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BIG PROJECT, BIG QUESTIONS

# Natrona weighs data center rules before application

Commissioners begin thinking through potential safeguards

HANNAH WARD  
Casper Star-Tribune

Prometheus Hyperscale has yet to file a formal application with Natrona County, but county commissioners are already beginning to consider what rules could govern the company's proposed data center.

The project would bring a 1.25-giga-watt data center to 940 acres of private land just west of the Natrona-Converse county line. For now, the plans remain in the early stages. But commissioners are looking ahead, examining conditions imposed on a separate Prometheus project in Uinta County and discussing what they learned during a recent private tour of the proposed site.

The Sept. 25 tour, hosted by Falls Ranch owner and Texas billionaire Russell Gordy, gave commissioners and other local officials a firsthand look at the land where the

massive industrial project could eventually take shape.

Back at the county level, commissioners are left to consider a question that has not yet reached the formal permitting process: What should Natrona County require if the project moves forward?

Uinta County commissioners approved the conditional use permit for the data center campus in June with 15 stipulations for baseline noise testing, Wyoming-first hiring, and environmental harm mitigation.

Beginning construction within five

years, receiving annual inspections from county staff, performing a fluid dynamic analysis, complying with Dark Sky International standards, and reimbursing the county for emergency services were also listed as conditions.

Commissioner Casey Coates said some constituents remain uneasy. Even with Uinta County's conditional use permit offering a blueprint for how the project could be regulated, residents still do not know what construction or day-to-day

Please see **COMMISSIONERS**, Page A4

POLICE BODYCAM

# CASPER BETS ON AI



DYLAN FARRELL, STAR-TRIBUNE

Casper Police Officer Darren Douglas handles security while wearing a bodycam at Casper City Council's regular meeting on Oct. 6, 2026.

A \$58K contract puts artificial intelligence deeper inside the police department, even as questions remain about accuracy, oversight and results.

DYLAN FARRELL AND HANNAH WARD  
Casper Star-Tribune

For decades, police work in Casper has depended on familiar tools: a radio crackling from an officer's shoulder, a notebook filling with details and a body camera quietly recording what happens next.

Now, there's another tool in the mix.

Artificial intelligence has found a foothold inside the Casper Police Department, and the city is betting nearly \$60,000 that it can make some of the department's most

time-consuming work faster.

Nearly six months after the Casper City Council approved a 60-day free trial of TRULEO, an AI platform designed to help with everything from writing reports to reviewing body-camera footage, council members voted Tuesday to keep it around.

The council approved a one-year, \$58,800 license for the department, turning what began as a short experiment into a yearlong test of what AI can, and cannot, do for Casper Police.

TRULEO advertises a host of abilities, including AI-assisted report writing, summaries of encounters or meetings, automated review of body-worn camera footage, an AI assistant, "AI-assisted interviews" and more.

AI's place in law enforcement has been hotly debated in Casper for months.

Though that discourse has largely revolved around commenters on recent social media posts have

Please see **AI**, Page A5

WHO PAYS?

# New water rates could lower some Casper bills

Council approves a new structure shifting how customers share water costs

HANNAH WARD  
Casper Star-Tribune

Some Casper residents could see a slight break on their water bills next year under a new rate structure approved Tuesday by the city council.

The changes were among several measures the council took up during a wide-ranging meeting that also included plans for new zoning and permitting rules for gambling establishments and an ordinance requiring contractors to complete recurring education on local and state codes and industry practices.

The council also signed off on an annual \$58,800 license for TRULEO software, an AI platform capable of transcribing body camera footage and analyzing the transcription, following a free trial.

Under the new water structure, the previous citywide service charge of \$11.54 is increased for customers with higher usage and customers are separated into user classes, including single-family residential, multifamily, and commercial. Each class is designed to recover its own cost and not subsidize another group of customers.

The new rate structure incorporates the 8% annual increase initially approved by council members last December.

City employees and a representative from Raftelis, which designed the rate structure for the city, previously told council members that with the existing rate structure, residential customers with lower usage generally subsidize costs for commercial customers with higher usage.

Raftelis offered several alternatives after council members questioned why customers in large apartment complexes could face higher costs than

Please see **RATES**, Page A4

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The Grouch

I'm sick, tired, and done with all the noise. Take me back to when people were smarter, quieter, and blissfully unaware of how stupid we've all become.



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