

COUNCIL WORK SESSION – July 23, 2013

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers with the following members present: Councilmen Meyer, Goodenough, Bertoglio, Hopkins, Powell and Cathey. Absent: Councilmen Hedquist and Sandoval.

The first item on the agenda was a formal presentation by the consultants on the Hogadon Master Plan. Their discussion included assessments and recommendations on Services, Marketing, Alternative Uses, Snow Making, Lifts and Grooming, Buildings & Staffing. The focus was on the importance of securing as much water as possible to support the snow making process, expanding the uses of the site and the facilities to include summer programs, enhance the beginning skier's experience and improve the overall experience for all of the users. The costs which were tied to the Plan totaled \$6.5 Million of capital improvements for Phase I and an increase in operating costs of \$400,000 per year. Phase II recommendations were estimated to cost \$5.1 million and were identified as lower priority investments.

Councilman Hedquist joined the meeting at 4:30 p.m. and Councilman Sandoval joined the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Council had several questions regarding the assumptions and the viability of the ski area without a significant investment in capital improvements and additional operational subsidy. The consultant stressed the importance of keeping the public involved with Hogadon and encouraged Council to consider implementation of the plan. The City Manager asked Council to take some time to review the Master Plan document and noted that another work session will be scheduled at a future date to discuss the next steps.

At 5:20 p.m. the Mayor adjourned the meeting to the Council Meeting Room.

The meeting was reconvened at 5:30 p.m. and the next item on the agenda was a presentation by Lisa Ogden, District Manager, for the Natrona County Soil Conservation District. She reviewed the funding model for this District which includes contributions from the City of Casper, Natrona County and Grants from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. Most of the work being done by the District at this time deals with water quality. There is a significant effort being made to remove the North Platte River as it flows through Natrona County from the impaired waterway listing with DEQ. Ms. Ogden asked the Council to consider a multi-year contract for the District to help with the ongoing funding of the work which relies heavily on the local funds to match grant funding.

The final presentation was from Metro Animal Control by Police Chief Chris Walsh and Metro Manager Tory Cutrell. The first ordinance provided for bees and chickens in the City limits. These are not currently allowed. After a lengthy discussion Council determined that there was not a majority of members interested in moving this forward so the ordinance will not be put on a future Council Meeting. Councilmembers supporting the ordinance included Goodenough, Sandoval, Powell and Meyer. Those opposed were Hopkins, Cathey, Hedquist, Bertoglio and Mayor Schlager.

The next ordinance changes proposed were dealing with the tethering of animals. Several specific restrictions were included in the proposal, and Council agreed to move this forward. An ordinance to amend the fees, currently charged for adoption and boarding of animals, was also discussed and moved forward by Council.

The final proposal was a result of a request from Dr. Schwahn and Dr. Grey, who are local veterinarians who have secured a grant to support a trap, neuter and release program for feral cats in Casper. The program will help to address the increasing number of feral cats in Natrona County with a public education program, a concentrated trapping program (with property owner's permission) and a release of cats back to their communal surroundings in the hope that the population will get smaller and the nuisance behaviors of unaltered cats will lessen. Some ordinance changes will be required to permit the program to go forward in the City of Casper, and Council indicated their support for this proposal.

City Manager Patterson reminded the Council of the Friday morning Work Session at 7:00 a.m. on July 26th.

At 7:20 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.