

Issues Programs List

Quarterly Issues Programs List

Station: KTWO-AM, KKTL-AM, KRVK-FM, KWYY-FM KRNK-FM, KTRS-FM

October 1 – December 31, 2021

Section I. Issues

The stations have identified the following topics as significant issues facing our community in this quarter:

- A. **City Employees Vaccination Incentive** – Casper city employees could receive an incentive for being vaccinated. Casper City Council members discussed an incentive program to have city employees vaccinated against COVID-19. The program would cost the city \$124,000, although the city would be reimbursed for some of the costs.
- B. **Natrona County Airport Keeps Delta Air Service** – Natrona County and Casper International Airport nearly lost air service from Delta Airlines carrying passengers to Salt Lake City. Several citizens spoke about how vital having the service in Casper is to the economy and the people who live here. County commissioners also discussed how the airport keeps Casper connected to the rest of the nation.
- C. **Local Government Issues** – Casper officials discussed converting several one way streets downtown into two-way streets. The potential changes would impact parking downtown.
- D. **New Casper Wards** – Following the 2020 census, the city of Casper is considering redrawing some city council wards. Some Casper citizens may be represented by new city council members following the results of the census.
- E. **Wyoming Legislature Battles COVID Mandates** – Wyoming legislators were called into a special session in order to combat COVID-19 mandates instituted by the Joe Biden administration. Ultimately, the legislature voted to allocate funds for a lawsuit against the mandates.
- F. **Police Officer Mental Health** – Following the suicide of a well-known and prominent Casper Police officer, city officials discussed mental health programs for first responders. City officials heard from leaders with Casper Fire-EMS and the Casper Police Department.
- G. **Raises for City Employees** - City of Casper officials discussed giving raises to certain city employees. Note that the raises come after a years-long pay freeze. Impacted employees include police officers and other first responders.
- H. **Bar Next To A School?** - City officials were embroiled in a controversy regarding putting a bar next to a private Catholic school. Council members discussed placing a fence behind the bar to prevent potentially intoxicated citizens from interfering with school children.
- I. **Teacher Shortages** - The Natrona County School District met with several teachers from within the school district. Teachers all reported that they are short staffed at their respective schools and substitute teachers are hard to come by. One teacher told the school board that she has been responsible for as many as 50 students at one time.
- J. **Controversy Over New Mayor** – Casper has a new mayor, but the vote didn't come without controversy. Council member Bruce Knell accused other council members of colluding prior to the vote. Ultimately, the council elected Ray Pacheco as Mayor and Steve Freel as Vice Mayor.
- K. **Police Staffing** – Casper is short on police officers. Adding to the problem is that in addition to being street cops, police are needed to provide security for courtrooms. Council members heard

from Casper Police Chief Keith McPheeters regarding how the problem could be solved. Ultimately, it comes down to simply hiring more police officers.

L. **Trash and Water Fees** – Casper officials discussed raising trash collection, water and sewer fees for residents. Ultimately, Casper residents will see slight increases in their fees.

M. **Opioid Settlement** – The City of Casper received a multi-million dollar settlement from opioid manufacturers. City officials discussed how to best allocate the funding.

Section II. Responsive Programs

Date(s) Aired	Program Name	Description of Issue Discussed	Duration	Time and/or Frequency
October 3	Report to Wyoming	City Employees Vaccination Incentive – Casper officials agreed to offer a COVID vaccination incentive. The goal of the council is to have 65% of all city employees vaccinated. The total cost of the program is \$124,000.	30 min	6 a.m. Sunday
October 10	Report to Wyoming	Natrona County Keeps Delta Air Service - Natrona County commissioners met to discuss whether or not to keep the Delta Airlines service in Casper. Members of the public discussed how vital the service is to the community. A state legislator also spoke to how important the service is to Casper’s economy.	30 min	6 a.m. Sunday
October 17	Report to Wyoming	Local Government Issues – Casper City Council members discussed converting several one-way streets downtown into two-way streets. The decision could have consequences on local businesses downtown. It would also impact parking, but some council members say it would help the city better utilize an underused parking garage.	30 min.	6 a.m. Sunday
October 24	Report to Wyoming	New Casper Council Wards – Casper City Council members discussed what new wards would look like in the city. Residents may be represented by new council members following the Census.	30 min.	6 a.m. Sunday
October 31	Report to Wyoming	Wyoming Legislature Battles COVID Mandates - Wyoming legislators were called into an exceedingly rare special session to battle federal COVID vaccine mandates. A bill authorizing the Wyoming Attorney General to sue over the mandates was sent to the governor’s desk for his signature.	30 min.	6 a.m. Sunday

November 7	Report to Wyoming	Police officer mental health – Local officials discussed police officer and first responder mental health. The discussion was following the suicide of a prominent, well-liked Casper Police officer. Other speakers included officials from the fire department and EMS.	30 min.	6 a.m. Sunday
November 14	Report to Wyoming	Raises for City Employees – City of Casper officials discussed giving raises to certain city employees. Note that the raises come after a years-long pay freeze. Impacted employees include police officers and other first responders.	30 min.	6 a.m. Sunday
November 21	Report to Wyoming	Bar Next To A School? – Concerned members of the public came forward regarding a liquor license that had been issued for a bar in Casper. Specifically, they were concerned that a bar that opens at 6 a.m. would be adjacent to an elementary school.	30 min	6 a.m. Sunday
November 28	Report to Wyoming	Teacher Shortages – Natrona County School District board members were addressed regarding teacher shortages. The problem has grown so extreme, for example, that one teacher was left teaching 52 kids at the same time.	30 min	6 a.m. Sunday
December 5	Report to Wyoming	Controversy Over New Mayor – Casper City Council convened for an informal straw poll to determine the next mayor. The meeting grew heated when Council Member Bruce Knell accused other council members of colluding. Ultimately, the council voted to instate Ray Pacheco as Mayor and Steve Freel as Vice Mayor.	30 min	6 a.m. Sunday
December 12	Report to Wyoming	Police Staffing – Police numbers in Casper are a concern for local officials. The Casper Police Department is struggling to field officers to conduct security in municipal court. Having a police officer in the courtroom would take an officer off the street. It has been a struggle for CPD.	30 min	6 a.m. Sunday
December 19	Report to Wyoming	Trash And Water Fees Increasing – Due to budget concerns, the Casper City Council discussed increasing some service fees in	30 min	6 a.m. Sunday

		<p>order to avoid dipping into budget reserves. Ultimately, the council voted to increase sewer fees by 11%. As for water treatment, the council voted to increase fees by 6%. Meanwhile, for waste removal, the council voted to increase fees by \$5.</p>		
<p>December 26</p>	<p>Report to Wyoming</p>	<p>Opioid Settlement –As the result of a lawsuit, the city of Casper received a \$2.5 million settlement regarding opioids. Casper officials discussed how they would allocate the money and prevent further opioid issues in Casper.</p>	<p>30 Min</p>	<p>6 a.m. Sunday</p>