

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.
City Hall - Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Follow-up
2. Yellowstone Garage Retail Liquor License
3. Liquor License Review & Report
4. Municipal Court Update
5. Downtown Parking Garage
6. MEI Scoring Matrix & LGBTQ Advisory Committee
7. Council Goals
8. Agenda Review
9. Legislative Review
10. Council Around the Table (& Deannexation Request)

Mayor Freel called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Lutz, Cathey, Powell, Bates, Pacheco, Huber, Johnson, Hopkins, and Mayor Freel.

City Manager Napier discussed the Yellowstone Garage Retail Liquor License. He stated that after meeting with the owners of Yellowstone Garage, they are willing to remove their request to move their retail license and remove their request for bar and grill license if Council expands the maximum amount of catering and malt beverage permits that a business can apply for. He stated that if Council would like to move forward with that option, staff can rewrite the ordinance to leverage the flexibility built into state statute, with a current 36 permit maximum at this point for catering permits. Council gave their thumbs up to move forward with this option. Mayor Freel added that he met with the Liquor Commission, and there are some other changes to the ordinance that Council may want to consider as well.

Next, Police Chief McPheeters summarized the annual liquor license review and report that is required each year before the renewal of applications from liquor license holders. He stated that there were no clear outliers in the data, and he thinks there has been a positive impact from the alcohol ordinance changes which instituted mandatory training for liquor servers. There may have been a positive impact on DUI related crashes, but it is too early to tell if this is a trend. Overall, he stated that the changes that have been made appear to have had a positive impact on public safety.

City Manager Napier then explained to Council that nine renewal applicants missed the deadline for renewals entirely, with one of them being received yesterday, a month and a half after the due date. City Clerk, Fleur Tremel, elaborated that this has been a consistent problem and requires a great deal of staff time. Council discussed different disciplinary approaches, including late fees and requiring an explanation at a Council meeting. Council directed staff to develop some options and bring their recommendations back to Council to review.

Next, Municipal Court Judge Cally Lund updated Council on the status of changes in Municipal Court. The improvements include a new card machine, a breathalyzer for the probation program,

pre-sentence supervision, verification insurance software, telephonically signed blood warrants for the Casper Police Department, and deferral prosecution donations to the Self-Help Center who help provide the City with assessments. She stated that they are also in the process of looking into a Tyler software program for supervision of offenders and a saliva machine that tests for controlled substances. She also explained that there has been an uptick of animal cruelty cases recently, and the Court is working on alternative sentencing options and education for these defendants, including community service and dog food donations. She then discussed that the Court is working on clearing and archiving paper files. She also stated that Casper will be hosting a Municipal Court Conference that will provide Supreme Court training for Wyoming municipal court judges and attorneys. Finally, she discussed the parking ticket changes that will be implemented to improve downtown parking issues and hold violators accountable.

Next, Community Development Director, Liz Becher, discussed options for improving the downtown parking garage. She explained that staff met with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and other stakeholders to gather input on the issue, and the DDA was opposed to decreasing the parking rates. They are currently looking at putting in security cameras and obtain a better card reader system that will help with ticketing designations between monthly and hourly customers. She also described a new quarterly newsletter that the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) is planning on distributing called "The Parking Space" that will help educate the community on MPO related issues as well as provide information on parking. Chief McPheeters also discussed a new handheld enforcement tool that will allow officers to scan license plates and track the two hour parking. This system also connects to the ticket and notification components. Council directed staff to bring back proposals for these improvements including looking into funding options for the card reader system, providing more information on improving signage, and providing a first draft of the parking space newsletter.

Next, City Manager's Office staff reviewed the MEI Scoring Matrix which scores cities on their support of their LGBTQ community. They discussed the types of things that could help raise the City's score including forming an LGBTQ advisory committee and providing a gender-neutral bathroom. Council discussed their opinions on how the score does not accurately reflect this community. Council discussed forming the LGBTQ Advisory Committee that had been decided on in December. Some Councilmembers suggested forming a human rights advisory council that would encompass several minority groups. Council gave their thumbs down to that idea, and instead gave their thumbs up to continue with the formation of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee. Council directed staff to draft a resolution to form this committee in a regular Council meeting.

Next, City Manager Napier gave a progress report on Council goals. He outlined some of the progress that has been made to meet certain goals including work on broadband infrastructure, active shooter prevention, gateway enhancement, police staffing and downtown parking enforcement. He also discussed the future focus to meet goals which include looking into marketing to reduce subsidies and further infrastructure improvement, which will be discussed when capital projects are discussed.

Next, Council reviewed the agendas for the next Council meeting and work session. Councilmember Powell requested that the International Property Maintenance Code be added to a

work session agenda in the near future. Council then discussed legislative issues, and City Manager Napier discussed an issue that may come up in the legislative session that would require municipalities to liquidate government owned land that is not currently being used for a government purpose.

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. Mayor Freel discussed a proposed deannexation request in the area of 46th St and Moose. Council directed staff to look into the request further and to possibly put the item on future work session agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Steven K. Freel
Mayor