufficient in meeting the required minimum number of signatures needed to move forward to the next steps in the process. She stated pursuant to City Charter, if the petitions contain the required minimum number of valid signatures, the City Council shall by September 6, 2024 either adopt the initiated Ordinance without alteration or refer to the ballot.

Ms. Johnson stated the City Clerk's Office staff and thirteen temporary election workers reviewed 58,130 individual signature lines, rejected

29,862 of them, and verified 28,268 signatures. She stated the initiated Ordinance needed 24,861 valid signatures in order to be sufficient and they were 3,407 signatures verified over that number.

Councilmember Henjum asked what the outcome will be if both opposing Ordinances are passed. Ben Bolinger, Corporate Division Chief, Office of the City Attorney, stated if both passed, the Charter would control, and that the Ordinance would be subsumed by the Charter provision, but he fully expects that this would be challenged, and the City would have to go to court to defend that position.

President Helms asked if City Council is required to pass the proposed Ordinance. Mr. Bolinger stated City Council can either immediately adopt the Ordinance into City Code or refer it to the ballot.

6.B. [24-462](#) Agenda Planner Review

Presenter:

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

Attachments: [Agenda Planner Review 8-26-24](#)

There were no comments on this item.

7. Items for Introduction

7.A. [24-436](#) An Ordinance Certifying Delinquent Stormwater Fees and Charges to the El Paso County Treasurer for Collection

Presenter:

Richard Mully, P.E., Public Works Director

Erin Powers, P.E., Acting Stormwater Enterprise Manager

Attachments: [SWENT-StormwaterFees-CertificationORD-2024-07-30](#)
[2024 Exhibit A](#)

Erin Powers, Acting Stormwater Enterprise Manager, presented the Ordinance certifying delinquent stormwater fees and charges to the El Paso County Treasurer for collection. She gave a brief summary of the delinquent stormwater fee collection process and stated there are 114 parcels which are ninety days or more past due.

President Helms stated this was also presented in detail to the Budget Committee.

7.B. [24-468](#) An Ordinance amending Article 6 (Trails, Open Space and Parks Program) of Chapter 4 (Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services) of the Code of the City of Colorado Springs as Amended, pertaining to the

Trails, Open Space and Parks Program

Presenter:

Britt Haley, Director, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Department

Lonna Thelen, Program Manager, Trails, Open Space and Parks
(TOPS) Program

Attachments: [TOPS Resolution 03-23](#)
[TOPS-BallotORD-2024-08-05](#)
[TOPS Ordinance Amendment Powerpoint.1](#)

Lonna Thelen, Program Manager, Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) Program presented the Ordinance amending the City Code pertaining to the TOPS Program. She provided a brief overview of the history of TOPS, Oak Meadows Park, Rock Island Trail, Ordinance amendment components, and TOPS funding division.

Councilmember Henjum asked if this amendment allows for improvements to be made to trails and parks that were partially purchased by TOPS. Ms. Thelen confirmed it does.

Councilmember Leinweber asked if TOPS funding could be used for trails which were not connected to open space. Ms. Thelen confirmed it could.

Councilmember Leinweber asked if TOPS funding could be used for fire mitigation. Ms. Thelen confirmed they can use sixty percent of TOPS funding for the stewardship category which includes maintaining the properties and ensuring that they are in the best condition for fire mitigation.

8. Items Under Study

There were no Items Under Study.

9. Executive Session

9A. Open

9A.A. [24-451](#) Stephanie Hunter v. David Dibler, the City of Colorado Springs, and Colorado Springs Utility Company 24CV31053

Presenter:

Wynetta Massey, City Attorney

Attachments: [24-451 Council memo Hunter](#)

Ben Bolinger, Corporate Division Chief, Office of the City Attorney, stated

with the recommendation of the Civil Action Investigation Committee, the City is requesting authorization to defend the employee.

President Helms polled City Council regarding authorizing the City to represent the employee. Consensus of City Council agreed.

9B. Closed

9B.A. [24-289](#)

In accord with City Charter art. III, § 3-60(d) and its incorporated Colorado Open Meetings Act, C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b), the City Council, in Open Session, is to determine whether it will hold a Closed Executive Session. The issue to be discussed involves consultation with the City Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on a code change regarding the regulation of City rental facilities.

The President of Council shall poll the City Councilmembers, and, upon consent of two-thirds of the members present, may conduct a Closed Executive Session. In the event any City Councilmember is participating electronically or telephonically in the Closed Executive Session, each City Councilmember participating in the Closed Executive Session shall affirmatively state for the record that no other member of the public not authorized to participate in the Closed Executive Session is present or able to hear the matters discussed as part of the Closed Executive Session. If consent to the Closed Executive Session is not given, the item may be discussed in Open Session or withdrawn from consideration.

Presenter:

Wynetta Massey, City Attorney

Attachments: [24-289 Community Centers_Closed Session Memo 3.13.24](#)

Ben Bolinger, Corporate Division Chief, Office of the City Attorney, stated that in accord with City Charter art. III, § 3-60(d) and its incorporated Colorado Open Meetings Act, C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) and (e), the City Council, in Open Session, is to determine whether it will hold a Closed Executive Session. The issue to be discussed involves consultation with the City Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on a code change regarding the regulation of City rental facilities.

President Helms polled City Council regarding the desire to proceed with an electronic Closed Executive Session. At least two-thirds of City Council agreed to proceed in a Closed Executive Session.

10. Councilmember Reports and Open Discussion

Councilmember Leinweber stated he and Councilmember Henjum attended the Urban Water Cycle Tour, he attended two of the City's Homeless Initiative meeting on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, and Thursday, August 15, 2024 and the Colorado Water Congress and stated they are continuing to work on the 1,000 Neighborhood Gatherings, .

Councilmember Avila stated she attended the Colorado Springs Health Foundation Retreat at the Penrose House, 150th anniversary of Harrison School District 2, Nuestra Hispanic Museum, State of the District meeting with community leaders, morning convocation for the Colorado College class of 2028, and she received the Just World award for boldness and courage.

Councilmember Risley stated he and Councilmember Henjum will be providing opening remarks at the community forum regarding affordable housing, growth, and annexations on Wednesday, August 28, 2024 and encouraged everyone to attend.

Councilmember Henjum read an email she received regarding the Cliff Dwelling Museum's possession of Native American original human remains.

President Helms stated the 2C Road Repair measure will be on the ballot, last week was Navy week, and this Saturday, August 31, 2024, will be the first home game for the United States Air Force Academy Falcons football team.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before City Council, President Helms adjourned the meeting at 12:55 PM.

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk