



City of Colorado Springs

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

Meeting Minutes Council Work Session

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Monday, December 9, 2024

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

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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

President Helms called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

- Present** 6 - President Pro Tem Lynette Crow-Iverson, President Randy Helms, Councilmember Nancy Henjum, Councilmember David Leinweber, Councilmember Brian Risley, and Councilmember Michelle Talarico
- Excused** 3 - Councilmember Yolanda Avila, Councilmember Dave Donelson, and Councilmember Mike O'Malley

2. Changes to Agenda

There were no Changes to Agenda.

3. Regular Meeting Comments

There were no Changes to Agenda.

4. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

- 4.A. [24-701](#) City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes November 25, 2024

Presenter:
Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

Attachments: [11-25-24 City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes Final](#)

The minutes of the November 25, 2024 Work Session were approved by Consensus of City Council.

5. Presentations for General Information

5.A. [24-661](#) Pikes Peak Business & Education Alliance

Presenter:

Bob Gemignani, Director, Pikes Peak Business & Education Alliance

Attachments: [COS City Council_PPBEA Info Session Presentation 12-9-24](#)

Bob Gemignani, Director, Pikes Peak Business and Education Alliance (PPBEA), provided an overview of the PPBEA, PPBEA as intermediary, problems they help solve, primary practices/tools, career-connected learning continuum, and ppbea.org. He identified quantitative outcomes, participating school systems, regional advisory engagement, corporate sponsors, industry benefits, and K-12 student benefits.

President Helms asked how challenging it is to discuss career-connected learning with elementary students. Mr. Gemignani stated eighty percent of their activities are at the high school level.

Councilmember Talarico spoke about her experience speaking to children about the program.

Councilmember Risley spoke about the importance of the program to the economic vitality of the community.

Councilmember Henjum asked if PPBEA is working with organizations who assist troubled youth find employment. Mr. Gemignani stated their program host, the Pikes Peak Workforce Center, partners with those organizations, but PPBEA works primarily with in-school students.

6. Staff and Appointee Reports

6.A. [24-556](#) 2024 City of Colorado Springs Community Satisfaction Survey Findings

Presenter:

Courtney Brown, City Strategic Plan Manager - Office of the Mayor

Attachments: [ETC 2024 COS COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS - 12.09.2024 City Council Work Session .pptx](#)

Courtney Brown, City Strategic Plan Manager - Office of the Mayor, provided an overview of the 2024 City of Colorado Springs Community Satisfaction Survey findings, statistics, respondents by district, and survey demographics/location. She identified the key results for public safety, infrastructure, parks/recreation, economy, workforce, housing, resident satisfaction with City/community connection, and measuring progress.

Councilmember Henjum asked if there was a correlation between what the citizens deem most important and what they are most dissatisfied with. Ms. Brown confirmed there is.

Councilmember Henjum requested additional information regarding a breakdown between district satisfaction levels. Ms. Brown stated she will provide that information.

President Helms asked if respondents believe the City needs more housing. Ms. Brown confirmed they do.

Councilmember Henjum requested additional data regarding the City's approach to homelessness and what citizens believe the City's role is in addressing it.

Councilmember Henjum requested Ms. Brown work with Sam Friedman, City Council Constituent and Outreach Program Coordinator, regarding the feedback City Council receives from citizens. Ms. Brown stated they have formed a data-driven government team in order to collect that information.

6.B. [24-700](#) Agenda Planner Review

Presenter:

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

Attachments: [Agenda Planner Review 12-9-24](#)

Councilmember Henjum asked why the electric bikes Ordinance is not included on the Agenda Planner. Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk, stated it will be coming before City Council in February 2025 due to the items already planned for the January 2025 Agendas.

Councilmember Henjum requested additional information regarding the Parkland Dedication Ordinance (PLDO). Caroline Miller, Park Land Dedication Ordinance Program Administrator, Planning Department, stated they are a review of the requirements for PLDO within City Code which is required every four years and include changes with updated Census and land appraisal information.

