

COUNCIL PRE-MEETING
Tuesday, May 19, 2020 5:30 p.m.
Casper City Hall – Video Conference Call

AGENDA

1. Census
2. Horkan LAD Penalties Discussion Plan
3. Agenda Review

Mayor Freel began the pre-meeting session at 5:34 p.m. with Councilmember Pacheco and Mayor Freel present at City Hall. Councilmembers Bates, Cathey, Hopkins, Huber, Johnson, Powell and Vice-Mayor Lutz attended via conference call.

Mayor Freel welcomed Tammi Hanshaw, Wyoming Partnership Specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau. Ms. Hanshaw provided an update on the Census response rate, and introduced Buzz, the Census mascot. Councilmembers provided Ms. Henshaw with feedback and suggestions based on their personal experiences with the census process. Mayor Freel thanked her for the update.

City Manager Napier provided an overview of a request from a rental property owner who contends he should not have to pay fees and interest associated with the local assessment district (LAD) improvements for his property and has asked Council to waive or share the fees and interest. City Manager Napier asked for direction on this item, and asked if Council would like to be consulted on any similar issues in the future, or if staff should handle them going forward.

Councilmembers had questions about the fees and interests which Tom Pitlick, Finance Director, addressed. Council discussed the process in place to bill LAD costs, and to ensure that those purchasing a property are notified of any LAD costs prior to purchase. City Attorney Henley explained that LAD information is recorded at the Natrona County Clerk's office, so the costs are public and on the title. He also stated that the construction of the LAD would have been noticeable to any owner at the time of construction.

Mayor Freel suggested sending LAD bills via certified mail going forward. He also said it may be reasonable to take some of the fees off this bill and requested that future issues like these be brought before Council for discussion. Council discussed the issue of using a mailing address versus the physical address for LAD notifications and if any or all of the fees and interest should be waived for Mr. Horkan. Councilmember Bates asked about additional costs that have accumulated since Mr. Horkan contacted the City. City Manager Napier said that the accumulated amount would be insignificant and shared that a 50/50 split of costs would be reasonable. Council provided a thumbs up to waiving half of the remaining costs (fees and interest). Mayor Freel adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Steven K. Freel
Mayor