

COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
City Hall - Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Follow-up
 - Liquor Licenses
2. LGBTQ Advisory Committee - Update
3. I-25 Enhancement Funds
4. Agenda Review
5. Legislative Review
6. Council Around the Table

Mayor Freel called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Pollock, Cathey, Knell, Lutz, Engebretsen, Vice Mayor Pacheco and Mayor Freel. Councilmember Gamroth joined the meeting via GoToMeeting. Councilmember Johnson was absent.

City Manager Napier began by stating that in light of the current bar and grill liquor license situation, where there are three applicants for two licenses, staff has asked for the State of Wyoming Liquor Division to explain the differences between bar and grill and restaurant liquor licenses. He then introduced the following staff from the State of Wyoming Liquor Division to present on the subject: Kelly Hunt, Compliance Agent, Jason Allen, Compliance Manager, and Tom Montoya, Administrator. Mr. Hunt explained how the two different licenses differ from one another. He stated that the only difference is that a bar and grill license allows for a bar and lounge area where a server can pour liquor directly in front of the client, whereas a restaurant license requires the customer to be served and does not allow for a bar/lounge area. There is also a difference in fees and bar and grill licenses are limited by population. A dispensing room is no longer required for restaurant licenses. Councilmember Knell stated that one of the applicants, Wyoming Downs, seemed more appropriate for a restaurant license versus a bar and grill license. Mr. Hunt stated that most of the Wyoming Downs locations in Wyoming have full retail licenses. He stated that the legislature took out a lot of the requirements to allow more flexibility with a restaurant license, but they still have the 60% food sale requirement. City Manager Napier asked if the number of bar and grill licenses will change any time soon, and Mr. Hun responded that he did not think this would be adjusted as it was adjusted fairly recently. Councilmember Gamroth asked what the formulas for the number of licenses per jurisdiction are based on. Mr. Hunt stated that the number of licenses for different jurisdictions are based on a population formula set by state statute. He stated that it is up to the jurisdictions which businesses they issue those licenses to and how many of their licenses are issued at any given time.

Next, City Manager Napier introduced members of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee to update Council on their activities. Darrell Wagner, Chairman of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee, passed out a copy of the Committee's presentation for Council. He reviewed the history of City legislation addressing discrimination and the history of the formation of the Committee. He then discussed bullying and collaboration with the Natrona County School District and Casper College.

He introduced Jill Felbeck-Jones, member of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee, to discuss the Committee's involvement in the Casper Pride event and feedback that the Committee received from members of the LGBTQ community. Shannon O'Quinn, member of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee, then discussed one of the recommendations for Council from the Committee, which consisted of creating a non-discrimination ordinance in order to provide safety and security for members of the LGBTQ community. She then introduced Kody Allen-Sambrano, co-chair of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee, to discuss the Casper Safe Place program. He explained what the program is and that it would be a collaboration with businesses and the Police Department to help ensure reporting of crimes and improving relationships and trust between marginalized groups and the Police Department and community.

Vice Mayor Pacheco, Mayor Freel, Councilmember Gamroth and Councilmember Pollock expressed their support for the Committee and applauded their hard work. They each discussed their support for establishing a hate crimes bill in Wyoming and beginning those efforts in the City of Casper. Councilmember Gamroth asked what consequences would be recommended for the ordinances. The Committee members stated that they would need to research consequences that do and do not work.

Councilmember Cathey questioned whether there should be legislation targeted at hate crimes. Councilmember Pollock explained how hate crimes differ from other types of crimes. Councilmember Knell stated he would like to find solutions that are amenable to all citizens and not just the LGBTQ or other marginalized communities. Councilmember Engebretsen spoke about concerns she has with restrooms being used by members of the opposite sex. Councilmember Lutz called point of order to get Council back on the topic of the proposals that were presented by the Committee.

Mayor Freel asked what the next steps are to implement the Safe Place program. City Manager Napier stated that to establish this program staff would need to do more research and visit with stakeholders before bringing forward a resolution that would implement that program. Councilmember Pollock requested that Council consider an ordinance to address discrimination. City Manager Napier suggested that staff, Council and the Committee work through a draft ordinance through the work session process before bringing it to a regular Council meeting. The majority of Councilmembers gave their thumbs up to begin the draft ordinance process and to begin the process of a resolution to implement a Safe Place program in Casper. Councilmember Knell asked if he could be invited to the LGBTQ Advisory meetings, and they responded that they will send him an invitation.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed the interstate interface project. He stated that WYDOT (Wyoming Department of Transportation) is planning to make a large investment in the I-25 corridor from Poplar Street to East Yellowstone Hwy. There will be dollars available for context-sensitive amenities and the City will have the opportunity to share in an investment with the State for features of those amenities. There is \$800K available for investment in this project over two phases. The first phase is Poplar to McKinley in 2023 and phase 2 will be McKinley to East Yellowstone in 2025. Some funds will need to be spent on design and Council will also need to consider if there are amenities above the \$800K that they would like to add to the project. In order

to receive these funds, the City will need to enter into a cooperative agreement with the State. City Manager Napier explained the City has already set aside one cent funds for the Center Street underpass project, and some of these funds could be used for the design portion of the interface project as well. He then introduced Andrew Beamer, Public Services Director, to elaborate on the projects and funding. Mr. Beamer explained that WYDOT will charge 10% of the construction cost to oversee the improvements and an additional 11% to account for overhead administering the project. Due to these additional costs, the City would need to either come up with \$88K for these administration costs to receive the \$400K first phase allocation or reduce the amount received to \$325K to allow for the extra cost to be covered by the \$400K allocation. Mr. Beamer stated that he would prefer to utilize some of the funds allocated to the Center Street underpass improvements towards the design costs of these enhancements and the design of the Center Street project. He stated that it would make sense to make these two projects synergistic in their design. He stated that these design costs would take away from the construction costs that have been allocated to the Center Street project. The estimate would be \$75K-\$80K for the entire cost of the design portion of project. Council directed staff to move forward with the cooperative agreement for the \$325K amount so that the cost would be entirely covered, and they directed staff to utilize the money set aside for the underpass to cover the design costs. Mr. Beamer stated that the agreement can be amended to add additional enhancements if Council sees fit in the future.

Next, Council reviewed agendas for upcoming Council meetings and work sessions. He stated that there will be a primer for the Back Nine Addition in the pre-meeting next week. He stated that Council will need to decide whether to postpone the decision on the bar and grill licenses next week to discuss those licenses further in a work session.

Next, Council went around the table to discuss their respective board and committee meetings as well as other matters of public interest. Councilmember Engebretsen discussed a speed issue on Forrest Drive and 8th Street and air conditioning at the Senior Center. Mayor Freel asked if there could be a discussion with lessees of responsibilities for ball field maintenance. He also discussed hate crime legislation in Wyoming.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Steven K. Freel
Mayor