7. Items for Introduction

7.A. [24-630](#) An Ordinance Amending Article 1 of Chapter 4, of the Chapter 4 of the Code of Colorado Springs 2001, as Amended, Pertaining to Electrical Assisted Bicycles

Presenter:

Britt Haley, Director, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Department

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

Scott Abbott, Manager, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space

Attachments: [PR-E BikesORD-2024-11-25-24](#)

[E-Bike Policy Presentation to Council 120924](#)

Lonna Thelen, Program Manager, Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) Program, introduced the Ordinance pertaining to electrical assisted bicycles (e-bikes) and provided an overview of the definition of an E-Bike, E-Bike survey, survey results, four steps to implement policy: 1. TOPS Working Committee/Parks Advisory Board consider e-bike policy/City Code updates, 2. City Council considers e-bike policy/City Code updates, 3. Parks Recreation and Cultural Services Department (PRCS) adopts rules/regulations, and 4. Staged rollout of policy and reasons for this approach.

Councilmember Risley asked if the classifications of e-bikes are capable of going faster than what is identified for each classification. Ms. Thelen confirmed they are able to go as fast as the rider is able to pedal it.

Councilmember Leinweber asked what the maximum wattage of e-bikes is. Ms. Thelen stated 750 watts is the maximum motor assistance which can be provided. Councilmember Risley commented that the output of power for an e-bike is much different than the power output of a hairdryer.

Councilmember Henjum asked what the survey results were for Alternative 2. Ms. Thelen stated it was less than fifty percent support for Alternative 2.

Councilmember Henjum asked why Class 3 e-bikes are excluded from trails. Ms. Thelen stated no other jurisdictions allow Class 3 e-bikes on nonmotorized trails and due to their higher speed capability, they have determined to exclude them.

Councilmember Henjum asked why there are no definitions for e-bikes in City Code. Ms. Thelen stated e-bikes is a bike which has not been previously included in the nonmotorized use in City Code and came forward from a citizen initiative.

Scott Abbott, Manager, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space, went over the process for PRCS adoption of rules/regulations and staged rollout of policy. He identified the reasons for this approach why they are recommending a City Code update instead of a ballot measure, environmental impact studies, TOPS Working Committee/Parks Advisory Board recommendation, and motions.

Councilmember Henjum asked what the position of the Palmer Land Conservancy is regarding e-bikes. Mr. Abbott stated they are very interested in the effects of e-bikes and protecting conservation values in conservation easements. Britt Haley, Director, PRCS, stated their letter to the City conveys they would like to continue to have a dialogue between attorneys to be careful and intentional regarding each conservation easement.

Councilmember Henjum requested the PRCS continue to refine how trails are used so that each type of user feels comfortable and safe on them. Ms. Haley confirmed they would.

President Helms asked if the TOPS Working Committee passed PRCS policy recommendation. Mr. Abbott stated they only passed adding the definition of e-bikes classifications into City Code, but not the policy recommendation regarding e-bike. Caitlin Moldenhauer, Attorney, City Attorney's Office, stated they did not recommend including the definition of nonmotorized use in the TOPS Section of Chapter 4 of City Code which would not permit the use of e-bikes on TOPS properties. Mr. Abbott clarified that e-bikes are not by definition from the Federal and State government, motorized vehicles and the Parks Advisory Board recommended all classifications of e-bikes to be included in the definition of nonmotorized vehicles.

Councilmember Leinweber stated e-bikes are nonmotorized because they require pedaling in order to operate and only assists riders. Councilmember Henjum stated it is her understanding that Class 2 e-bikes do not require pedaling.

Councilmember Henjum requested additional information from the City Attorney's Office regarding the difference between motor vehicles and motorized vehicles. Ben Bolinger, Legislative Counsel, City Attorney's Office, stated clarification of those terms is why this Ordinance is being presented to City Council.

President Helms asked why staff opted not to move forward with a ballot measure. Mr. Abbott stated they needed an overarching e-bike policy recommendation in order to make a complete change to PRCS Chapter of City Code regarding definitions and TOPS is only a piece of that Chapter.

President Helms asked if this is considered a substantive change. Ms. Moldenhauer stated there is not currently a definition for nonmotorized use in TOPS.

President Helms asked if there is any anticipated legal action against the

City if this Ordinance is passed. Ms. Moldenhauer stated she does not know of any threats of litigation.

Councilmember Leinweber asked how much a ballot measure would cost to promote. Ms. Fabos stated the City cannot expend any resources to promote a ballot measure, but an outside group spent approximately a little more than \$300,000 for the ballot measure 2c.

Councilmember Henjum stated she is not opposed to this policy, but she would like to see a pro and con analysis before City Council votes on it. Mr. Abbot stated they will provide that information.

Councilmember Talarico stated she would not support this going forward as a ballot initiative and asked if the first reading of the Ordinance will come before City Council in February 2025. Ms. Haley stated they will provide an example of what the rules and regulations would look like before it comes to City Council for a vote.

