

## COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, January 13, 4:30 p.m.

Casper City Hall

Council Meeting Room

### AGENDA

1. Trapping Issues – Game and Fish
2. Park Rentals and Cemetery Burial Fees
3. Judy Studer Presentation
4. Bike Safety Update
5. Solid Waste: Extended Hours Data, Extra Collection Routes, and Upcoming Capital Project
6. Amendment to Casper Municipal Code 17.12.240 E – Conditional Use Permits
7. 1%#14 Unallocated Discussion
8. Council Off-Site Planning Meeting
9. Mayor's Items
  - a. Topics for Work Sessions
  - b. Attendance at Weekly Council Leadership Meetings
10. Future Agenda Review
11. Executive Session: Property

### COUNCIL WORK SESSION - January 13, 2015

Mayor Powell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with all Councilmembers present.

The first item on the agenda was to address trapping issues in the City of Casper and on State land. Janet Milek, Public Information Specialist, and Brian Olson, Regional Wildlife Supervisor with Wyoming Game and Fish shared information on trapping regulations. The issue in reference (dog snare trapping in December) did not occur within city limits, rather on Ridge Crest Drive. Brian Olson provided Wyoming Statute particulars with regards to trapping. Requirements on checking and identifying traps and best management practices on trapping may be referenced on Wyoming Game and Fish website. Trapping fur bearing animals is governed by a specific State Law and Game and Fish Commission Regulations. Private land owners have authority to allow trapping on their land. Title 23 State Statute referenced, highlighting what specific Game and Fish may regulate.

Last summer, Brain began meeting with a group “Wyoming Untrapped”, in Teton County to exclude trapping along walking trails next to Jackson. Due to the recent incident on Ridge Crest Drive, Game and Fish has met with several local groups on this topic further for potential statute changes. Natrona County Predator Board is concerned with potential changes in legislation that will not allow protection of life stock for landowners.

Councilman Schlager is hoping for signage or mechanism to alert people of trapping areas. Brian Olson indicated this will require a statutory change as well as involvement from Department of Agriculture. Councilman Sandoval made observation with witnessing a large amount of coyote hides in the Alcova area. He then inquired about specifics with coyote trapping. Brian Olson indicated coyote are very detrimental to livestock and there are controlled.

Councilman Mundell asked about providing a minimum area for trapping from trails. Brian Olson indicated that would be something that needs to be changed from the State level.

Tory Cutrell, Manager at Metro Animal Control, pointed out that only humane live box traps are authorized in city limits. She also quoted a city law in which no person shall willfully trap with intent to harm another person or property.

Next, Judy Studer spoke on her representation of John Patterson and the City of Casper for the records request involving calls between the City Manager's office and Casper Police Department with conversations pertaining to Craig Hedquist. The request is not specific as to any timeframe and the request pertains to 1,971 hours of calls and 5,980 emails. It is believed that many of these calls would include information that is protected under the Wyoming Public Records Act. Therefore, there is no way to simply produce the calls without a thorough review. Based on the City of Casper's policy for public records search, a charge of \$20 per hour would be charged for this type of request. In order to comply with this broad request, the estimated fees are \$40,000 (which may need to be paid in advance). In order to ascertain the extent of documents, a specific timeframe is being requested of Bruce Moats, Attorney for Craig Hedquist.

Pete Meyers, Assistant Director of Public Services, presented changes to Park Rental Fees, Athletic Fees and Cemetery Burial Fees for Council review and consideration by resolution. Park rental fees are broken down into four (4) hour blocks. Pete Meyers addressed Councils inquiries about the cost differences, \$30 for four (4) hours comparatively to \$25 per day fee, previously. Concerns were voiced by Council regarding the time frames referenced as the language may indicate parks are not officially open until the posted rental time. Peter Meyers will adjust the proposal to include a statement to allow for flexible 'scheduling as approved' by the Parks Manager.

Athletic Fees were addressed next, for ball fields and tournaments. Costs will remain the same, however a separate resolution will be required as the item was previously included in Park Rental Fees. City Manager, John Patterson addressed Councils inquiry to clarify that Mike Lansing Field is not included in this type of fee and is under a separate lease agreement.

Cemetery Burial Fees have never been set with the intention of fully recovering cemetery's costs. The current rate proposal is expected to increase revenues by roughly \$16,000 per year, which would be a gradual step toward self-sufficiency. Pete Meyers addressed Council's inquiry as to purchase of burial plot being purchased with the City of Casper. City Manager, John Patterson pointed out the fee increases are not going to facilitate an opportunity for the Cemetery cost to break even as those rate increases would have had to have been much more substantial. Council inquired about the City of Casper Cemetery Burial Fees being commiserate with the fees of private industries. Councilman Hedquist complemented the grounds keepers and staff at the cemetery.

Councilman Schlager left the meeting at this time.

Andrew Nelson, Metropolitan Planning Organizer (MPO) and Captain Freil, Casper Police Department, presented the next item on the agenda regarding bike safety. Currently, bicyclist in the City of Casper must follow the same laws as motorists. In 2013, the MPO conducted a study updating bicyclist and pedestrian trails. Andrew Nelson presented information and a request to Council to consider resolution to adopt planning to accommodate street connectivity standards and bicyclist safety (enforcement and education).

Captain Freel shared a map with Council to overlay the last few years' bicycle accidents. The heavier traffic streets (12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, downtown) reflect the large majority of the areas that need to be addressed. The Casper Police Department is putting together a proposal to increase bicycle patrol. Captain Freel is suggestion education of the appropriate laws at the bicycle rodeo. This event would include bicycle groups and vendors to be specialists in each of the various areas of safety. In additional, he is suggestion a collaborative effort with planning and design of intersections for a safe pedestrian/bicyclist environment.

