

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.
City Hall - Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Follow-up
2. Fort Caspar Expansion
3. Wind River/Washakie Traffic Concerns
4. Utility Rates
5. Downtown Parking Fines Structure
6. Agenda Setting
7. Legislative Review
8. Council Around the Table

Mayor Powell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with the following Councilmember present: Johnson, Freel, Huber, Hopkins, Cathey, Lutz, Bates, and Mayor Powell. Councilmember Pacheco arrived to the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Councilmember Bates discussed alternative uses for Hogadon during the off-season. Tim Cortez, Parks & Recreation Director, discussed that there are issues with coming up with ideas that will not increase subsidy for Hogadon. He stated that staff could come up with possible options for other uses for Hogadon as well as ways to decrease the subsidy.

Next, City Manager Napier explained the issue for traffic concerns in the Wind River area that was brought up by a citizen at a Council meeting. He then referenced police analysis of the area showing that there is not an overly high incidence of accidents in that area. Police Chief McPheeters then discussed the police data which showed that the majority of accidents occurred during the winter months. Some of the side streets in the area do not have controlled intersections, and therefore staff suggested adding stop signs to the side streets, which is already underway. Council discussed other forms of traffic control, including three-way stops, speed bumps. Chief McPheeters stated that some data could not be collected until the roadways are clear and the snow and ice have melted. Andrew Beamer, Public Services Director, elaborated on the measures used to control traffic. Council decided to reevaluate the data this summer after collecting traffic data in the spring. Mr. Beamer stated that stop signs will be added to the intersection going on to Wind River or onto Forest Drive.

Next, Michael Shickich, discussed the display of the Tripeny Collection. He stated that expanding the Fort Caspar Museum is the best way to display the collection. The foundation already has \$200K pledged towards the project. They would also want to be considered for the Wyoming Business Council community grant next year. The estimate of the total cost of the addition is \$1.2M. Council will discuss this again during budget setting. The current MOU commits Council to displaying the collection but not the expansion of the museum. Council gave their thumbs up to consider a resolution in support of the fundraising effort and a commitment to the Fort Caspar Museum project.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed utility rates. The proposal would be to set the rates with an interim consideration next year. Staff has been working with the CPU Advisory Board and the Regional Water System Board to set these rates. He discussed the water fund including staff recommendations and the CPU Advisory Board recommendations. Staff recommends including a 10% buffer above reserves for a targeted fund balance. The CPU Advisory Board does not recommend including this buffer. Over the next few years, staff is recommending a 1-3% rate increase each year. This will amount to around \$1 per month increase for a typical residential customer each year. City Manager Napier explained that reserves would need to be used to recover the shortfall if rate increases did not occur. Council also discussed using one cent funds to replace water lines. Council gave their thumbs up to move forward with staff's recommendation.

City Manager Napier then discussed staff's recommendations and the CPU Advisory Board's recommendations for the sewer fund. Due to the significant projects that need funding through this fund, the proposed rate increases are more than for the water fund. He then discussed some of the projects that will need to be funded through loans programs and discussed that the stormwater utility is a separate expense from this fund. Council gave his thumbs up to move forward with staff's recommendations. He then discussed the balefill and refuse funds. Cindy Langston, Balefill Supervisor, discussed some of the revenue-projecting projects for this fund and some of the fees charged for balefill users and proposed changes to those fees. City Manager Napier then discussed the refuse fund and discussed a 1-4% increase in tipping fees over the next few years. Council gave their thumbs up to move forward with the increase in fees that staff recommends. City Manager Napier stated that the total increase in fees of \$3.50 in FY20 for the average household and an increase of an additional \$5.49 in FY21, for a total of about \$9.00 over the next two years.

Next, City Manager Napier discussed downtown parking fines. He stated that staff has visited with stakeholders such as the Downtown Development Authority and the Downtown Casper Business Association, and they are on board with the proposed plan. Chief McPheeters now feels he has the staff requirements for CSO's to ramp up on downtown parking enforcement. The accountability for parking citations is also being revamped, with a new ticketing system with a ticket that will stick to the window. Repeat offenders will be required to appear at court to answer to the municipal judge for the reasoning for their repeat offenses. The downtown business owners are on board with the proposed increase in enforcement. He then discussed the new online parking module that will help with data tracking. The City's new Tyler software will also be useful for data collection and citations in the future. City Manager Napier stated that a discussion involving the parking garage will occur at a future work session. Chief McPheeters discussed the need for a physical ticket to be used as a visual deterrent. He also discussed a photographic evidence based system as opposed to chalking tires for tracking parking violations. Municipal Judge Lund discussed her support of the sticky medium for tickets. She also addressed a question pertaining to mailing a citation, and stated that she does not think this is in accordance of the rules. She stated that if someone does not show up to court, the court will issue a summons, and stated that if there is an issue with the new process it will be reevaluated. A violator will be considered a repeat offender by the issuing officer. Council gave their thumbs up in support of the new system for downtown parking fines.

Next, Council reviewed the agenda for next week's regular Council meeting. Council briefly discussed the Dewald Divide item. Council then set the agenda for the January 14, 2019 work session. Council discussed whether they would like to discuss the privatization of Hogadon or reducing the subsidy at Hogadon at work session in the near future. City Manager Napier told Council that they will be invited to a legislative dinner tentatively scheduled on January 23.

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 Bates discussed cutouts for buses on plowed roads in neighborhood developments. Councilmember Cathey brought up an issue involving potholes near Beverly St and Yellowstone Hwy, and City Manager Napier responded that he will look into the issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING

ATTEST:

A Municipal Corporation

Fleur D. Tremel
City Clerk

Charles Powell
Mayor