Councilmember Talarico stated reckless behavior on an e-bike is due to the rider, not the e-bike.

President Helms requested additional information regarding how the Staff recommendation would relate to State and Federal policy. Mr. Abbott stated State Statute permits Class 1 and 2 e-bikes wherever bikes are permitted to go and allows local authority to determine the allowance of Class 3 e-bikes.

President Helms stated he supports Staff's recommendation.

- 7.B. [CODE-24-00](#) An Ordinance amending Section 307 (Park Land Dedications) of Article
[03](#) 4 (Development Standards and Incentives) of Chapter 7 (Unified Development Code (UDC)) of the Code of the City of Colorado Springs 2001, as amended, pertaining to Park Land Dedications. (Legislative)

Presenter:

Caroline Miller, Park Land Dedication Ordinance Program
Administrator, Planning Department

Lonna Thelen, Parks Design and Development Manager/TOPS
Manager, Parks Recreation and Cultural Services

Attachments: [Staff Report_CC Work Session_PLDO 2025 Acreage and Fee Update](#)

[Attachment 1 - 2024 PLDO Appraisal](#)

[Attachment 2 - Existing Fee Schedule](#)

[Attachment 3 - ACS Household Data](#)

[ORD-Park Land Dedication Acreage](#)

[7.4.307 PARK LAND DEDICATIONS](#)

[7.5.702 AMENDMENT TO UDC TEXT](#)

Caroline Miller, Park Land Dedication Ordinance Program Administrator, Planning Department, presented the Ordinance pertaining to Park Land Dedications and the Resolutions amending the Fee Schedule for fees in lieu of park land dedication as provided for in the Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) and the City's Park Land Dedication Ordinance Criteria Manual. She provided an overview of review of requirements, 7.4.307.H.1 - Census and Land Dedication standards, land dedication obligation, 7.4.307.H.2 - Background Appraisal Neighborhood/Community Park Land, fees in lieu of land dedication equation-base rate, proposed fees in lieu, the additional applicable fees related to platting, timeline, and process.

Councilmember Henjum asked where the City stands in meeting the parks standards of 5.5 acres per 1,000 people. Ms. Miller stated the future Parks Master Plan will be able to better map where they are meeting these standards.

President Helms asked why there is such a large difference between the value of the square foot of sites throughout the City. Ms. Miller stated the values were evaluated based on the methodology of the appraiser.

Councilmember Henjum asked what part of the Parks Recreation and Cultural Services Department (PRCS) budget the fees in lieu of go into. Ms. Miller stated it goes into City neighborhood/community park funds and primarily goes toward acquisitions of park land.

Councilmember Henjum asked what the most recent piece of land was acquired for a City park. Britt Haley, Director, PRCS, stated it was an 8.42-acre site for Stratton Park.

Councilmember Henjum asked how much opportunity the City has to purchase built environment public parks. Ms. Haley stated they typically see opportunity for park development in greenfield developments.

Councilmember Henjum requested additional information from the City Council liaisons to the Parks Advisory Board (PAB) regarding any concerns or discussions the PAB had regarding PLDO. Councilmember Talarico stated she does not believe there was any consternation from the

PAB regarding this item. Ms. Haley stated they discussed making sure there was availability for public comment, the fees in lieu of were being used to purchase additional park land, and to ensure compatibility with the revision of Parks Master Plan being implemented in 2025-2026.

- 7.C. [CODE-24-00](#)
[04](#) A Resolution amending the Fee Schedule for fees in lieu of park land dedication as provided for in the Park Land Dedication Ordinance. (Legislative)

Presenter:

Caroline Miller, Park Land Dedication Ordinance Program
Administrator, Planning Department
Lonna Thelen, Parks Design and Development Manager/TOPS
Manager, Parks Recreation and Cultural Services

Attachments: [RES-PLDO Fee Schedule](#)

Please see comments in Agenda item 7.B.

- 7.D. [CODE-24-00](#)
[05](#) A Resolution amending the City of Colorado Springs Park Land Dedication Ordinance Criteria Manual. (Legislative)

Presenter:

Caroline Miller, Park Land Dedication Ordinance Program
Administrator, Planning Department
Lonna Thelen, Parks Design and Development Manager/TOPS
Manager, Parks Recreation and Cultural Services

Attachments: [RES-PLDO Criteria Manual](#)

Please see comments in Agenda item 7.B.

