

COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.
City Hall – Council Chambers

AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Follow-up
2. Cowboy Skills Demo
3. Utility Business Plans
4. Downtown Parking Management – Update on RFP Responses/Process
5. Animal Ordinance Follow-up
6. Amoco Reuse Joint Powers Board By-laws
7. Implementation Options – 2020 Casper Area Wayfinding Master Plan
8. Agenda Review
9. Legislative Review
10. Council Around the Table

Mayor Freel called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Lutz, Powell, Bates, Cathey, Huber, Pacheco, Hopkins, and Mayor Freel. Councilmember Johnson was absent.

Councilmember Bates stated that he attended County Assessor Matt Keating’s informational session, but there was no new information apart from what Council heard at the last work session. He also stated that he asked for the follow up information from that work session with the formulas that are used to calculate the assessments, and this information was never sent.

Next, City Manager Napier introduced representatives from Cowboy Skill Games. The representatives gave a demonstration of their skill games and discussed how their games work and how they are different from random games like slot machines. They also explained that under Wyoming law, after the Wyoming Gaming Commission receives \$1M in net profits, 9% of the future net profits will be distributed to cities and towns where the games are located and 9% will be distributed to schools. They also discussed compliance and how the onus is now on the Wyoming Gaming Commission to ensure compliance with state statutes as opposed to local law enforcement.

Next, City Manager introduced utilities division consultants to review the business plans for the CPU (Casper Public Utilities) and Solid Waste. Joy Swenson of Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. reviewed the business plan for CPU. She stated that they collected survey data from division employees, and assessed that the division is doing very well. She then reviewed areas that were assessed as improvement areas, including customer satisfaction, employee development, and financial liability. She then reviewed the strategic plan to improve on each of these areas which included developing an outreach program and initiating a customer satisfaction measurement strategy; implementing financial viability initiatives; and implementing employee leadership and development initiatives to increase employee retention.

Next, representatives from Wenck Associates Inc., reviewed the Integrated Solid Waste Management and Business Plan. The consultant reviewed the purpose of the plan to meet state

requirements, provide safety measures, and evaluate cost effective services. He discussed the landfill remediation program, the balefill fund, and collection capital and upgrades. He then reviewed programs that may provide cost savings. Council gave their thumbs up to move forward with the implementation process for both of the business plans.

Next, City Attorney Henley discussed the changes to the animal control ordinance and walked through some of the new language. He stated that he would like to discuss the changes here so that formal amendments can be prepared in advance of the regular council meeting. He then introduced Justin Binfet of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to discuss his support of the part of the ordinance that addresses wildlife feeding. Mr. Binfet discussed the harmful consequences of allowing people to feed wildlife, including nuisance issues, human safety concerns, and danger to wildlife and other animals. Metro Animal officers then explained the reasons they supported the varying amendments. They explained that the definition of cruelty should remove the good and wholesome food provisions and be moved to neglect because of enforcement issues. The Metro officers also discussed the hours for allowing tethering and why they wanted to increase the hours, citing that two hours was not enough time to allow people to tether their dogs while they are at work. They recommended ten hours in a twenty-four hour period. They also recommended including a tether length with a minimum of three times the dogs length. City Attorney Henley also discussed amending the language for attacks to include mitigating factors of which dog attacked first. Council discussed these proposed amendments and gave their thumbs up to move the following forward as proposed amendments at the next Council meeting: the definition changes for attack and cruelty, increasing the tether time to ten hours, implementing a minimum tether length of three times the length of the dog, and increasing the maximum car temperature to 70 degrees.

Council also discussed the provision in the ordinance that would prohibit the feeding of feral cats, and Police Chief McPheeters discussed the issues that arise from this. He also explained that he does issue nuisance abatement permits for issues that arise from feral cats and discussed options for trap and release neutering. He stated that these type of programs are very expensive, but can be looked at in the future if a third party group can provide funding. Council also directed staff to add a proposed amendment that would prohibit the feeding of feral dogs.

Next, City Manager Napier introduced Community Development Director Liz Becher to discuss the Downtown Parking Structure RFP. She explained that there were three proposals in response to the RFP, including the Downtown Development Authority, Republic Parking, and Interstate Parking. A Selection Committee was formed to evaluate the responses, which was comprised of staff members and a City Council representative, Vice Mayor Lutz. The proposals were reviewed and scored by the Committee and interviews were conducted with each of the firms. She then explained the scoring process and discussed the benefits, financial and otherwise, for each of the firms. She stated that the Committee had scored Republic Parking highest and would be recommending them as the management firm for the Downtown Parking Structure. Council gave their thumbs up to move forward with a contract with Republic Parking and to bring this contract forward for formal consideration at a future Council meeting.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed a request from the Amoco Reuse Joint Powers Board to change their bylaws to allow for three consecutive terms by their members as opposed to two consecutive terms. The reason for the request was to maintain institutional knowledge and to ensure voluntary interest. Councilmembers discussed the request and some voiced concerns over not allowing for transition of power and diversity by extending terms. The majority of Councilmembers gave their thumbs up to move the bylaw change forward to a regular Council meeting for formal consideration.

Next, Ms. Becher discussed the implementation of the Wayfinding Master Plan, and explained that the implementation is costly and will likely be implemented in a phased approach. Staff may also look into funding from the private sector to fund the project. Council gave their thumbs up to issue an RFP to local companies for fabrication of the wayfinding signs.

Next, Council reviewed the upcoming Council meeting agendas.

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. Council asked about opening Hogadon, and City Manager Napier stated that the subsidy for Hogadon was included in the FY21 budget, and the plan is to open it this year. Council also encouraged people to wear masks.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Steven K. Freel
Mayor