Next, Andrew Nelson entertained suggestions on long term plans for bike lanes and collection streets to accommodate connectivity. Councilman Hedquist pointed out the costs of these types of changes will be high. The MPO is working on a study that will come out next fiscal year 2016 with the particulars of the recommendations.

Cindy Langston, Manager City of Casper Solid Waste Division, discussed data collected on extended hours, modifying residential extra collection routes, and upcoming Capital Projects. A study was conducted to extend hours for residential customers on Tuesday's and Thursday's until 6:00 p.m. August – October. During this time, the extended hours were published on the City of Casper website and a press-release. 179 people utilized the landfill during the extended hours. The Solid Waste Division would like to make the recommendation to continue the extended hours on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 4:30p.m to 5:30p.m. April – October.

Currently, extra residential collection is offered twice a month March – October. In 2011, a study was conducted on a particular Thursday route to change the extra collection to be a branch collection as one of the two extra collection days. This resulted in diverting a considerable volume collected to the compost yard. The Solid Waste Division would like to make the recommendation to modify all routes to reflect the same process as the Thursday route to 1 trash and 1 branch. In addition, suggest modification of the website for easy access for residents to determine their extra collection days and magnets with those days mailed to residents. Councilman Hedquist requested an extended study for commercial customers. Cindy Langston agrees with this study and will provide a budget for the cost of this study to City Manager Patterson.

Cindy Langston shared a preview of upcoming Capital Projects. Projects for cells three and four are scheduled in the next couple of months for \$2.8 million dollars. Landfill remediation activities and plans to install active gas system will be \$2.2 million dollars. Clean up of new dog park area south of Metro will be included. Additionally, compost improvements to finish asphalt and expansion will be included as well. The costs will be built into the upcoming proposed budget.

City Manager Patterson took a moment to compliment and thank Cindy Langston and her efforts with the remediation of the old landfill on behalf of the Solid Waste Division, the City of Casper will be reimbursed a good deal of money. Council asked for a status update on the balers. Cindy said one of the balers should be working in about a month.

Next, Attorney Wallace Trembath presented Amendment to Casper Municipal Code 17.12.240 E – Conditional Use Permits to remove language regarding members "present" number needed to vote. This will ensure the votes need to remain four vs. three if the number of members is five.

1%#14 Unallocated Discussion, City Manager Patterson said there will be close to \$24 million dollars at the end of March of One Cent allocated funds. He shared what has happened in the past with the 18% that is utilized by other agencies. Previous Council determined 18% would (roughly \$4 million) would be allocated to agencies over a four (4) year time frame, until said time 1%#15 is finished. Additionally, there should be money that will go into perpetual care. City Manager Patterson visited with leadership to seek suggestions for projects that would need funded and was offered the lodge at Hogadon and a storage facility at Casper Events Center, for consideration. He also indicated there are not substantial projects indicated and it might be helpful to hold onto the \$10 million with input and direction from Council going forward on best allocation of those funds.

Councilman Hopkins stated the County utilizes an opportunity fund is very useful. Councilman Hedquist reiterated concern and suggestions for Council to use caution with regards to overall costs for the proposed lodge and storage facility projects. Hedquist felt there would not be large public support of the lodge expenditure of Hogadon and Casper Events Center storage facility, while Councilman Johnson said he felt there would be significant support for the Hogadon lodge due to citizen input he received. Councilman Mundell suggested consideration of a lodge that may not be as extravagant as the initial proposals. City Manager Patterson will invite Chris Smith to the February 27<sup>th</sup> work session to share more information on the Hogadon lodge. Councilman Cathey requested attention to the priority of the drainage south of 15<sup>th</sup> Street. City Manager Patterson will look into the drainage project costs. Councilman Sandoval voiced it would serve the people that voted for the one cent to spend those funds (storm water issues, infrastructure costs) in tangible manners in which the citizens would observe. Councilman Cathey pointed out with the recent decline in oil prices, the potential shortfalls in 2015 would lend well to using caution to spending. Councilman Cathey inquired about funding for the waste water treatment plant improvements. City Manager Patterson shared that water treatment facility consensus money is typically utilized for this type of project. There are many opportunities outside of our funds with regards to improvements to this type of facility. Mayor Powell also spoke to using caution with spending going forward. Mayor stated Council is not committing to anything at this point and would be inviting agencies to come forward with proposals on spending the funds. Councilman Cathey proposed additional month or two for Council to consider the best utilization for the allocated funds. Councilman Hedquist seconded and City Manager Patterson agreed for revisiting in March.

City Manager Patterson spoke about the upcoming council off-site planning meeting, on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Casper Events Center (with guest consultant speaker). Professional based, conflict resolution, communication with-in the group will be some of the areas of focus. City Manager Patterson will provide references for the consultant. In addition, he suggests each Council inquire specifically with the consultant on any questions you may have on the presentation and what you are expecting from the meeting. Council agreed attendance is important.

Mayor Powell encouraged suggested topics and input from Councilmembers for content to work session agendas. Councilman Mundell requested future agenda for the bee, bird, and chicken

discussion to be separated. Agreement from Council to add these topics to the February 24<sup>th</sup> work session.

Next, Mayor Powell made suggestion for Council attendance at Weekly Council Leadership Meetings ongoing. The suggestion would be for a rotation by alphabet and/or if you are interested in a particular meeting.

Finally, on the agenda was a discussion on Future Agenda Review. This gives Council an opportunity to have a preview of upcoming Agenda topics.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

At 8:04 p.m. Council met in executive session regarding property and executive session ended at 8:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING  
A Municipal Corporation

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V. H. McDonald  
City Clerk

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Charlie Powell  
Mayor