

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
Casper City Hall – Council Chambers
May 22, 2017

Casper City Council met in special session at 3:00 p.m., Monday, May 22, 2017. Present: Councilmembers Hopkins, Huckabay, Johnson, Morgan, Pacheco, Powell, Walsh and Mayor Humphrey.

Mayor Humphrey led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Municipal Court Judge Hand issued the oath of office to newly-appointed Councilman Dallas J. Laird.

Councilmember Laird introduced friends and family present in the audience. He also thanked Council for selecting him for the position.

Roll was not called, but the Mayor acknowledged that Councilman Laird was now present for the remainder of the meeting.

Following resolution read:

RESOLUTION NO. 17-87
A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO THE 62ND ANNUAL
CONVENTION IN GILLETTE, WYOMING, JUNE 2017.

Councilmember Hopkins presented the foregoing resolution for adoption. Seconded by Councilmember Huckabay. City Manager Becher provided a brief report covering all nine (9) resolutions to be considered at this meeting, all of which involve the Wyoming Association of Municipalities (WAM). She also stated that Councilmember Powell would be providing additional information about these resolutions because of his knowledge and involvement with WAM.

Councilmember Powell made a brief statement about the foregoing resolution. Motion passed.

Following resolution read:

RESOLUTION NO. 17-88
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE WYOMING
ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES' LEGISLATIVE
AGENDA AND THE ASSOCIATION'S EFFORTS IN SEEKING
APPROPRIATIONS OF STATE FUNDING FOR ALL 99
WYOMING CITIES AND TOWNS DURING THE 2018
BUDGET SESSION OF THE WYOMING LEGISLATURE.

Councilmember Walsh presented the foregoing resolution for adoption. Seconded by Councilmember Powell. Councilmember Powell provided more information about the resolution. Motion passed.

Following resolution read:

RESOLUTION NO. 17-89
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ANY EFFORTS TO RAISE
THE TAX ON ALL MALT BEVERAGES TO THE NATIONAL
AVERAGE OF TWENTY-EIGHT CENTS PER GALLON.

Councilmember Pacheco presented the foregoing resolution for adoption. Seconded by Councilmember Powell.

Mike Reid, 1615 Luker Dr., addressed Council. Mr. Reid was neither for or against the resolution, but suggested removing the language in the resolution that suggested the tax increase would reduce excessive consumption.

Moved by Councilmember Hopkins to amend the resolution by removing the second and third WHEREAS clauses. Councilmembers discussed the matter. City Attorney Luben pointed out that no second had been made to the motion. Councilmember Laird seconded the motion to amend. Councilmembers discussed the amended resolution. Motion to amend passed. A vote on the resolution, as amended, resulted in Councilmember Johnson voting nay. Motion passed.

Following resolution read:

RESOLUTION NO. 17-90
A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE WYOMING
ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES TO SUPPORT AND
ADVOCATE THAT THE STATE OF WYOMING
LEGISLATURE REINSTATE TAXATION ON FOOD
PRODUCTS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO WYOMING
CITIES, TOWNS, AND COUNTIES.

Councilmember Hopkins presented the foregoing resolution for adoption. Seconded by Councilmember Powell.

R.C. Johnson, 450 N. Washington, addressed Council. Ms. Johnson urged Council to not pass this resolution and shared her concerns that any increase in food costs would be a hardship for anyone already struggling financially. She also requested that Council continue to lobby and pursue diversification of the economy. Council made statements and had further discussion with Ms. Johnson.

Moved by Councilmember Huckabay, seconded by Johnson, by minute action, to suspend the Council rule to allow an additional citizen to address this resolution. Motion passed.

Ann Robinson, former State Representative, shared historical information on the food tax and described her involvement in having the tax removed. She also described her concerns about the reinstatement of this tax.

Councilmembers discussed the resolution. All Councilmembers voted nay. Motion failed.

Following resolution read:

RESOLUTION NO. 17-91

A RESOLUTION TO THE WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES ADVOCATING LEGISLATION TO REMOVE THE NON-TRANSIENT LODGING TAX EXEMPTION.

Councilmember Walsh presented the foregoing resolution for adoption. Seconded by Councilmember Powell. Councilmember Powell provided more information about the resolution. Councilmembers discussed at length the merits and drawbacks to this resolution.

Moved by Councilmember Morgan, to by minute action, table the matter for the June 6, 2017 meeting. City Attorney Luben suggested postponing the matter, rather than tabling, if the future date of the discussion was certain. Seconded by Councilmember Laird. Council further discussed the matter. Councilmembers Johnson, Laird, Morgan, and Pacheco voted aye to postpone. Motion failed.

Moved by Councilmember Huckabay, to amend the resolution to have an exception that would not allow the taxation of vouchers for the indigent. Seconded by Councilmember Walsh. Council further discussed the matter. Motion to amend the resolution passed. A vote on the amended resolution resulted in Councilmember Morgan voting nay. Motion passed.

Following resolution read:

RESOLUTION NO. 17-92

A RESOLUTION TO THE WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES ADVOCATING LEGISLATION TO CLARIFY THE LIEN & ASSESSMENT PROCESS BY WHICH MUNICIPAL EXPENSES FOR ABATING NUISANCES AND DANGEROUS BUILDINGS MAY BE RECOVERED.

Councilmember Powell presented the foregoing resolution for adoption. Seconded by Councilmember Huckabay. Councilmember Powell indicated that this resolution had more or less come from the City of Casper. City Attorney Luben provided further explanation of the lien and assessment process and stated this would be his fourth attempt to improve this process. Motion passed.

Following resolution read:

RESOLUTION NO. 17-93

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES TO SUPPORT AND ADVOCATE LEGISLATION TO AMEND WYOMING STATUTE §15-1-113(A) REGARDING CONTRACTS FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND §15-1-113(F) FORMS OF GUARANTEE.

Councilmember Powell presented the foregoing resolution for adoption. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Councilmember Powell made a brief statement about the foregoing resolution. Councilmembers discussed the matter and asked City Attorney Luben for clarification. City Attorney Luben further explained his understanding of the matter. Motion passed.

Following resolution read:

RESOLUTION NO. 17-94
A RESOLUTION TO CREATE UTILITY AND OTHER
MUNICIPAL SERVICES LIEN AUTHORITY FOR
MUNICIPALITIES AND JOINT POWERS BOARDS.

Councilmember Huckabay presented the foregoing resolution for adoption. Seconded by Councilmember Powell. Councilmember Powell made a brief statement about the resolution and requested that City Attorney Luben provide further explanation. City Attorney Luben further described the purpose of the resolution. Councilmember Laird voted nay. Motion passed.

Following resolution read:

RESOLUTION NO. 17-95
A RESOLUTION TO CREATE AN OPTIONAL GENERAL
REVENUE TAX FOR A SPECIFIED PURPOSE.

Councilmember Pacheco presented the foregoing resolution for adoption. Seconded by Councilmember Powell. Councilmember Powell made a brief statement about the foregoing resolution. Council briefly discussed the matter. Councilmember Morgan voted nay. Motion passed.

Mayor Humphrey noted the next meetings of the City Council will be a work session to be held immediately following this meeting, in the Council's meeting room; and, a regular Council meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 6, 2017, in the Council Chambers.

Moved by Councilmember Huckabay, seconded by Councilmember Walsh, to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Tracey L. Belser
City Clerk

Kenyne Humphrey
Mayor