



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.

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

10:00 AM

Council Chambers

Special 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** 8 - 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
- Excused** 1 - Councilmember Yolanda Avila

Councilmember Geislinger left the meeting at approximately 11:30 AM.

2. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

- 2.A.** [21-022](#) City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes December 7, 2020

Presenter:
Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

Attachments: [12-7-20 City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes Final](#)

The minutes of the December 7, 2020 Work Session meeting were approved by Consensus of City Council.

- 2.B.** [21-023](#) City Council Special Work Session Meeting Minutes December 8, 2020

Presenter:
Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

Attachments: [12-8-20 Special City Council Work Session Minutes Final](#)

The minutes of the December 8, 2020 Special Work Session meeting were approved by Consensus of City Council.

- 2.C.** [21-024](#) City Council Special Work Session Meeting Minutes December 14,

2020

Presenter:

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

Attachments: [12-14-20 Special City Council Work Session Minutes Final](#)

The minutes of the December 14, 2020 Special Work Session meeting were approved by Consensus of City Council.

3. Closed Executive Session

3.A. [21-020](#)

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 an electronic Closed Executive Session. The issue to be discussed involves consultation with the City Attorney regarding matters that may be subject to negotiations, negotiation consultation, and strategy discussion pertaining to an economic development project.

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 If consent to the electronic Closed Executive Session is not given, the item may be discussed in Open Session or withdrawn from consideration.

Presenter:

Wynetta Massey, City Attorney

Attachments: [12-23-20ClosedSession](#)

Marc Smith, 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 regarding matters that may be subject to negotiations, negotiation consultation, and strategy discussion pertaining to an economic development project.

President Skorman 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 an electronic Closed Executive Session.

Each City Councilmember participating the electronic Closed Executive Session affirmatively stated for the record that no other member of the public not authorized to participate in the electronic Closed Executive Session was present or able to hear the matters discussed as part of the electronic Closed Executive Session.

4. Items Under Study

Councilmember Knight requested a Charter amendment be added to the April 2021 ballot or if needed, the November 2021 ballot, which changes the number of days to appoint a Councilmember replacement from sixty to ninety days in order to match the campaign period. President Skorman stated they will discuss that request.

Councilmember Williams requested the thirty-word ballot measure limit also be examined.

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk, stated the January 26, 2021 City Council meeting is the last meeting in which City Council may refer an item to the ballot. President Skorman requested the discussion regarding the thirty-word limit be added to the January 11, 2021 Work Session.

4.A. [21-025](#)

Discussion on Enforcement of Carports

Presenter:

Peter Wysocki, Director of Planning and Community Development

Peter Wysocki, Director of Planning and Community Development, gave an overview of the City Code 7.3.105.A regarding carports as an accessory structure, lot coverage, and carport complaint cases.

Councilmember Williams asked how long these standards have been in place. Mr. Wysocki stated at least since 2000, but may date back to the original adoption of City Code.

Councilmember Williams asked if the City has design standards for carports. Mr. Wysocki stated they do not.

President Skorman asked if there has been an increase of complaints and violations. Mitch Hammes, Neighborhood Services Manager, stated once the two cases pending appeal received some community attention, they started receiving more complaints than usual regarding carports in the front yard setback.

Councilmember Knight asked if the twenty-eight carport violations which were closed for compliance were removed or the length was shortened. Mr. Hammes stated twenty-six of them were removed, one was moved to the back yard, and one was shortened.

Councilmember Knight asked if carports could be singled out if the City did a moratorium. Marc Smith, Corporate Division Chief, Office of the City Attorney, stated the carports would need to be described with specificity in order to the stop of enforcement for a period of time.

President Pro Tem Strand asked if residents who have received violation letters from Code Enforcement need to resolve the issue prior to the pending appeals being resolved. Mr. Wysocki gave an overview of the process in regards to Code Enforcement violations and stated all violation cases will move forward regardless of the outcome of the appeal cases.

Councilmember Pico stated leniency regarding carports is warranted due to the hail damage the City has received in past years.

Councilmember Williams asked what recourse a property owner would have if they are attempting to sell their home, their neighbor has built a carport which is over the property line, and the City has put a moratorium in place. Mr. Wysocki stated there would be no recourse if a moratorium was in place.

Councilmember Williams requested the Council of Neighbors and Organizations (CONO) be involved in the discussion of City Code changes. Mr. Wysocki agreed to Councilmember Williams' request.

Councilmember Geislinger stated he is against a moratorium and there needs to be a greater public process and staff recommendations regarding the underlying policies on carports.

Councilmember Gaebler stated she supports a moratorium while the overarching issues with setbacks are addressed in the City Code Chapter 7 rewrite.

Councilmember Williams, Councilmember Knight, Councilmember Murray, and Councilmember Pico stated they do not support a moratorium.

5. Adjourn

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

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk