



City of Colorado Springs

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

Meeting Minutes Council Work Session

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Monday, April 24, 2023

10:00 AM

Council Chambers

How to Watch the Meeting

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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

- Present** 8 - Councilmember Yolanda Avila, President Pro Tem Lynette Crow-Iverson, Councilmember Dave Donelson, President Randy Helms, Councilmember Nancy Henjum, Councilmember David Leinweber, Councilmember Brian Risley, and Councilmember Michelle Talarico
- Excused** 1 - Councilmember Mike O'Malley

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. [23-200](#) City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes March 27, 2023

Presenter:
Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

Attachments: [3-27-23 City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes Final](#)

The minutes of the March 27, 2023 Work Session were approved by Consensus of City Council.

- 4.B. [23-224](#) City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes April 10, 2023

Presenter:
Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

Attachments: [4-10-23 City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes Final](#)

The minutes of the April 10, 2023 Work Session were approved by Consensus of City Council.

5. Executive Session

5A. Open

5A.A. [23-221](#) Michael Sexton and Jazzmen Lueders v. City of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Christine Somersalmi, and Eddie Nassar, No. 23-cv-555-NYW-STV, United States District Court, District of Colorado.

The Civil Action Investigation Committee has met and recommends that the City represent Sgt. Somersalmi and Ofc. Nasser as required by the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act and the Peace Officer's Liability Act. They both were acting in the course and scope of their employment and not in a willful and wanton manner. As usual, City Council should reserve the right not to pay any award of punitive damages.

Presenter:
Wynetta Massey, City Attorney

Attachments: [2023-04-12 City Council Representation Memo](#)

Ben Bolinger, Legislative Counsel, City Attorney's Office, stated with the recommendation of the Civil Action Investigation Committee, the City is requesting authorization to defend.

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

5B. Closed

There was no Closed Executive Session.

6. Presentations for General Information

There were no Presentations for General Information.

7. Staff and Appointee Reports

7.A. [23-223](#) Agenda Planner Review

Presenter:
Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

Attachments: [Agenda Planner Review 4-24-23](#)

There were no comments on this item.

8. Items for Introduction**8.A.** [23-209](#) A Resolution approving amendments to the Rules of the Colorado Springs Civil Service Commission for the Municipal Police and Fire Departments

Presenter:
Jayme McConnellogue, Deputy Chief, Colorado Springs Fire Department

Attachments: [Rule 5.4 Resolution - FINAL](#)
[5.4 proposed changes \(clean\).pdf](#)
[5.4 proposed changes \(redline\).pdf](#)

Steve Dubay, Deputy Fire Chief, Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD), presented the Resolution approving amendments to the Rules of the Colorado Springs Civil Service Commission for the Municipal Police and Fire Departments and informed City Council that this revision would change Civil Service Rule 5.4-Reemployment List to extend the duration of the reemployment list for the CSFD from three to five years in order to allow former firefighters to return to the City service since their certification would not be expired and due to the decrease in the number of applicants they are experiencing. He stated the Fire Chief would have the authority to authorize or deny the return of those former firefighters.

President Helms asked why the Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) did not opt for the same amendment. Deputy Chief Dubay stated it was due to the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) certification only being effective for three years.

President Helms asked if there were any negative impacts of this proposed amendment. Deputy Chief Dubay stated administratively there is not, but someone could make the argument that it could eliminate someone who has never been a firefighter from having that position.

Councilmember Donelson asked if the industry standard is five years. Deputy Chief Dubay stated they did not research that, but they feel it is best for their organization.

9. Items Under Study

There were no Items Under Study.

10. Councilmember Reports and Open Discussion

Councilmember Avila welcomed the new Councilmembers, stated she gave a welcoming presentation to the students who had been accepted at Colorado College, and expressed appreciation to the City Council staff for all their work on the City Council swearing-in ceremony.

Councilmember Donelson welcomed the new Councilmembers, stated the Resolution for National Library Week on the April 25, 2023 City Council agenda is much different from the one last year and requested that Council receive these types of Resolution in a timelier manner so they can review it and revise it if necessary before they vote on it.

Councilmember Talarico stated she is excited to be on City Council and she will be attending the Council of Neighborhoods and Organizations community meeting for the Westside on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 regarding wildfire mitigation.

Councilmember Leinweber stated he was able to attend the Friends of Old Stage Road meeting regarding the lawlessness occurring in the area and May is Mental Health Month so he will be attempting to form an alliance or task force to look into this issue.

Councilmember Risley stated he is excited to leverage his background and skills to help move things forward especially utilities and land planning related matters.

Councilmember Henjum stated she attended the Proclamation ceremony recognizing Mitchell High School as the local host for the American Dream Academy, a meeting with Ascension Lutheran Church regarding serving the needs of the community, the Monument Creek Art Project at Colorado College, the Friends of Garden of the Gods Annual Celebration, the We Fortify event, and met with members of the Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) and neighbors regarding the crime surrounding the Havana Bar and Grill.

President Pro Tem Crow-Iverson commended City staff and City Council staff for all the support they provided during their orientation week.

President Helms stated he attended the Eagle Scout Honor Court and identified the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) Recognition Week and that the USAFA graduation ceremony is scheduled for June 1, 2023.

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk, stated ballots for the May 16, 2023 Mayoral Runoff were mailed out this morning and encouraged everyone to vote even if they did not vote in the April 4, 2023 General Municipal Election. Councilmember Avila asked if the ballots will go through Denver before arriving at mailboxes. Ms. Johnson explained they will be sent immediately from the main United States Postal Service (USPS) location on Fountain Boulevard.

11. Adjourn

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

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk