

COUNCIL PRE-MEETING
Tuesday, June 15, 2021 5:30 p.m.
Casper City Hall - Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Clarity Franchise
2. Sole Source Purchase - Tasers
3. Agenda Review

Mayor Freel began the pre-meeting session at 5:30 p.m. with Councilmembers Cathey, Engebretsen, Gamroth, Johnson, Knell, Lutz, Pacheco, Pollock and Mayor Freel in attendance.

City Manager Napier stated that Spectrum had been in contact with the City regarding the franchise agreement that Clarity Telecom has requested. He said that efforts have been made to offer a level playing field for both companies and that the City could try to address any concerns that Spectrum has with the language for their franchise terms. He asked Acting City Attorney Wallace Trembath to provide additional information regarding the Spectrum concerns.

Acting City Attorney Trembath provided background information on the franchise arrangement with Spectrum and how the same terms were generally provided to Clarity for their service. He shared that two main things were different between the terms for these two businesses. First, he indicated that Clarity could decide who to provide service, whereas Spectrum had terms to provide service to those already receiving service. He stated this was due in part to Spectrum's franchise being for a renewal rather than a new arrangement and also because this language was part of the template that Spectrum provided. He shared that Spectrum could request this condition be changed. Second, he explained that as part of the franchise agreement with Spectrum, the City received use of an Education and Government access channel (EG channel) and that when working with Clarity a like term was sought. However, rather than having a second EG channel, the City felt a redundant internet connection would be of more use to the City. He shared that the City tried to work with Spectrum to establish the cost and value of the EG channel so that a like value and cost would be established with the new franchise with Clarity. A clear value was never established, but every effort was made to make the conditions of the EG channel level with the redundant internet connection conditions. Councilmember Knell asked about the bidding and operation of the EG channel, which Mr. Trembath explained was outside the scope of the franchise and was a separate Request for Proposals which only entailed the programming to be provided on the channel and did not have to do with the cable company's provision of it.

City Manager Napier introduced the topic of a sole source purchase of tasers and asked for a staff report. Police Chief McPheeters detailed the terms and necessity of new tasers and provided an explanation for the need of using Proforce for the purchase and service of the equipment. Councilmember Pollock asked for an overview of the sole source purchase process, which City Manager Napier and Chief McPheeters addressed. Councilmember Engebretsen asked if this purchase was already part of the budget, and City Manager Napier indicated that it was part of the fiscal year 2021 budget. Councilmember Pollock asked if purchases like this would come before

Council if it had not required a sole source purchase. City Manager Napier said that it would depend on the amount of the purchase, so some items do not come before Council.

Mayor Freel moved on to agenda review. City Manager Napier stated that the new budget and budget amendment of the previous budget are on the agenda this evening. Councilmember Gamroth asked how road projects are prioritized. Andrew Beamer, Public Services Director, shared that maintenance of slightly damaged roads helps delay more expensive reconstruction of the roads. So, while it appears that a road may not be damaged, maintenance of the surface is a scheduled project that is a money saving priority. He shared information on the maintenance and repairs options and said reconstruction is likely eight to ten times as expensive as the maintenance costs.

Councilmember Knell asked about the leash law for dogs because one citizen had approached him about an enforcement issue. Vice Mayor Pacheco spoke on the history of the leash law in Casper and shared that he felt that a lot of work had gone into making a reasonable law. Councilmembers offered further information on places dogs can be off-leash and added that a new park was recently created to offer another off-leash option. Councilmember Knell said that these options are reasonable and he would speak with the citizen.

Mayor Freel adjourned the pre-meeting at 5:54 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Steven K. Freel
Mayor