

Natrona County Travel & Tourism Council

Visit Casper

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026 – 11:30 a.m. CASPER, WYOMING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Presiding officer (Board Chair) Renee Penton-Jones called the regular meeting of the Natrona County Travel and Tourism Council to order Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at 11:32 a.m. Tassma Powers, Secretary, was not present at roll call. Roll call determined the presence of a quorum.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Cole Montgomery, City of Casper
Dan Foote, Town of Bar Nunn
Mike Cavasco, Town of Midwest (Zoom)
Morgan Covert, City of Mills
Pat Sweeney, City of Casper
Renee Penton-Jones, Natrona County
Shawn Houck, Natrona County
Tassma Powers, Town of Evansville (arrived at 11:36 a.m.)

Excused: Mindy Blackmore, Town of Edgerton

Also Present: Annette Pitts, CEO
Terri Weinhandl, Operations Manager
Wayne Stewart, Director of Marketing & Communications
Syd Wallace, Creative Manager
Shelby Kraus, Destination Sales Manager
Tommy Culkin, Oil City News
Glenn Garner, Wyoming Office of Tourism (Zoom)
Tia Troy, Lightning Bug Public Relations (Zoom)

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Penton-Jones asked for a motion to approve the July 28, 2026, meeting agenda. No discussion. (Exhibit 1)

Moved by Mr. Houck, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, carried without dissent to approve the July 28, 2026, meeting agenda as presented.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mrs. Penton-Jones asked for a motion to approve the June 30, 2026, meeting minutes. No discussion. (Exhibit 2)

Moved by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Ms. Covert, carried without dissent to approve the June 30, 2026, meeting minutes as presented.

V. **STAFF REPORTS & SCORECARDS**

CEO and staff reported on Marketing, Sales and Community Engagement highlights. (Exhibit 3)

Ms. Troy reported positive media coverage regarding the Hell's Half Acre reopening, specifically highlighting features by National Geographic and AOL.com. (Exhibit 4)

Ms. Pitts reviewed the June scorecard, noting that occupancy rates were down, but demand numbers were up. (Exhibit 5)

VI. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The last fiscal report for FY26 was reviewed.

As part of reviewing the P&L a discussion about the employee benefits line item followed. Employee benefits were over budget due to the discovery that the organization's life insurance policy with Lincoln Financial initiated by a previous Visit Casper CEO had not been updated as staffing changed throughout the years. To remedy the situation Visit Casper was initially billed for the retroactive enrollment of current employees and subsequently issued refunds for the removal of former employees. Additional discussion followed on hiring internal staff instead of outsourcing projects to vendors.

Moved by Ms. Covert, seconded by Mr. Foote, carried without dissent to approve the June financials as presented. (Exhibits 6 & 7)

VII. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. FY27 Budget Adoption Ratification

Ms. Pitts reviewed the FY27 budget that was previously approved at the June 30, 2026, meeting.

Moved by Mr. Montgomery, seconded by Ms. Covert, carried without dissent to ratify the budget as previously approved. (Exhibit 8)

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Transition to ICS

Mr. Montgomery explained the transition of NCTTC funds into an Insured Cash Sweep (ICS) program through First State Bank (FSB) to maximize FDIC insurance coverage and reduce risk to the organization. (Exhibit 9)

Moved by Ms. Powers, seconded by Mr. Foote, carried without dissent to approve transitioning NCTTC funds into the ICS program with FSB.

B. Resolution – Depositories

No discussion.

Moved by Ms. Powers, seconded by Ms. Covert, carried without dissent to approve Wyoming Government Investment Fund, Hilltop National Bank, First Interstate Bank, First State Bank and Jonah Bank as depositories for NCTTC funds for FY27. (Exhibit 10)

C. Resolution – Signatures
No discussion.

Moved by Mr. Houck, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, carried without dissent to approve the Executive Committee of Renee Penton-Jones, Tassma Powers, Cole Montgomery and Dan Foote as signers on vouchers, and checks or warrants on behalf of the NCTTC. (Exhibit 11)

D. Conflict of Interest Policy and Annual Statement
Board members in attendance signed their annual Conflict of Interest Statement for FY27. Those not in attendance will sign at a later date. (Exhibit 12)

E. Sponsorships Report
Ms. Pitts reviewed the sponsorship report detailing which organizations/events received sponsorship support as determined through the board approved sponsorship award process since the last board meeting. (Exhibit 13)

IX. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Cevalco shared that Salt Creek Days starts on August 13, 2026. The parade will take place on August 15, 2026. Visit Casper plans to participate in the parade with the bus. The details will be posted on the Visit Casper website events calendar.

Mr. Houck shared that the special voter's guide issue of the "Oil City News" newspaper was mailed out to residents.

X. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
None.

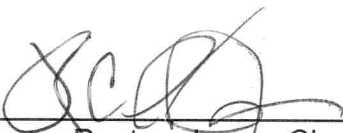
XI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
None.

XII. **ADJOURNMENT**

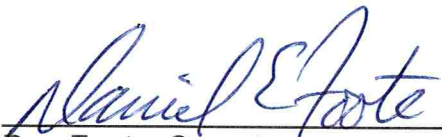
Mrs. Penton-Jones asked for a motion to adjourn.

Moved by Mr. Foote, seconded by Ms. Covert, carried without dissent to adjourn at 12:25 p.m.

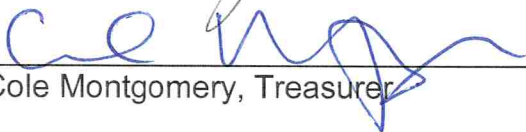
Next meeting: August 25, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.



Renee Penton-Jones, Chair



Dan Foote, Secretary



Cole Montgomery, Treasurer