

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.
Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Public Services Rate Model Update (Andrew Beamer)
2. Public Utilities Customer Service Fees (Andrew Beamer)
3. Liquor License Ordinance
4. Council Leadership Straw Poll
5. Agenda Review
6. Legislative Update
7. Council Around the Table

Mayor Pacheco called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Powell, Laird, Humphrey, Morgan, Johnson, Hopkins, Huber and Mayor Pacheco. Councilmember Walsh attended the meeting via phone.

City Manager Napier asked that Council let staff know if they are planning on attending the Council Orientation.

City Manager Napier updated Council on the Public Services rate model. He reviewed the status of the sewer fund, the refuse fund, the balefill fund, and the water fund. He explained that the sewer fund will probably need a fee increase in the immediate future in order to cover costs for major improvements and necessary facility upgrades. The water fund is in a healthy state and he explained there may be room to scale back on the rate increases that were recommended in April. Council discussed amending the resolution but decided to keep the resolution for public utility rates as is.

Next, City Manager Napier reviewed the public utilities customer services fees. He explained that the fees are much lower than they need to be and that they have not been raised in more than 30 years. He then reviewed the types of customer service fees, which included water main tap fees, sewer tap fees, and water meters. He stated that the proposed cost change would allow the City to recover the actual cost of each service. The proposed changes would require Council to enact a resolution, and the City would hope to implement the changes at the beginning of next year. Council gave their thumbs up to move this resolution forward for formal consideration. Councilmember Morgan expressed that he would like Council to discuss smart water meters at a later date.

Next, Council considered the proposed changes to the liquor license ordinance as well as two new ordinances: an ordinance regarding overserving an intoxicated individual and another preventing an acting agent of retailer to be intoxicated. The proposed changes will now mirror state law with regard to the demerit system, and will provide legislative oversight for liquor licenses. City Manager Napier explained that City Attorney Henley and Police Chief McPheeters have met with the retail liquor license holders and they have

worked together to form ordinances that meet the needs of the City and the license holders and that they have expressed their support for the proposed ordinance.

Chief McPheeters then explained that he was tasked by Council to replace an inefficient demerit system for liquor licenses, and the proposed ordinances meet that need. He described that Casper has seen an increase in the number of DUIs and these ordinances hopefully help to reverse that trend. He then explained that he does not plan on having police officers patrol the bars to enforce these laws and the intent is to give them more tools should they be dispatched to a bar.

Councilmembers asked about Wyoming's "dram shop" law, and City Attorney Henley stated that these ordinances should not conflict with that law. Councilmembers also asked about taking out the portion of the existing ordinance that prohibits Councilmembers to hold liquor licenses. City Attorney Henley explained that this was found to not be legally effective and in previous case law showed a violation of Wyoming's equality laws. Council discussed working through changes to the ordinance in the work session, but decided to submit any amendments they would propose to staff to then distribute to Councilmembers. They decided to move the liquor ordinances forward to a formal public hearing in January.

Next, Council held a straw poll for Mayor and Vice Mayor for 2019. Council-elect participated in the straw poll and outgoing Council did not participate. Councilmember Walsh was not present but had previously filled out ballots and given them to Fleur Tremel, City Clerk. Ms. Tremel first collected the ballots for Mayor and she and City Attorney Henley counted the votes. Ms. Tremel announced the results of the straw poll for Mayor which indicated a majority of votes for Councilmember Powell. Ms. Tremel then handed out and collected ballots for Vice Mayor, and she and City Attorney Henley counted the votes. She then announced that the person who received the most votes (four votes) for Vice Mayor was Councilmember Johnson. City Attorney Henley stated that the positions of Mayor and Vice Mayor would be formally voted on at the first regular Council meeting in January.

Council then reviewed the grid document outlining upcoming Council meeting agenda items. City Manager Napier noted that the public hearings for the liquor license ordinances and animal care and control ordinance are scheduled for January.

Next, Councilmember Powell gave a legislative update which included information on consensus funding, direct distribution, gaming commission monitoring, public records requests, water bills, and unemployment for seasonal employees.

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 Walsh stated that Buffalo was recommended for the skilled nursing facility.

The work session was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur D. Tremel
City Clerk

Ray Pacheco
Mayor