

COUNCIL WORK SESSION
March 12, 2013

MINUTES

Casper City Council met in work session at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 12, 2013. Present: Councilmen Goodenough, Cathey, Hopkins, Meyer, Powell, Hedquist, Sandoval and Mayor Schlager. Absent: Councilman Bertoglio.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation by Wyoming State Representative Bunky Loucks, regarding the adoption of an ordinance which would permit bee-keeping in the City limits. Council members were receptive to the suggestion, but indicated that there needed to be some additional research done on the impact of increasing the number of bees in a community when certain individuals in the population are allergic to bee stings. They suggested that contact be made with the communities who have adopted a bee ordinance to see what their experience has been.

The second item was a presentation from Pete Meyers, Assistant to the City Manager, regarding the second round of Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Community Promotions applications. A total of 4 applications have been received for funding totaling \$10,120. Council indicated that they wanted to take time to review the applications and submit their votes as provided in the current procedures for Community Promotions. The Mayor asked that consideration be given in the future to looking at the process and determining whether changes should be made.

Councilman Bertoglio joined the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Casper Police Chief Chris Walsh and Casper Police Captain Mark Trimble presented the recommendations for replacement of the Enhanced 911 telephone system and establishing an alternate dispatch center at Casper Fire-EMS Station No. 3. Council indicated their support for moving forward with these projects.

Mayor Schlager introduced the discussion of proposed amendments to the ordinance pertaining to smoking in public places.

Councilman Bob Hopkins presented his proposals for amending the ordinance, based on suggestions from the previous Council discussions.

The City Attorney asked for clarification of the proposed changes in order to make certain that language is used which is consistent with other sections of the ordinance. The sections which were included in the proposed amendments would exempt taverns, lounges and bars; health care facilities; non-public areas in private businesses; private clubs; and, work areas where the employees are all smokers.

The proposal to exempt taxis was not supported.

Councilman Bertoglio asked that language be added that would require signs to be placed in a visible area which indicated that a person was entering a smoking area, and they should continue at their own risk. He requested that the ordinance would make it clear that no one under 21 would be allowed in a smoking area. He also asked the City Attorney to consider whether the proposed exemptions could be linked to the current liquor license designations.

Councilman Sandoval requested that consideration be given to reducing the penalty provisions to make it possible for the penalty for a first time offender to be similar to a parking violation. The majority of the Council members determined that they would prefer to leave the penalty provision as it is, in order to allow the judge the discretion in allocating fines up to \$750.

Each Council member explained their position on the ordinance.

After additional discussion regarding repeal versus amendments to the ordinance, Council members determined that they would prefer to see the amendments brought forward for a formal vote, and if defeated, the option of repealing the entire ordinance could be brought back at that time.

City Attorney Luben indicated that he would bring the amendments to a future work session for consideration prior to placing them on a regular Council meeting agenda, in order to make certain that he has addressed the issues raised by the Council.

Councilman Powell reminded the group that the Annual Meth Conference was scheduled for April 24-26, 2013, and encouraged everyone to consider attending.

Councilman Hopkins asked that consideration be given to providing WiFi at the Casper Events Center.

City Manager Patterson reminded Council of the upcoming "Coffee Talk" for local developers and contractors which will be held in the Council Chambers on Monday, March 28, 2013, at 7:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the work session at 7:00 p.m.