OPENING OF COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Jen Verhey opened the remote/in person council meeting at 7:00 p.m. The council members present were Jessica Quinn, Brooke Scheel, Jen Verhey, Dennis Chamberlain, Ky Beck-Gmeiner, and Mike Schrag. Staff members in attendance were Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt, Deputy Clerk Treasurer II Michelle Asmussen (remote), Public Works Director Dave Breazeale, Chief of Police Mike Suniga, City Attorney John Kragt, and Community Development Director Tom Reese. City Fire Chief Joel Bell, Mayor Scott Yaeger, and Council Member Eric Ottmar were excused. Also present were Rod Larse and Rick from the Cheney Free Press.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Jen Verhey asked if there were any corrections or additions to the consent agenda. Council Member Mike Schrag moved to accept the consent agenda for October 20, 2026, with payables in the amount of $112,896.97. Council Member Brooke Scheel seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Jen Verhey asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to comment. With no comments, she moved on.

ACTION AGENDA

A. **Integrated Parks, Urban Forestry, Placemaking & Public Realm Program Professional Services Contract-Michael Terrell-Landscape Architecture, PLLC-** The Council considered the professional services contract with Michael Terrell-Landscape Architecture, LLC, for the Integrated Parks, Urban Forestry, Placemaking & Public Realm Program. The contract relates to the City's planning and development efforts for parks, urban forestry, placemaking, and public spaces. Council Member Brooke Scheel moved to approve the professional services contract with Michael Terrell-Landscape Architecture, LLC. Council Member Jessica Quinn seconded the motion. The motion passed 6–0.

B. **High-Priority Sewer Collection System Improvements Pay Estimate #1-POW Contracting, Inc.-** The Council reviewed Pay Estimate No. 1 submitted by POW Contracting, Inc., in the amount of $65,728.80 for the High-Priority Sewer Collection System Improvements project. Council Member Brooke Scheel moved to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 in the amount of $65,728.80. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. The motion passed 6–0. The project is expected to continue through the colder months, with a projected completion date of December 27, 2026. Discussion included concerns about completing the paving work before the seasonal closure of the asphalt plant.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

A. **Keeping Animals Chapter 5.12 Amendment - Draft Ordinance 2210 -** The Council discussed the proposed amendment to Chapter 5.12, Keeping Animals, including its effect on the permitting process for structures on properties. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain moved to set a public hearing on the proposed amendment for the November 17, 2026, regular Council meeting. Council Member Jessica Quinn seconded the motion. The motion passed 6–0.

B. **2027 Draft Budget -** The Council reviewed the 2027 draft budget. Adjustments to local leasehold tax revenue and miscellaneous budget line items reduced the projected Current Expense Fund shortfall to $86,023. The proposed budget adjustments included reallocating police station alarm and security funding to the Capital Improvement Fund, allocating $15,000 for park fencing, and including $10,000 for soffit repairs at the Burroughs Home. The budget workshop was scheduled for October 30, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Wheat Growers Community Room. Department heads will be scheduled for approximately 30 minutes each to review their respective departmental budgets. The city will prepare a preliminary budget by November 2,

2026. The fee schedule and salary scale will be included in the budget workshop materials. The Council also discussed the Visitor Impact Grant (Fund 110) and the need to review the City's fee schedule.

CORRESPONDENCE – There was no correspondence.

REPORTS

A. **Mayor Updates** – No report.

B. **Council Committee Updates:**
   - **License, Rules, and Permits –** No report.
   - **Finance and Employee Benefits** – No report.
   - **Health and Wellness-** No report.
   - **Public Safety** – No report.
   - **Public Works** – There will be a meeting on Monday for the SS4A Plan review.
   - **Parks and Recreation** – No report.
   - Personnel Committee – No report.

C. **City Attorney** – John Kragt reported on the progress of a memorandum regarding the public safety tax. The memorandum was expected to be finalized and provided to Council Member Brooke Scheel.

D. **Public Works** – Public Works Director Dave Breazeale provided updates on ongoing projects, seasonal maintenance, equipment, and repairs. Seasonal sprinkler systems had been shut down, with the cemetery irrigation system remaining operational. The department discussed plans to send the spray truck and police vehicle for surplus the following week. Staff will follow up with the maintenance crew regarding repairs to the plaza clock. Updates were also provided on the sewer collection project, street lighting, and vehicle repairs. The Council also discussed the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) project. The project was expected to proceed through committee review and return to the Council for consideration of a resolution to close out the project with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

E. **Police** – Police Chief Mike Suniga highlighted Domestic Violence Awareness and provided updates on recent criminal cases and departmental operations. The Chief reported on a domestic violence case resulting in a 24-month prison sentence and a vehicle prowling case resulting in 55 days in jail. Challenges associated with inmate transportation were also discussed. Police staffing, recruitment, and retention matters will be addressed through the Public Safety Committee.

F. **Fire** – Chief Joel Bell was excused.

G. **Clerk-Treasurer** – Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated most of the items were covered tonight and getting ready for the budget workshop scheduled for October 30, 2026.

H. **Community Development** – Community Development Director Tom Reese provided updates on ongoing planning and development initiatives. Progress was reported on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Community Forestry project and pre-development meetings. The Council was also informed that City and County census tracts had received state-level approval for Opportunity Zone 2 status. Staff will monitor the federal approval process and determine whether outreach to the federal delegation is necessary. The second phase of the periodic update with SCJ Alliance was scheduled to begin the following morning.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further comments or business to come before the council, Mayor Pro Tem Jen Verhey adjourned the remote and in-person meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Michelle Asmussen, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

Julie Flyckt, Clerk-Treasurer