

COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.
City Hall – Council Chambers

AGENDA

1. Litter Control
2. Open Container Area
3. Council Meeting Follow-up
4. Draft Budget Distribution
5. Downtown Parking Capital & Operations
6. Recycling Options
7. Capital Budget Review
8. Social Service Agencies Discussion
9. Agenda Review
10. Legislative Review
11. Council Around the Table

Mayor Freel called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. with Vice Mayor Lutz and Mayor Freel present and Councilmembers Johnson, Pacheco, Huber, Bates, Powell, Hopkins, and Cathey videoconferencing into the meeting.

City Manager Napier began by discussing litter control, specifically the proposed language in the litter control ordinance that addresses covering trash bins on construction sites. The language discussed last week described the owner being responsible versus simply requiring covers, which was the language in the proposed ordinance. Council had asked that staff research this proposed language and its implications on enforcement efforts. City Manager Napier then introduced Liz Becher, Community Development Director, to discuss the follow-up research including issues with the types of trailers, responsibility for litter, and bagged construction debris in containers. She explained that the covered and netted down containers would allow for easy enforcement by code enforcement officers and stated that the verbiage as is would allow for easier enforcement. These recommendations included input from the Contractors and Licensing Board. Council directed staff to add the amendment back in that would require covers, such as netting or tarps, that would prevent windblown litter, and remove the references to 8.32 in the ordinance. Ms. Becher stated that illustrations of acceptable covers could also be provided within the code.

Next, City Manager Napier introduced Police Chief McPheeters to walk Council through some ideas related to the open container policy. Chief McPheeters explained that staff has researched other communities that have district areas that allow open containers similar to what Casper is considering. He explained that there are concerns related to liquor licenses, because retail licenses would allow for this, while restaurant licenses and other businesses without a retail liquor license would need a special permit that is already in place to allow for this. He then discussed proposed dates and hours, which consisted of Friday and Saturday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to midnight from the Friday before Memorial Day to Labor Day. Other weekdays could be considered based on popular consent of participating retailers. He also proposed a color coded wristband system that

would allow quick identification of individuals over 21 years of age and branded plastic cups for use in the open container area. He also suggested increasing the police presence over these hours to help mitigate violence and vandalism.

Chief McPheeters then reviewed the different options for the open container area, and showed maps of each option. Option 1 was a blocked area that excluded some of the restaurants, Option 2 excluded the alleys and parking areas, and Option 3 was a larger blocked area that included an area for food trucks. Council discussed the options and gave their thumbs up to move forward with Option 3. Councilmember Hopkins reviewed some proposed amendments which included hand stamps, credit cards only, and TIPS training requirements. City Attorney Henley then discussed that the City would have similar insurance for liability that is always in place. The individual liquor dealers would need to discuss additional liability insurance with their attorneys and insurers if they believe it is necessary. Council discussed the added cost for the additional police presence as well. They then gave their thumbs up to move forward with the proposal for an open container area.

Council discussed the Saturday night cruise event, and Chief McPheeters stated that it will probably be an ongoing event that will require added police presence.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed the preliminary budget document and explained that the distribution of this is required by state statute. He stated that this is not the actual budget document but will provide a brief insight into what the budget will look like for next week's budget discussion.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed improvements to the downtown parking garage based on prior conversations with Council and discussions with the Downtown Development Authority. The improvements include security cameras, added light bulbs, an access control equipment system, and signage to structure. The total cost of the upgrades is \$90K which can be covered by the parking reserve fund that is in place for parking structure upgrades. Council gave their thumbs up to move forward with the upgrades.

Next, Council received an update about the community survey regarding recycling options. City Manager Napier stated that the City had received 1,100 responses so far and the vast majority of respondents indicated that they would prefer to maintain the recycling depots and open the MRF to enable 0% contamination. The suggested rate increase to accommodate this would be a rate increase of \$1.70 per household. The survey is open until Friday, and after all responses are compiled, Council will make a decision on how to proceed.

Next, Council reviewed the updated proposed capital budget that accounts for the significantly reduced projected 1%#16 tax revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic and offers new direction with a reduced capital agenda for FY21. The new proposal includes a new way to apply funds which would create capital agendas based on monies actually collected as opposed to a projected budget. In order to implement this strategy, FY21 would need to be a transition year with a much shorter capital agenda with \$16M of expenditures as opposed to \$30-\$50M in previous years. The capital projects for the coming year would only include those projects that cannot wait and is driven by Council priorities. These projects include fire engine #3, Poplar/1st St enhancements, Industrial Ave, and the Goodstein Parking lot. Other projects will be put on hold, including the

City Hall remodel (not including the design piece that has already been contracted). Staff is also proposing that some capital be used for a sprinkler system in the golf clubhouse with the rest of the funds coming from the golf fund reserves.

City Manager Napier then discussed the impact of the reduced 1%#16 funds on social service agency funding. He stated that staff is proposing using the cash on hand model for these projects as well, as opposed to using projections, and also asking the social service agencies to take a 20% reduction in their funding. If tax revenues were to increase, the agencies would see that reduction compensated and they would be made whole by the end of the four year cycle. Council gave a thumbs up to move forward with the proposed 20% reduction, and City Manager Napier stated that letters will be sent out to each of the agencies. He also discussed other agencies that are funded through the City, including Advance Casper, Health Department, and UW Extension, and stated that reductions in their funding are also being discussed and considered.

Next, Council reviewed the agenda for the May 19, 2020 regular Council meeting and discussed the special budget session scheduled for next week.

City Manager Napier stated that it does not look like the City will receive any reimbursement from the State from pandemic related federal assistance. He also stated that staff will forward a link to Councilmembers to listen to upcoming legislative meetings.

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 7:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Steven K. Freel
Mayor