

**COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.  
City Hall – Council Chambers

AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Follow-up
2. Coates Road LAD
3. Massage Therapy Discussion
4. Financial Administration Guideline Policy Review
5. Agenda Review
6. Legislative Review
7. Council Around the Table

Mayor Freel called the work session to order at 4:30 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Lutz, Hopkins, Cathey, Huber, Bates, and Mayor Freel. Councilmembers Pacheco, Powell and Johnson were absent.

City Manager Napier passed out a proposed amendment for the animal care and control ordinance that addresses some of the concerns discussed at prior Council meetings, including language on tethering. Councilmember Huber pointed out that there is nothing in our current ordinance that stops people from trapping animals on their own.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed a request from citizens along Coates Road to form an LAD to pave the dirt road. The proposal includes a quarter mile of road and would cost the City \$66K, which is a one-third of the total cost. Natrona County has already agreed to pay a third of the cost, and the homeowners whose homes front Coates Road would split the remaining \$66K in cost. The ten properties who have frontage to Coates Road would be allowed to pay their respective amounts of the \$66K over a ten year period at a low interest rate to the City. The project would not include installation of curb and gutter, and Natrona County has agreed to continue to plow the street. The City would also ensure that at least half of the ten homeowners agree to the LAD before proceeding. Council gave their thumbs up to move forward with the project.

Next, Council discussed an ordinance regarding massage therapy. City Attorney Henley explained that the proposal would include licensing and permitting massage therapists as well as massage therapy facilities. The Casper Police Department would be responsible for background checks and also doing the research of legitimate schools for massage therapy and the certification process. The Casper-Natrona County Health Department would be responsible for inspecting the facilities to ensure that they meet health and fire safety standards. The proposal also addresses hours of operation from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. He also stated that there were a couple of things not included yet in the proposal but should be discussed. These items included grandfathering of businesses as well as breast massage for mastectomy patients. He also stated that staff has been in discussions for the potential to implement an ordinance that addresses blood borne pathogens at tattoo parlors, cosmetology facilities, and dermatology facilities, as this has been a concern of Dr. Dowell's from the Health Department. He stated that staff would like the ordinance applied County-wide in order to provide a uniform standard.

City Attorney Henley then introduced Eric Nelson, Natrona County Attorney, and Anna Kinder, Casper-Natrona County Health Department Director, to discuss the County's perspective on the ordinance. Mr. Nelson began by explaining that he has concerns over the County being responsible for license-checking, but supported implementing a uniform regulation for massage therapy. Ms. Kinder also voiced concerns over having the Health Department regulate licensing, and stated that she felt their role would be to inspect facilities for safety concerns, which would include things like cleanliness and sanitation. She stated that the same concerns would apply to the blood borne pathogen ordinance. She stated that they would need a way to enforce the health aspects of the ordinance and would need rules and an enforcement strategy. She also stated that they would need to hire additional staff to do the health and safety inspections.

Mayor Freel then introduced Traci Aguilar, of Peak Performance Massage Therapy, to discuss the need of the ordinance from a massage therapist's perspective. Ms. Aguilar stated that Wyoming is one of only two states that does not require massage therapists to be certified or licensed which welcomes unethical establishments to operate under the guise of massage therapy. She discussed the dangers to clients who may not realize they are receiving a massage from someone who has not been properly trained and certified.

Mayor Freel then discussed how these illegitimate businesses have become a problem in Casper and Natrona County. He stated that there are several businesses currently that state they are massage therapy facilities but operate unethical establishments. He discussed why this is harmful to the Police Department, who has to spend time and resources on prostitution sting operations, and harmful to legitimate massage therapists and massage businesses. He also discussed allowing grandfathered businesses to continue operating as long as they are working towards meeting the licensure requirements. Councilmember Cathey stated that he wants to ensure that the County and other surrounding communities are all on the same page so that Casper is not pushing these illegitimate businesses to these other communities. Councilmember Huber discussed that these illegitimate businesses are often times involved in sex trafficking and the employees are victims who are living and working in inhumane conditions. He stated that this needs to be dealt with in a timely fashion. Vice Mayor Lutz discussed honoring state certifications from nearby states when considering Casper and Natrona County licenses and certifications. She also discussed listing the licensed therapists and facilities on the City's website. She recommended that the blood borne pathogen issue be dealt with separately, and Council agreed that this would be the best way to deal with this. The majority of present Councilmembers gave their thumbs up to move forward with the massage therapy ordinance and directed staff to work with the County on this ordinance.

Next, Tom Pitlick, Finance Director, discussed financial administration guidelines, specifically with regards to underwriting loans for partner agencies from special Council designated funds, including the Perpetual Care Fund, the Revolving Land Fund, and the Opportunity Fund. He stated that the guidelines suggest that loans should not exceed 20% of the corpus amount, should not have a loan term greater than ten years, and the interest rate should not be less than the current United States prime rate. Council gave their thumbs up for these guidelines, and also gave their thumbs up to move all of the financial guideline policies forward for formal approval.

Next, Council reviewed the agenda for the upcoming regular Council meeting on August 18, 2020. City Manager addressed a question about one of the upcoming resolutions regarding right-of-ways.

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 5:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING  
A Municipal Corporation

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Fleur Tremel  
City Clerk

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Steven K. Freel  
Mayor