- 7.E. [24-704](#) An Ordinance amending section 112 (Sitting or Lying Down in Commercial Districts) of Article 2 (Offenses Affecting Public Safety) of Chapter 9 Public Offenses) of the Code of the City of Colorado Springs 2001, as amended, pertaining to sitting or lying in commercial districts

Presenter:

Jessie Kimber, Director, Economic Development
Shannon Snuggs, Commander – Gold Hill Division, CSPD

Attachments: [24-704-SitLieCommercialDistrictORD-2024-11-19](#)
[22-07](#)

Jessie Kimber, Director, Economic Development, introduced the Ordinance pertaining to sitting or lying in commercial districts zone expansion.

Shannon Snuggs, Commander, Gold Hill Division, Colorado Springs

Police Department (CSPD), provided an overview of the current boundaries, South Nevada Avenue boundaries, area comparison, calls for service (CFS)/citations from January 2022 through September 2024, another opportunity for contacts, and proposed area.

Councilmember Henjum added if the proposed Ordinance is adding area to the already existing boundaries. Commander Snuggs confirmed it is.

President Helms asked if the Colorado Springs Fire Department and municipal judges work with the offenders to help them through other programs rather than just charging them a fine. Ben Bolinger, Legislative Counsel, City Attorney's Office, confirmed that quality of life services intersects with people experiencing homelessness at the municipal court.

Councilmember Talarico asked if an individual could be ticketed outside of the proposed timeframes. Commander Snuggs stated not under this particular Ordinance, but they have other tools to address this issue.

Aimee Cox, Chief Housing and Homelessness Response Officer, provided an overview the actions the City is taken to address the causes of homelessness and the law enforcement aspect of it.

Councilmember Leinweber stated the community needs to identify unacceptable behavior and stand up to it.

7.F. [24-706](#)

An Ordinance creating a new Section 108 (Carrying of a Firearm In Government Buildings) of Part 1 (Dangerous and Deadly Weapons) of Article 7 (Dangerous Weapons and Substances) of Chapter 9 (Public Offenses) of the Code Of The City Of Colorado Springs 2001, as amended, Pertaining To Carrying Firearms

Presenter:

Benjamin Bolinger, Legislative Counsel, Office of the City Attorney

Attachments: [24-706 Sensitive Spaces-ORD-2024-12-03](#)

[24-706 2024a_131_signed](#)

Ben Bolinger, Legislative Counsel, Office of the City Attorney, presented the Ordinance pertaining to carrying firearms in City government buildings and provided an overview of SB24-131 which prohibits a person from knowingly carrying a firearm in certain government buildings and the proposed Ordinance maintains the City's existing rules, regulations, and Ordinances pertaining to carrying firearms as required by the building's facility manager.

President Helms and Councilmember Risley stated it was important to bring the proposed Ordinance forward to prevent the State from usurping

control from jurisdictions.

Councilmember Leinweber asked if City Council would have the authority to allow exceptions to what is currently permitted in City buildings. Mr. Bolinger stated this proposed Ordinance retains the authority of each facility manager to set security policies.

8. Items Under Study

There were no Items Under Study.

9. Councilmember Reports and Open Discussion

Councilmember Risley stated he and several other Councilmembers attended the 2024 Legislative Round Table where they were able to share with State Legislators their concern over the utilities cost and reliability issues of the State's decarbonization efforts and he and many Councilmembers attended the Festival of Lights Parade.

Councilmember Leinweber stated he and his new puppy, Hatch, attended the Festival of Lights Parade.

Councilmember Talarico stated she was grateful to attend the Legislative Round Table with fellow Councilmembers.

President Helms stated he also attended the well-attended Festival of Lights Parade which he will be working toward fund raising to ensure it occurs again in 2025 and asked everyone to keep deployed military personnel, who will not be with their families during the holiday season, in their thoughts and prayers.

10. Executive Session

There was no Open Executive Session.

10A. Open

There was no Open Executive Session.

10B. Closed

10B.A. [24-708](#)

In accord with City Charter art. III, § 3-60(d) and its incorporated Colorado Open Meetings Act, C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(a), (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 and City staff for the purpose of

receiving legal advice and providing instruction to negotiators on a real estate acquisition related to plans for a downtown transit center.

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: [Closed Session memo - 12-4-24](#)

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 and City staff for the purpose of receiving legal advice and providing instruction to negotiators on a real estate acquisition related to plans for a downtown transit center.

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.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before City Council, President Helms adjourned the meeting at 1:45 PM.

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk