

**COUNCIL PRE-MEETING**  
Tuesday, February 15, 2022 5:30 p.m.  
Casper City Hall - Council Chambers

AGENDA

1. Legislative Review
2. Agenda Review

Mayor Pacheco began the pre-meeting session at 5:33 p.m. with Councilmembers Cathey, Engebretsen, Freel, Gamroth, Johnson, Knell, Pollock, Sutherland and Mayor Pacheco in attendance.

1. Legislative Review

City Manager Napier summarized the special taxation district topic that will be coming forward during the current Wyoming legislative session. He explained that an electorate district can be created to allow voters to approve a cap or optional tax and that the City as well as the Wyoming Association of Municipalities (WAM) have a high interest in the passage of the bill.

Next, he provided a status report on legislative items. The following bills are moving forward: direct distribution, pharmaceutical, industrial sighting, and Fire Fund A. He stated that the film production incentives program has failed. Councilmember Knell asked why this had failed and Mr. Napier indicated it may not have seemed to align with the nature of the budgeting session.

Then he spoke about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that is being budgeted during the legislative session and shared that he hoped to further stress the importance of these funds next week at the WAM winter conference.

Also, he mentioned that the North Platte River and the Ford Wyoming Center would be good priorities for the Destination Defining Program and that he would like to discuss the matter further at the WAM conference. Councilmember Pollock asked how these funds would be managed. Mr. Napier said that the office of State Lands and Investment would be the facilitating entity, but that no other details have been finalized.

He then described another legislative matter which is a housing program with funding of roughly \$20 million which could leverage additional housing. This program would be especially helpful to development if it would provide utility and street assistance through direct investment. This is another matter which he would like to discuss at the WAM conference.

The next legislative matter he spoke about is the replace and revitalization program. He would like to find out if these monies could be used to tear down and rebuild certain sites within the community. He asked if there were other matters Council would like addressed the conference next week.

Councilmember Cathey indicated that the Governor had budgeted \$7 million for suicide prevention but that the legislature had already cut that funding and he asked if that could be discussed. Mr.

Napier said he would follow-up on the matter.

Councilmember Engebretsen asked if WAM would have any call to action on bills before the legislature. Mr. Napier said WAM would definitely be in contact via e-mail for calls to action.

2. Agenda Review

Mayor Pacheco moved on to agenda review. City Manager Napier stated that today Grace Partners, d/b/a Spotlight Lounge withdrew their request to renew their Bar and Grill Liquor License for the 2022-2023 licensing period. He suggested amending the motion to renew the liquor licenses this evening to reflect this change. He also stated he will be attending the Council meeting on GoToMeeting.

Councilmember Engebretsen asked if the Inspectors/Contractor Board discussion could be moved to a later work session because she will be absent next week and she is the board liaison. Councilmember Knell asked if there is a possible conflict of interest for Councilmember Engebretsen to serve on the board given her profession as a real estate agent. City Attorney Henley addressed the matter briefly. Mayor Pacheco suggested the subject could be discussed separately due to the limited time before the Council meeting. Councilmember Knell suggested having the citizen that is scheduled to speak next week present. Mayor Pacheco said that he would like to resolve the matter of the possible conflict first and then decide about the timing of the work session discussion. Councilmember Knell suggested that the topic at hand really isn't about the board, rather about ordinance changes for contractor standards and inspection of work. City Manager Napier asked if it needs to be defined whether City staff be granted citation authority and if that is the case then the board of examiners needs to be reviewed regarding the appeal process. He suggested that Council may need to address both matters. Mayor Pacheco said he would like to consider the possible conflict of interest first. City Manager Napier offered that the citizen testimony occur as scheduled independently and the rest of the matters can be discussed later. Council supported listening to the citizen testimony at the next work session and having further discussion at a later time.

Mayor Pacheco adjourned the pre-meeting at 5:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING  
A Municipal Corporation

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Fleur Tremel  
City Clerk

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Ray Pacheco  
Mayor