

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Casper City Hall
Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Bar and Grill Presentations
 - Moreno & Moreno, LLC (dba Guadalajara Family Restaurant)
 - Marvin Piel
 - One Two Nine, LLC (dba C85 Branding Iron)
2. Rocky Mountain Franchise Agreement (Wallace Trembath)
3. Consensus Funding (Carter Napier)
4. Communication Strategies (Carter Napier)
5. Legislative Agenda Introduction (Carter Napier)
6. Council Around the Table
7. Executive Session - Litigation

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

City Manager Napier introduced the applicants for the bar and grill liquor licenses. He explained that an RFP was sent out for the six available licenses, and the City received three applications. Those applicants were asked to walk through their proposals tonight and staff would like direction from Council for whether they would like to move forward with each applicant.

City Manager Napier introduced Jose Michael, of Moreno & Moreno, to present first. Mr. Michael stated that his company would like a bar and grill liquor license for Guadalajara restaurant. He explained that many of his customers have requested a bar setting and that there is an existing bar that could be used for that purpose. He added that a larger remodel for a bar expansion would also take place in the future if a license is awarded. He stated that the restaurant would utilize the existing bar for the bar and grill license as soon as possible. Council gave their thumbs up to move forward with formal consideration of a bar and grill liquor license for Moreno & Moreno.

City Manager Napier then introduced Steve Gibson, Operations Manager for the property on 100 North Center Street, to speak on behalf of Marvin Piel. Mr. Gibson explained that the building at this location is currently being remodeled and will have a restaurant, coffee/sandwich shop, and various other businesses. The bottom level would have a bar for the lounge/waiting area for the restaurant and it is for this purpose that the company is applying for the bar and grill license. He stated that until the restaurant is remodeled and ready, the license would be used in the

coffee/sandwich area which is scheduled to open next summer. Council gave their thumbs up to move forward for formal consideration a bar and grill liquor license application for the 100 North Center Street facility.

City Manager Napier then introduced Mr. McBride to speak on behalf of C85 Branding Iron. He explained that a bistro burger restaurant is scheduled to be opened in November. The restaurant had originally planned on using a retail liquor license but would like to instead utilize a bar and grill license and transfer the retail license to another location, most likely a package liquor store on the east side of town. The goal is to open that store by next summer. Council gave their thumbs up to move forward with formal consideration of a bar and grill license for C85 Branding Iron.

Next, City Manager Napier introduced Leslie Blythe of Rocky Mountain Power to present on the Rocky Mountain Power franchise agreement. She highlighted some of the important pieces of the agreement including that it is a 20 year agreement with a 7% franchise fee. She stated that the agreement has also been modernized. City Manager Napier explained that the City has been operating on a 4% franchise fee for many years and in 2013 increased it by 1% to help fund the Economic Development Joint Powers Board. Ms. Blythe stated that the franchise fee in Casper is low compared with other similar communities in the state and the 2% increase could generate more than \$900,000 in revenue for the City which would go to the general fund. She stated that this increased cost would be passed onto the consumer. Councilmember Laird asked questions regarding the power plant, and Ms. Blythe stated that she will email information regarding future plans to Council. Council agreed to move the contract forward for formal consideration in a regular Council meeting.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed the consensus funding program. He stated that it will likely not be funded in the future by the State Legislature, so this is the last opportunity to use the funding for local projects. He explained that entities within respective counties must come to a consensus about how to spend the money, and the other communities have proposed several projects for their towns that will use part of the \$2.1 million allocation. There is \$880,000 remaining from that \$2.1 million for Casper to use for project funding. He then presented a couple of options for Council to consider including replacing the Events Center seating and upgraded tower equipment for the 800 Mhz radio system. He stated that the tower project is a public safety necessity and that he would recommend funding that project at \$200,000 from the consensus funding. The Events Center proposal is estimated to cost \$963,000. Councilmember Morgan asked if the lower bowl of the Events Center could be replaced with new seats as opposed to replacing all of the seats. Mr. Brad Murphy, General Manager of Casper Events Center, stated that he would estimate the cost of metal detectors and replacing the lower bowl and horseshoe seating at \$650,000 to \$700,000 but would need to come back to Council with exact estimates.

Councilmember Powell explained that he would like to see Casper get a bigger chunk of the \$2.1 million because the entire amount was originally allocated to Casper for a conference center and Casper has historically received less than its per capita allocation in order to help out surrounding communities. Casper had waited its turn to receive the consensus funding and is

now only receiving 40% of what was originally allocated to Casper. Councilmember Laird asked if the City could put the money in reserves instead of spending it, and City Manager Napier responded that this could be looked into but would probably be looked down upon and may not be approved by the State because it is not the intention for consensus funding.

Council directed staff to move forward with the lower bowl/horseshoe events center seating and metal detectors and \$200,000 towards the tower project. They also directed staff that they would like to renegotiate the allocations for each entity and negotiate for Casper to receive a bigger cut of those funds. City Manager Napier stated that the smaller towns would be notified that that is Casper's intention.

Next, City Manager Napier described some communications strategies that staff has been developing in relation to how staff and Council communicate with the media and the public. He stated that staff will be sitting down with Councilmembers in an informal setting in order to obtain direction on communication gaps. He then reviewed the guiding beliefs for the organization and emphasized that an informed public is critical and reviewed the timeline of April for implementing the strategies. Council made comments in support of the new communications plan.

Next, City Manager Napier reviewed staff's preparation of issues for the upcoming legislative agenda which include: stormwater utility, construction of the State office building, direct distribution formula, stabilizing funding for municipalities, and extraterritorial jurisdiction. He stated that these are items that staff would like Council to consider and each will be delved into more thoroughly in the future. Councilmember Powell stated that these issues go along with WAM (Wyoming Association of Municipalities) issues for the most part. He added that Council has a lot of influence over these issues at the State level and need to make their voices heard. City Manager Napier stated that Council will need to achieve consensus on each topic when it is discussed in the future, and tonight was only meant as a primer to get Council thinking about the issues.

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 Johnson brought up an issue regarding business owners parking on their land. City Manager Napier stated that he will look into this issue and get in contact with the business owner. Councilmember Morgan brought up issues related to public parking on city-owned land in the downtown area. Council discussed the issue and directed staff to research the topic and add it to a future work session agenda. Councilmember Morgan brought up an issue regarding damage to vehicles on 15th and CY Streets. City Manager Napier stated that he will look into this further. Councilmember Laird stated that an order has still not been filed in the Cheatham case.

At 6:59 p.m., it was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Hopkins, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, to adjourn into executive session to discuss litigation. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur D. Tremel
City Clerk

Bob Hopkins
Mayor Pro Tem