

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

The Lyric

1. Meeting Follow-up
2. 9-8-8 Stickers Follow-up
3. Bar & Grill Liquor License Applicants
4. Business Fire Self-Inspection Program
5. City Inspectors Authority/Oversight of Licensed Contractors
6. Utility Billing Ordinance
7. Agenda Review
8. Legislative Review
9. Council Around the Table

Mayor Pacheco called the work session to order at 4:33 p.m. with the following Councilors present: Bond, Haskins, Jensen, Cathey, Gamroth, Vice Mayor Engebretsen, and Mayor Pacheco. Councilor Pollock was absent.

City Manager Napier asked that the utility billing item on tonight's item be postponed to a later date to allow staff to do a little more work on the details of the item. Council gave their thumbs up to postpone the item.

1. Council Meeting Follow-up

Councilor Bond asked about the gentleman who raised a question regarding the noise ordinance at the last Council meeting. City Manager Napier responded that he will follow-up with the gentleman about his complaints.

City Manager Napier discussed the WAM resolution item that was postponed at last week's meeting. He stated that after listening to Council's feedback, staff amended the real estate transfer tax resolution to include a \$1M threshold caveat. Councilor Cathey and Vice Mayor Engebretsen stated they would be voting no on the item next week due to their opposition to the real estate transfer tax portion of the item. Councilors Gamroth and Pollock stated they were in support of the real estate tax resolution item because it gives municipalities more control and only offers it as an option to those communities that want to implement it. Councilor Gamroth stated he was against the \$1M caveat being added in. Mayor Pacheco stated he was fine with the real estate tax item being included and added that it was unlikely to pass in the legislative session anyway. Councilor Cathey stated he would like to be able to vote for the real estate resolution separate from the other resolutions at next week's meeting. Council also directed staff that they do not want to include the \$1M caveat in the WAM resolution.

2. 988 Stickers Follow-up

City Manager Napier discussed a follow-up item for 988 stickers on City vehicles. He stated that staff looked into this and thought it would be feasible to add these stickers to fire and police vehicles. He explained that this is a federally backed program and is, therefore, not the same as supporting an independent non-profit agency's initiatives. Police Chief McPheeters then discussed

how this is a comprehensive service that will help the City educate the public. He suggested adding the stickers on a trial basis and monitoring the impact and increased awareness that results from it. A police vehicle is currently being outfitted with the sticker. Deputy Fire Chief Speiser stated that his department was also supportive of the stickers. Annie Dundas came forward and stated that these ideas are exactly what she had in mind when she initially brought the initiative to Council. She stated that they are trying to add the stickers to police and fire vehicles in Mills and Evansville as well.

3. Bar & Grill Liquor License Applicants

Next, City Manager Napier discussed the applications the City has received from a request for Bar & Grill Liquor License applications. He stated that the City has received three applications, and there are seven available to apply for in total. He then introduced Fleur Tremel, Chief of Staff/City Clerk, and Carla Mills-Laatsch, Licensing Specialist, to discuss the applications. Ms. Tremel stated that the applications are for the American and Rialto theater buildings as well as Old Town Family Fun. Councilor Gamroth asked if Pete Maxwell, one of the applicants, would like to elaborate on his business ideas and how a liquor license would be utilized. Mr. Maxwell stated that the Rialto and America theaters would be used as concert and comedy club venues. They intend to keep the spirit and history of the buildings in the new designs. Council gave their thumbs up to consider formal issuance of all three of the liquor license applications at a future Council meeting.

4. Business Fire Self-Inspection Program

City Manager Napier introduced Deputy Fire Chief Jack Moore to discuss a possible for business fire self-inspection program. Deputy Chief Moore explained that inspections currently are very laborious for the Fire Department. Councilor Bond asked how this program evolved. Deputy Chief Moore responded that this has been progressing for a few years through research on how to lighten the burden on the Fire Department. Programs like this are used across the nation, and successful programs were found to have the support of the governing body and an ordinance requiring participation in the program as opposed to a voluntary program. The Fire Department would have the ability to designate businesses that are eligible for the program and initiate that contact and provide them with the education and support that they need. Councilor Bond asked about the auditing portion of the program. Deputy Chief Moore responded that the audit would recur on a three-year basis or whatever timeline was set in the ordinance. This would ensure that the annual self-inspections are accurate. These would be provided digitally to the Fire Department; it would become part of that business's official record as part of their fire inspection. Vice Mayor Engebretsen asked which type of businesses would qualify. Deputy Chief Moore responded that it would depend on the fire code classifications. Residential classifications such as dormitories and hotels would not qualify. Business classifications that fall under the possible eligible self-inspection program could include retail stores, storage units, and some industrial buildings. Council gave their thumbs up to staff preparing a draft ordinance for a business self-inspection program.

5. City Inspectors Authority/Oversight of Licensed Contractors

Next, City Manager Napier introduced Justin Scott, Chief Building Official, to review authority and oversight of licensed contractors. Mr. Scott began by explaining that this issue was initially

brought up at a previous work session last October, and in reviewing that discussion, his department and the City Attorney's Office started from scratch in modifying the municipal code to include the direction from Council and input from the contractor community. The drafted changes were applied to Chapter 15.12 of the Municipal Code; the redlined version of those changes is available to view in Council's work session packet. The changes include language in sections pertaining to definitions, board of examiners, license and classifications, licenses and responsibilities, revocations, and suspensions. The changes include probation and disciplinary progression; a simplified licensing process; removal of licensing as a board responsibility; clarification on what requires a license; creation of a handyman license; additions of a Class 2A and Class 2B contractor license; increased liability and responsibility for contractors; the ability for the Community Development Department to penalize license holders who are not fulfilling their responsibilities; a process for filing claims to establish a track record; and the ability for board of appeals members to serve indefinitely. Mr. Scott explained that many of the changes came from direction from City Council as well as feedback from the contractor community. Council gave their thumbs up to move the ordinance changes forward for formal consideration at a regular Council meeting.

6. Agenda Review

Next, Council reviewed the agendas for upcoming Council meetings and work sessions.

7. Legislative Review

City Manager Napier informed Council he had nothing for the legislative review.

8. Council Around the Table

Council went around the table to discuss their respective board and committee meetings as well as matters of public interest.

The work session was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Ray Pacheco
Mayor