



# 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.*

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Monday, February 12, 2018

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

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### 1. Call to Order

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

### 2. Changes to Agenda

President Skorman stated that Councilmember Avila requested that citizens Sharon King and Susan Whited be allowed to comment on item 6.C. pertaining to the proposed transit service changes. Consensus of Council agreed.

### 3. Regular Meeting Comments

Councilmember Bennett, requested items 7.A., 7.B. and 7.C. pertaining to the reappointments to the Colorado Springs Health Foundation Board of Trustees be moved to before Citizens Discussion. Consensus of Council agreed.

### 4. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

4.A. [18-0059](#) City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes January 17, 2018

Presenter:  
Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

**Attachments:** [1-17-18 City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes Final](#)

The minutes of the January 17, 2018 Work Session meeting were approved by Consensus of Council.

4.B. [18-0066](#) City Council Work Session Minutes January 22, 2018

Presenter:  
Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

**Attachments:** [1-22-18 City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes Final](#)

Councilmember Avila requested clarification on the percentage of the City Attorney's salary that is paid by Colorado Springs Utilities. Wynetta Massey, City Attorney, said that Colorado Springs Utilities pays one-third of her salary.

The minutes of the January 22, 2018 Work Session meeting were approved by Consensus of Council.

## **5. Executive Session**

### **5A. Open**

There was no Open Executive Session.

### **5B. Closed**

There was no Closed Executive Session.

## **6. Staff and Appointee Reports**

### **6.A. [17-1323](#) Agenda Planner Review**

Presenter:

Eileen Lynch Gonzalez, City Council Administrator

**Attachments:** [021218 Agenda Planner Review MEMO](#)

Councilmember Knight stated that he had requested a briefing from the Attorney's Office regarding the forty-eight hours vacating notice for the homeless camps on private property. Marc Smith, Division Chief, Corporate Legislative Counsel, stated that a briefing will be provided at the City Council Work Session meeting on February 26, 2018.

Councilmember Knight stated that an Ordinance pertaining to Banning Lewis Ranch (BLR) is scheduled for a vote at the City Council meeting on February 27, 2018, but he thought everything related to BLR regulations was postponed until April 2018. Jeff Greene, Chief of Staff, said that it was an administrative error that needed to be revised.

Councilmember Knight asked what the urgency was that requires the Resolution authorizing the issuance of debt for Canyon Creek Metropolitan Districts No. 1 and 2 in the form of a Capital Pledge agreement to be a back-to-back item. Mr. Greene said that Carl Schueler, Comprehensive Planning Manager, Planning and Community Development, will provide that

information.

**6.B.**    [17-1397](#)        Financial Report - City of Colorado Springs

Presenter:

Charae McDaniel, Chief Financial Officer

**Attachments:**    [Monthly Financial Report.Final](#)

Charae McDaniel, Chief Financial Officer, presented the February 2018 financial update which represented activity through December 2017. She explained that these are not the final numbers for the year due to accounting transactions and purchase order reconciliations that still needed to occur. Ms. McDaniel stated the general fund revenue variance was between \$0 - \$500K which is .1% above projected budget and general fund expenditures are at 1.63% below projected budget for the year. She explained the sales tax trends and gave an update of the 2017 grant funds, the Memorial Health System, and the economic indicators.

Councilmember Strand asked if the unemployment rate increase was due to temporary hires for the holiday season. Ms. Charae stated that she will provide that information.

Councilmember Avila requested the unemployment numbers as they pertain to the southeast part of the City. Ms. McDaniel agreed to search for that information.

**6.C.**    [18-0072](#)        Proposed Transit Service Changes

Presenter:

Craig Blewitt, Transit Services Manager

**Attachments:**    [Service Change Presentation Spring 2018 Feb 5 2018](#)

Craig Blewitt, Transit Services Manager, explained that Mountain Metropolitan Transit (MMT) is proposing service changes to include off-peak service improvements on five bus routes, the discontinuation of a detour associated with the construction of the I-25/Cimarron interchange to be effective April 29, 2018. He identified the details and maps of the proposed bus route improvements. Mr. Blewitt also stated that there is a proposed increase in the fixed-route bus fare for some riders with disabilities from free to half-price (\$0.85) to be effective September 30, 2018. He stated that the fare increase would improve fare equity by charging the same fare for all individuals with disabilities. Mr. Blewitt said

the free fare was originally introduced as a cost saving incentive to encourage people to use the fixed-route bus service versus the door-to-door Metro Mobility service which costs the City fifty dollars roundtrip.

Councilmember Strand asked how much revenue would be generated from increasing the fare. Mr. Blewitt stated it would be approximately \$60-\$70K in revenue per year.

President Pro Tem Gaebler asked if some of those passengers would switch to door-to-door service due to a decrease in savings. Mr. Blewitt said that possibility has been considered.

Councilmember Avila, asked how many people use both Metro Mobility and fixed-route service. Mr. Blewitt said that 185 people use both. Jacob Matsen, ADA Coordinator, Transit Services, said that in a twelve week study period, they calculated that there would be 105K trips per year for those who have a swipe card with Metro Mobility.

