

## **COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

Casper City Hall

Council Meeting Room

### **AGENDA**

1. Post Office Resolution (Carter Napier)
2. Financial Plan – Cost of Service & Rate Design for Water & Sewer (Andrew Beamer)
3. Wyoming Association of Municipalities (WAM) Funding (Carter Napier)
4. Casper Area Economic Development Alliance (CAEDA) Funding (Carter Napier)
5. Agenda Review
6. Legislative Update
7. Council Around the Table

Mayor Pacheco called the work session to order at 4:30 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Powell, Laird, Morgan, Johnson, Hopkins, Walsh and Pacheco. Councilmembers Humphrey and Huber were absent.

City Manager Napier asked what format Councilmembers would like to see the budget books in during budget discussions in May. They decided they would like both a condensed summary version and a line item version provided.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed a post office resolution for support establishing a post office for the west side of Casper. Council decided to support the resolution and move it forward to be voted on formally in a regular Council meeting.

City Manager Napier began the discussion regarding CAEDA (Casper Area Economic Development Alliance) funding. He asked Council to discuss what they would like the relationship with CAEDA to look like moving forward and stated that it would be a difficult service to replicate. Councilmember Laird brought up issues he has with how long the contract term is with regards to the CAEDA contract and other long-term contracts that the City has with outside agencies. City Manager Napier stated that one year notice would need to be given in order to renegotiate the contract. City Attorney Henley discussed three avenues that could be used to renegotiate the contract. Council discussed the benefits of CAEDA, including availability of grant opportunities, a good return on investment, and their value in helping to diversify the economy in Casper. They also discussed the importance of public reporting and annual reviews to Council from CAEDA, and what the difficulties would be of renewing the contract annually. Council discussed changing the severability portion of the contract, but decided that before any decisions are made, the City would need to talk to the County about the contract. After the discussion with the County, options will be brought forward to Council at a future work session.

Next, Andrew Beamer, Public Services Director, introduced representatives from Raftelis Financial Consultant, Inc. (Raftelis) to present an overview of future utility rate structures for the utility and enterprise funds. City Manager Napier stated that these changes would not take effect

until 2020 and this presentation is just informational for future structural recommendations. The Raftelis representatives discussed water and sewer system financial plans; water and sewer cost of service; and proposed water and sewer rate designs. They also discussed system investment charges for water, sewer, and wastewater, which will help to recoup the cost for new development. Councilmember Laird asked why there is not just an across the board charge for all customers, and the Raftelis consultants explained that different types of customers impose different demands on the system, and the system has to be designed to meet the needs of the higher peak customers. Councilmember Morgan asked about digital water meters, and the consultants explained that this can be costly, because the City would need to incur the cost of different systems being able to read the meters. Councilmember Morgan also asked if it is normal to charge late fees, and the consultants responded that it is almost universal to charge fees for lateness because it encourages people to pay their bills on time. Council also discussed some of the costs and water treatments that may occur from the Hobbs Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements.

Next, City Manager Napier began the discussion on WAM (Wyoming Association of Municipalities) funding. He stated that Council does have an option to procure a private lobbyist to represent Casper at both a state and federal level, but that it will be difficult to replicate the representation that WAM provides. Councilmember Walsh stated that he does not think WAM represents Casper's priorities and that we should defund them. Councilmember Powell responded that he sits on WAM's board, which is responsible for setting WAM's agenda, and that he helps to ensure WAM's agenda aligns with Casper's needs. Council discussed why Casper pays the specified amount towards WAM and whether the City gets its money's worth. Councilmember Powell explained the financial benefit Casper has received in response to WAM's efforts, including the direct distribution to municipalities. He also emphasized the importance of the strength the municipalities have in numbers and how Casper benefits as being part of the collective voice.

Councilmember Morgan stated that the City and Council should be able to lobby for Casper directly with Casper's legislators and state representatives. Councilmember Powell stated that decisions at the state level happen very rapidly and it is important to have someone there to keep track of changes that are happening in order to make sure the municipalities' voices are heard. Councilmembers Hopkins and Johnson reiterated that the money that Casper pays to WAM is money well spent. Council decided that they would like to continue to be part of WAM.

Next, Council reviewed future agenda items. Mayor Pacheco asked that an agenda item be added for how the City handles contracts.

Next, Council went around the table to discuss their respective board and committee meetings and share ideas and concerns related to public matters of interest. Councilmember Powell asked that staff send Council the City's sexual harassment policy for volunteers, and City Manager Napier stated that it will be put in the Info Packet. Councilmember Morgan asked that a discussion on open carry weapons be added to a work session agenda. He also asked that information be provided to Council on the cost to the City of using smart water meters. Councilmember Morgan also discussed educating the public about what one cent funding should be allocated towards. Councilmember Laird discussed an anti-bullying resolution.

The work session was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING  
A Municipal Corporation

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Fleur D. Tremel  
City Clerk

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Ray Pacheco  
Mayor