

COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.
Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Follow-Up
2. Fireworks Safety
3. Trail Project Options 1%#16
4. Downtown Flags
5. Additional Sheet of Ice at the Rec Center
6. Budget Amendment #3 Review
7. WAM Training Video (Code of Ethics)
8. Agenda Setting
9. Legislative Review
10. Council Around the Table

Mayor Powell called the work session to order at 4:32 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Johnson, Freel, Huber, Hopkins, Walsh, Lutz, Bates and Mayor Powell. Councilmember Pacheco was absent.

Council discussed how the Council comment period worked at the last Council meeting and agreed to continue using the same format for the time being.

City Manager Napier told Council that staff is trying to reach out to individuals from BNSF (Burlington Northern Santa Fe) with regards to the railroad discussion, and would like to invite someone from the company to the work session where the issue is discussed.

City Manager Napier then introduced the proposal for an additional sheet of ice, a discussion requested by Councilmember Freel. Individuals from the Casper Amateur Hockey Club reviewed a proposal for expanding the existing ice arena to include a second sheet of ice. They discussed how all of the user groups are restricted by limited ice time, and there are issues with kids being forced to practice during late hours. The limited ice time has also impacted Casper's ability to attract tournaments. They stated that the ice plant from the Events Center is already being moved to the Recreation Center, and that ice plant can run two sheets of ice. Other equipment is also available to use from the Events Center for a second sheet of ice, including a Zamboni, ice and dashboards. They discussed the economic benefits of having a second sheet of ice, including growth of user groups, off-season activities that the ice could be used for, and increased tournaments and events. This would be the only facility in Wyoming with two sheets of ice, which they predict would increase tournament attractiveness. They predicted a 50% revenue increase with an increased maintenance cost of 35%. They stated that the next step would be an economic feasibility study, which would be funded by the Casper Amateur Hockey Club.

Council gave their thumbs up for the feasibility study, and asked that the results of that study be presented to Council when it is complete.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed the trail options for 1%#16. He stated that Council previously requested the opportunity to look at the capital needs of the trails and any proposed projects. He also discussed that Council recently authorized maintenance funding for the trails, which is a new piece to the funding that the City provides to the Platte River Trails. Angela Emery, Executive Director of the Platte River Trails Trust, then discussed what the proposed projects are for the next four years. The projects included work on trails from Paradise Valley to Robertson Road, Walmart to Fort Caspar Academy, phase 1 of Robertson Road to Whispering Springs, and upgrades to the Yesness Pond trails. She discussed how the projects are focused on repairing, replacing and connecting. She discussed that concrete is sometimes deemed appropriate instead of asphalt to improve longevity of the trail. She also discussed the work that is being done for the Rails to Trails Conservancy. Council gave their thumbs up for formal consideration of the one cent funding to be used for the proposed projects.

Next, Council discussed removing the ban on ground fireworks within city limits. Councilmember Bates presented research on how other communities have handled allowing fireworks and stated that he would like to allow ground fireworks on cement pads with a near water source. Fire Chief Solberg discussed the fire risk that fireworks pose and Council discussed that this is a safety hazard. Council also discussed that fireworks can be sold in stores within City limits because possession is not illegal. Council did not support lifting the fireworks ban.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed putting up 34 downtown flags, a \$3K to \$4K expense. Council gave their thumbs up to put the banners up with the American flag design.

Next, City Manager Napier reviewed the budget amendment. He explained that the amendment has a \$213K impact to the general fund, the largest impact being from the contract with Spectra for running the Casper Events Center. Tom Pitlick, Finance Director, explained other expenses outlined in the amendment, including fleet maintenance costs. Council gave their thumbs up to move the budget amendment forward for formal consideration.

Next, Council watched a Wyoming Association of Municipalities training video about code of ethics and conflict of interest. Council directed staff to add City Attorney Henley's proposal for a code of ethics to a future work session.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed an exception to the Mobile Vendor Parking Permit ordinance for a downtown business that would like to add a day and extend their hours for a vendor for the CNFR (College National Finals Rodeo) week. City Attorney Henley stated that a resolution or amendment to the ordinance would usually need to be made to allow for special circumstances. Council discussed concern over the appearance of favoritism if an exception is granted. City Manager Napier recommended allowing a

variance of the ordinance for this one-time request and directing staff to prepare an amendment to the ordinance to allow future exceptions on a case by case basis. Councilmember Huber abstained from discussion regarding this specific sponsor/vendor. Council gave their thumbs up to allow this one-time exception and to amend the ordinance as discussed. They also discussed whether to allow the same exception to all vendors for the same CNFR week, but decided they would only allow this if a sponsor specifically asked for an exception.

Next, Council added items to the June 25, 2019 work session agenda. Mayor Powell discussed adding an agenda item regarding property tax structure, and Council gave their thumbs up to add this item to the future agenda items list. City Manager Napier discussed the museum donation item and what that discussion would entail. Council also asked that the international codes be made available.

Mayor Powell stated that he will be inviting Council to a barbeque at his house this summer, but City business will not be discussed. He stated that media will also be invited.

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING

A Municipal Corporation

ATTEST:

Fleur D. Tremel

City Clerk

Charles Powell

Mayor