

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

Casper City Hall

Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. WAM Resolutions - Discussion/Review (Councilmember Powell)
2. Sole Source Purchase – Baler, Steel Belt Conveyor, & Wire Tier (Andrew Beamer)
3. Open Containers Downtown (Chief McPheeters)
4. Restorative Justice Presentation (Chief McPheeters)
5. Innkeeper & Registration Ordinance
6. Agenda Review
7. Council Around the Table

Mayor Pacheco called the work session to order at 4:30 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Laird, Humphrey, Morgan, Hopkins, Huber, Powell and Mayor Pacheco. Councilmembers Johnson and Walsh were absent.

Councilmember Powell reviewed the Wyoming Association of Municipalities resolutions, which included the following topics: a thank you to Pinedale for hosting; allowing lien authority for utilities; allowing judges to allow restitution not be paid; allowing municipalities to ask electorate for taxing authority; aligning budget timelines; removing non-transient lodging tax exemption; removing exemption on sales tax for food; simplifying the lien/assessment process for abatement of dangerous buildings; allowing municipalities to join the state health insurance fund; antidiscrimination legislation; payment in lieu of taxes; the air service project; municipality taxing authority; storm water utilities; statement that basic services need to be provided by municipalities; increasing in the cap for severance and mineral royalties for municipalities; changing the constitution so municipalities can carry more debt; number of kilowatts that can be generated by solar systems; extraterritorial jurisdiction; municipal tax collection; and a thank you to Governor Mead for his support of municipalities. Councilmember Powell stated that most of the resolutions were passed by WAM. Council discussed some of the topics and gave their thumbs up in support of all of the resolutions that WAM passed with the exception of the food tax issue. They agreed that they would leave it to the City Manager to decide which issues deserve Casper's highest priority.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed the sole source purchase of a baler for the recycling facility. Council gave their thumbs up to move the purchase forward to a formal vote at a regular Council meeting.

Next, City Manager Napier introduced Police Chief McPheeters to discuss the possibility of an open container policy for the downtown area. Chief McPheeters explained that allowing this type of activity could have unintended consequences by increasing crime rates. He gave statistics and case studies that have shown that there is a strong correlation between crime and alcohol. He also stated that he believes that the street inebriant population would take advantage of an open

container policy and explained his concern that they would congregate in other areas of downtown, such as David Street Station. He suggested keeping the policy as is, and only allowing open containers for specific qualifying events that can be carefully planned. Councilmember Morgan explained that he would like the City to consider a commonsense approach so that customers have the freedom to move between street closures for events like Rock the Block. Council discussed possible liability issues for vendors when a customer brings alcohol from another event. Council decided not to give direction on this issue at this time.

Next, City Manager Napier introduced Jen Miner of the Casper Police Department to discuss the restorative justice program. Ms. Miner described the background of how restorative justice started in this community and described the pilot program's success over the last several months. She stated that in order for the program to expand they need a formal endorsement from the City and would need more staff in the future. City Manager Napier stated that the City is not asking for funding for additional staff at this time, but is asking Council to consider a resolution that recognizes the program and provides a long term commitment from Council that they would like to see the program continue and expand. He explained that restorative justice is connected to public safety and could be included in the FY2020 budget if Council wished to move in that direction. Councilmember Powell asked about reduced costs in jail time as a result of decreased recidivism rates from participants in the program. Ms. Miner stated that she could research the cost savings and bring that back to Council. Councilmember Huber expressed concern over victims being able to decide punishments. Chief McPheeters stated that he supports this program fully. Council directed staff to prepare a resolution adopting the program to be voted on formally at a regular Council meeting.

Next, City Manager Napier asked for direction for an inn-keepers ordinance and explained that a change in statute precipitated a change in ordinance. Council gave their thumbs up to move forward with the ordinance change.

Next, Council went around the table to discuss their respective board and committee meetings and share ideas and concerns related to public matters of interest. Councilmember Morgan discussed cell tower rates and asked that the City consider having cell companies fund light poles for use of them as small cell towers. Councilmember Laird, on behalf of Councilmember Johnson, asked that Council consider allowing bars to be open for the same hours on Sundays as other days of the week. Council agreed to put this issue on a work session agenda.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur D. Tremel
City Clerk

Ray Pacheco
Mayor