

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.
City Hall – Council Chambers

AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Follow-up
2. College National Finals Rodeo Discussion
3. Events Center Update & Budget
4. Finance Policies – Part 2
5. Residential Recycling Program
6. Agenda Review
7. Legislative Review
8. Council Around the Table

Mayor Freel called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. with Vice Mayor Lutz and Mayor Freel present and the following Councilmembers videoconferencing in: Pacheco, Cathey, Bates, Huber, Powell, Hopkins, and Johnson.

Councilmember Hopkins and Vice Mayor Lutz discussed the meeting they held with the liquor dealers along with the City Attorney regarding changes to the liquor ordinance. Council discussed options for tabling the agenda item at the next Council meeting or having the first reading and then making changes as necessary. They asked to be informed of the discussions from the next meeting with the liquor dealers.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed the status of the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) contract. The current draft language for the contract would extend the contract 5 years and would cost an additional amount of money increasing incrementally over 5 years, with the total exposure increasing to \$30K in year five. The funding provided to Spectra would also increase \$500 per year, and the waived fees at the Events Center would total \$100K. There would also be a \$10K fee that would be paid to VisitCasper to promote the event, which is shared with the County, and has not actually been paid over the last couple of years. The other involved entities, including the County, would also need to approve this contract. Council gave their thumbs up to move the contract forward for formal consideration at a regular Council meeting.

Next, City Manager Napier introduced Tim Cortez, Parks & Recreation Director, to give an update on the Events Center and discuss the budget. Mr. Cortez explained that there has been a sharp downturn to what would have been a profitable year at the Events Center due to COVID-19. The seats in the lower bowl were replaced and attendance had seen an increase. March events were cancelled due to the pandemic, which is usually the biggest revenue month for the Events Center. As a result of the pandemic, Spectra furloughed many employees, which decreased the City's subsidy. The current estimate for the subsidy is \$994K, but it was estimated to be \$860K before the pandemic. Mr. Cortez stated that many of the events were rescheduled, so there is an opportunity to make up some of the lost revenue next year. The City and Spectra are also in the process of getting a sponsorship for naming rights for the building.

Next, City Manager Napier introduced Tom Pitlick, Finance Director, to discuss the follow-up to a previous finance policies discussion regarding the perpetual care fund. Mr. Pitlick explained that the current earnings are \$500K annually on the \$30M corpus amount. He then discussed that questions arose from Council at previous meetings about if the money could be used for other purposes other than perpetual care of one percent facilities. He stated that using that money for other purposes would take it out of its current restricted status in the City's financials which helps when making funding requests such as grants. There are also statutes that allow the City to maintain reserves for very specific purposes, but the City cannot save money as reserves for use on things like capital projects. Council then discussed loans from the fund to other agencies. They discussed that they would like to change the language so loans are only allowed when the interest rate on the loan is higher than the interest that would be accrued otherwise and defining a percentage of the corpus that can be used for loans. Council gave their thumbs up to revise the language on the loan portion of the policy to allow loans to happen with a staff-recommended percentage of the corpus amount.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed the residential recycling program. He discussed the predicament that the City is in regarding tolerance for anything above 0% contamination in recyclables. With the current program, it is very difficult to get 0% contamination and therefore very difficult to find a broker who will buy the recyclables. This means that a large percentage of the recyclables end up in the land fill. The recycling depots that are currently in place make 0% contamination even more difficult, because there is nothing to monitor what is going into each of the bins. Cindy Langston, Solid Waste Supervisor, then explained contamination to Council and went through some options to changing the recycling program, which included getting rid of the depots, opening a manned material recovery facility (MRF), and optional curbside pickup. She explained the differences in cost of the different combinations of options. Council directed staff to put a survey portal up on the City's website for citizens to vote on which option they would like to pursue with regard to the recycling program. They asked that education on the contamination and cost also be part of the survey.

Next, Council reviewed the agendas for the May 5, 2020 regular Council meeting and for the May 12, 2020 work session. City Manager Napier stated that a different approach to capital will be discussed at that work session in response to the decline in revenue due to the pandemic.

City Manager Napier discussed proposed language for two WAM resolutions regarding home rule and a 911 surcharge.

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.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Steven K. Freel
Mayor