Councilmember Avila stated that equity needs to be provided to those with disabilities that cannot use the fixed-route service. Mr. Blewitt stated that the Metro Mobility door-to-door service provides transportation to those with disabilities where they cannot use the fixed-route service.

Councilmember Avila said that many people with disabilities are on a fixed income and cannot afford to use Metro Mobility.

Jeff Greene, Chief of Staff, stated that Mr. Blewitt has worked diligently to address the needs of the community on a very limited budget.

Councilmember Pico asked how much the Metro Mobility fare was. Mr. Blewitt stated it is \$3.50 one-way and \$7.00 roundtrip. Councilmember Pico also asked how eligibility for Metro Mobility is determined. Mr. Blewitt explained how the assessment is made on a case-by case basis.

President Pro Tem Gaebler commented that a consistent, equitable fee is needed for everyone.

Citizen Susan Whited said that she will not ride the bus at least half of the time that she used to and will use Metro Mobility more often because of the new fee.

Citizen Sharon King said that Metro Mobility cannot always take a person at the time needed and that alternate transportation only has two vehicles that are wheelchair accessible.

Councilmember Knight stated that he is concerned that City Council does not have any authority over these policy changes that are implemented by the executive branch.

Mr. Blewitt stated that sixty-eight percent of their riders are below the poverty level of income and suggested an alternative of using the projected additional revenue for a contracted program that provides subsidized bus passes to low-income citizens with disabilities.

Councilmember Pico said that he is concerned with more people being driven to use Metro Mobility which costs the City \$50 per roundtrip.

## **7. Presentations for General Information**

- 7.A. [18-0002](#) Housing & Building Association of Colorado Springs Careers in Construction Program Update

Presenter:

April Hess, HBA Cares and Workforce Development Coordinator,  
Housing & Building Association of Colorado Springs

**Attachments:** [021218 HBA Careers in Const slides](#)

George Hess, Chair of the Workforce Development Council for the Housing and Building Association (HBA), provided a briefing on the Careers in Construction program, a workforce development initiative of the Associated General Contractors and the HBA. He gave a brief history of the program and identified local high schools and students participating in the program. He described the Building Futures Fund created by the construction industry and the grant received from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.

Councilmember Bennett, Councilmember Avila, and Councilmember Geislinger expressed their appreciation for the skill set being offered to the students in the community.

- 7.B. [18-0063](#) TRICARE Update

Presenter:

Laurel Chiaramonte, CNS-BC, MSN, MBA, RN Chief of Medical Management, CSMHS

**Attachments:** [021818 TRICARE Update](#)

Sherry Herrera, Director of Clinical Operations, Colorado Springs Military Health System (CSMHS) explained that one in four citizens in Colorado Springs is a TRICARE beneficiary and identified the recent changes to TRICARE effective January 1, 2018.

Councilmember Knight asked if there had been any discussion regarding people not going to appointments due to the associated costs. Ms. Herrera said that it was not discussed, but said that she believes that beneficiaries will make decisions regarding their care due to the cost.

Councilmember Strand asked for the impact of Healthnet's credentialing being behind. Ms. Herrera said that without the credentialing being finalized, it delays billing. Councilmember Strand also asked about the availability of mental health providers for veterans. Ms. Herrera stated that the level is below what was previously provided by United Healthcare.

Councilmember Geislinger commented about the need to make providers available to the community. Ms. Herrera stated that the solution would be to recruit more providers to the area.

## **8. Items for Introduction**

- 8.A. [18-0038](#) A Resolution Supporting the City of Colorado Springs Inspire Initiative Grant Award from Great Outdoors Colorado on Behalf of the Pikes Peak Coalition

Presenter:

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director  
Tilah Larson, Senior Grants Analyst

**Attachments:** [2-12-18 - Inspire Award Acceptance Resolution](#)  
[2-12-18 - City of Colorado Springs Grant Agreement GOCO Inspire](#)

Tilah Larson, Senior Grants Analyst, stated that Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) recently awarded the City of Colorado Springs an Inspire Initiative grant of approximately \$1.4 million. She said that the grant will be invested for infrastructure improvements in Fountain Park and Memorial Park as well as programming through several other community partners.

There were no comments on this item.

- 8.B. [18-0078](#) A resolution amending resolution No. 153-17 authorizing the acquisition of property utilizing the use of possession and use agreements, for the West Colorado Avenue Reconstruction Project (Westside Avenue Action Plan)

Presenter:  
Mike Chaves, Engineering Programs Manager

**Attachments:** [West Co Ave -Res- Attachment A-Feb 1](#)  
[RES 153-17](#)  
[WestsideActionPlanAmendingRES-2018-02-05](#)

Mike Chaves, Engineering Programs Manager, presented the amendment to the West Colorado Avenue Reconstruction Project to include an acquisition of a portion of the property of the Garden of the Gods RV Park.

Councilmember Geislinger asked for clarification of the property to be acquired. Mr. Chaves identified that it is the southern edge of the RV Park.

**9. Items Under Study**

There were no items under study.

**10. Councilmember Reports and Open Discussion**

There were no Councilmember Reports and there was no Open Discussion.

**11. Adjourn**

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

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk