

COUNCIL WORK SESSION – Tuesday, April 22, 2014

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. with the following members present: Councilmen Goodenough, Hopkins, Powell, Schlager, Sandoval, and Cathey. Absent: Councilmen Hedquist and Bertoglio.

The first item on the agenda was a discussion regarding the proposed hearing procedure for the April 29, 2014 informal hearing. Councilman Goodenough suggested that the hearing be guided by Roberts Rules of Order. Based on a recommendation from their attorney, Judy Studer, a majority of the Council decided that they preferred the more flexible guidelines suggested in the outline from Council leadership. Councilman Hopkins was selected to serve as Hearing Officer and he noted that it was his intent to guide the conduct of the hearing to give the attorneys and the witnesses time to provide their statements for the record. He also noted that the public needs to be given warning that some of the testimony may include foul language which was used at the time so that they make a judgment whether they want to listen to the statements.

City Manager Patterson also informed the Council that the City's attorney was recommending that the City step back from the proposed arbitration on the 4 contracts outstanding with Hedquist Construction. The attorneys for the other side wanted to limit the issues which could be included in the arbitration and reserve some of the concerns for future litigation. The Council was also informed that the attorneys representing Mr. Hedquist were given the opportunity to comment on the proposed hearing procedures but did not return her call.

Doug Barrett, Building Division Manager, was asked to discuss the proposed updates to the National Electrical Code. Most of the changes deal with the requirement to have GFCI breakers in every room and arc fault protection in the kitchen and laundry areas. The cost of the new requirements is estimated to be \$300 to \$400 on the price of a new home. These requirements would not be required for existing construction unless the owner was remodeling the area covered by the changes.

Liz Becher, Community Development Director, presented the CDBG Annual Action Plan as proposed for 2014-2015. She outlined the changes in the programs based on the allocation from HUD of \$264,000. The plan has been provided to agencies and organizations in the community as part of the 30 day review period. Council will vote on the plan at their regular meeting on May 6, 2014.

Liz Becher introduced Josh Bake to present the proposal for an amendment to the form-based code currently in place in the Old Yellowstone District. The amendment would bring the off-street parking requirements for the OYD in line with the requirements currently in place for the DDA District. Since the OYD form based code is more restrictive this action would open up additional opportunities for redevelopment. Council supported bringing this proposal forward to the Planning and Zoning Commission for their consideration and recommendation.

Liz Becher introduced Dennis Bay from the School District to present the request from the Principal at Grant Elementary School to close Oakcrest in front of the school from 7:15 to 8:15 in the morning in addition to the afternoon closure from 3:30 to 4:30 in the afternoon. Dennis

introduced the Grant School Principal, Shawna Smith, who noted that the suggestion to put the closure in place for mornings came from her students as well as from parents. The change can be made through a Memorandum of Understanding with the School District and does not require an ordinance change. Dennis indicated that the School District will work with the parents and the neighborhood to make sure that everyone is aware of the proposed change. Council supported this request as it would provide a safer environment for children at the school.

Liz Becher introduced Andrew Nelson to present the proposed grant submission to the United States Department of Transportation for TIGER Funds to support the reconstruction of Midwest Avenue from Poplar Street to Center Street. Andrew noted that this is the third time that we have applied for this funding. The request is in the amount of \$10.3 million to support improvements to the transportation system and livability of Casper residents. Council supported submitting the application.

David Hill, Public Utilities Superintendent, introduced Bruce Martin, Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager and presented a report on the 10 year capital improvement plan for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plan represents \$29,431,440 in investment which will result in improved water quality and capacity for treatment at the facility. Of particular interest to the Council was the proposal to line the North Platte Sewer System which is a major connector from the west side of Casper to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. It is a 40 inch main that serves several wholesale customers, including Bar Nunn, Wardwell and Mills. It is also the line that serves Paradise Valley. This project is estimated to cost \$8 million and it was suggested that it become a Consensus Project in 2016. Council thanked David for his presentation and indicated that staff should continue to look at ways to reduce the contaminants which may cause additional regulatory problems in the future.

City Manager Patterson updated the Council on the progress which has been made in implementing the Hogadon Master Plan. Several improvements were made this fiscal year and the next big project will be the replacement of the maintenance building and the new ski patrol facility. After receiving the information which indicated the budget for the maintenance building was at least 2/3 too small Council had discussed working with MOA on preparing a high level assessment of the project to determine an accurate budget number. The City Manager requested that before the Council move forward the staff be given some time to re-evaluate the recommendations in the Plan and bring forward some options for consideration. The options will be based on true needs and realistic costs. Council agreed to delay further consideration until more information can be put together.

V.H. McDonald, Administrative Services Director, and Bill Luben, City Attorney, presented a report on recent changes in the application of state liquor laws on serving rooms in full retail establishments which combine a bar and a dining area. Council agreed to accept the State Liquor Commission interpretation which does not require a solid wall separation between the two areas.

Councilman Goodenough asked that Council consider the requirement for signage in restaurants that regulates whether customers can leave the establishment carrying an open container. Police Lt. Steve Freel noted that the alcohol task force is working with the establishments to track how well they are complying with the signage requirement but has not written any citations to date

even though over 40 businesses were found not in compliance during the last review. A citation for the lack of signage will cost a business 10 demerits and the Department wants to be sure that they are taking this requirement seriously.

The Mayor asked if the Council wished to cancel the work session scheduled for Friday, April 25, 2014 at 7:00 a.m. Councilmembers agreed that this meeting was not needed at this time.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.