

COUNCIL PRE-MEETING

Tuesday, December 21, 2021 5:15 p.m.
Casper City Hall - Council Chambers

AGENDA

1. Tree Suckers
2. Council Pre-Meeting or Work Session Attendance
3. Sole Source – Irrigation Station Improvements for the Casper Soccer Complex
4. Agenda Review

Mayor Freel began the pre-meeting session at 5:22 p.m. with Councilmembers Cathey, Engebretsen, Gamroth, Johnson, Knell, Pollock, Quest and Mayor Freel in attendance. Absent: Vice Mayor Pacheco.

1. Tree Suckers

City Manager Napier spoke briefly on the issue of tree suckers and shared that neither the City nor the State have any enforceable regulations requiring the trimming or management of them. He said that the difficulties of regulating tree suckers was outlined in a memo for the pre-meeting packet.

Councilmember Knell shared that he had gone on a ride-along with City code enforcement staff and that he better understands the constraints on staff when enforcing nuisance abatement. He said that he would like to gather information, discuss language that would improve the municipal code with the City Attorney, and then discuss the matter at a work session.

Councilmember Gamroth supported Councilmember Knell's suggested. He also asked if tree suckers have been a common concern, because if it is an isolated case it might be easier to work directly with those involved rather than changing the municipal code. Mayor Freel agreed that a single instance does not warrant an ordinance change. City Manager Napier said he was unsure how often tree suckers have been an issue.

Councilmembers provided a thumbs up to bringing the topic forward to a work session.

2. Council Pre-Meeting or Work Session Attendance

City Manager Napier referenced the memo from the pre-meeting packet regarding the guidelines for Council attendance at pre-meetings and work sessions and asked for further information from staff. City Attorney Henley described the pre-meeting session that initiated the discussion of Council attendance issues and suggested that guidelines could be established so there would be clear direction if the issue comes up again. He described some options, such as waiting for more members to arrive at the meeting, listening to presenters but delay discussion until more members arrive, the option of bringing a topic back for discussion if attendance was low, etc. He said that staff did not have any specific direction but a draft for formal consideration could be created.

Council member Johnson suggested discussing the topic at a work session. Councilmember Knell agreed.

Councilmember Pollock said that the suggestions in the memo would allow some business, such as information gathering, to continue and that an item can be discussed at a later time if needed, and that she is comfortable with the guidelines described in the memo.

Councilmember Knell suggested it might be redundant to reconsider items if numbers aren't sufficient. Councilmember Gamroth said he agreed with both points.

Councilmember Pollock said that Councilmembers should follow-up and be informed of information that they missed when they are absent. She suggested that these guidelines be developed so that the Mayor and Vice Mayor have discretion if a variance is needed, and the option to revisit a topic is possible should there be interest.

Councilmember Cathey said Councilmembers have the responsibility to attend meetings and to notify leadership if they will be unable to attend. He also said that the Mayor and Vice Mayor should have some say whether absences are excusable.

Councilmember Knell suggested that Councilmembers have the opportunity to review meeting videos if they are absent and that he supports the ideas presented in the memo as well as Councilmember Pollock's suggestion for Mayor and Vice Mayor discretion. He also said he feels this does not need to be discussed at a work session.

Councilmember Johnson said that he only suggested a work session so that a clear policy could be established but that if Council is in agreement that would not be needed.

Councilmember Gamroth asked if adding a Mayor/Vice Mayor discretion clause would mean that the matter be presented at a work session.

City Manager Napier said that staff could draft a formal policy which would then be brought forward at a work session. Councilmembers supported this action.

3. Sole Source – Irrigation Station Improvements for the Casper Soccer Complex

City Manager Napier said that this project is critical for the soccer complex and that it has been challenging to get it prepared for authorization. He said it is a sole-source project and that the funding is in place. He requested that staff provide more information on the need for the sole-source request.

Andrew Beamer, Public Services Director, described the project and explained how much money is saved by investing in the irrigation of the area compared to the cost of using treated water.

Councilmember Cathey asked if anyone locally could meet the needs of the contract. Mr. Beamer said the pump station has specific requirements which could not be met locally and that oil field companies have not bid on any projects like this one.

Councilmember Knell asked about the funding. City Manager Napier said all the monies for the project are on-hand.

Councilmember Gamroth asked about the pump that was recently installed at the Golf Course. Mr. Beamer said that the pump system is working well and staff is excited about the functions of the system.

Mayor Freel asked if any action is needed. City Manager Napier said that this item will be prepared for approval at a Council meeting, unless there are questions or concerns.

Councilmember Knell asked when the project will be completed. Mr. Beamer said they hope to have the system in place prior to the irrigation season.

4. Agenda Review

City Manager Napier said that staff will not be seeking approval or holding a public hearing regarding the City-owned land involved in the North Platte River Park No. 2 Subdivision. He shared that this matter could be discussed at a work session in the near future, if Council so desires.

Mayor Freel adjourned the pre-meeting at 5:51 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Steven K. Freel
Mayor