

COUNCIL WORK SESSION – AUGUST 26, 2014

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmen Hopkins, Powell, Cathey, Schlager, and Bertoglio. Absent: Councilmen Hedquist, Sandoval and Goodenough.

The first item on the agenda was a request from the Natrona County Commissioners to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the transfer of ownership and future maintenance responsibilities of certain county roads located within or in close proximity to the City limits. City Manager Patterson presented the MOU and discussed the specific streets which were included in the agreement.

Councilman Hedquist joined the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

County Commissioner Bill McDowell responded to questions about the proposed agreement and noted that these issues had been discussed for several years and the MOU represents the results of the input from both the City and County regarding future development and access for properties which are immediately adjacent to the City limits.

Councilmember agreed to move the MOU to the next regular Council Meeting.

Councilman Sandoval joined the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

The second item on the agenda was a presentation by the Casper Planning and Zoning Commission on a proposal for an ordinance addressing digital signs. Community Development Director Liz Becher introduced Fred Maguire and Jim Holloway to present the Commission's recommendations for an ordinance to regulate digital signs. The proposed ordinance addresses limiting the brightness of the lights; prohibits sound; prohibits flashing/strobing lights (less than 2 seconds); prohibits video broadcasting and allow animation with a 2 second dwell time. They explained the process which was used to solicit input from the community and the sign companies and introduced Jerry Galles with Bar D Signs to represent the businesses. Jerry estimated that only one or two of the existing 45 digital signs in the community would have to be changes to comply with the ordinance. Council agreed that the work that has been done is a good effort and asked the Commission to present the proposed ordinance at a public hearing and then bring forward a formal recommendation to a regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Troy Bray and his son Rhys Bray were invited by Councilman Hedquist to speak to the City Council regarding the recent drowning accident. Mr. Bray asked that the Council consider taking out the features that make up the white water park due to the additional danger they cause as a result of the scouring conditions around the boulders. Mayor Meyer and Councilman Schlager indicated that they were working to put together a committee to look at the river and discuss opportunities to improve the safety for users. Councilman Hedquist encouraged the Council to evaluate the need to have the white water park as part of the river through Casper. The Council discussed the complexity of this issue with regard to actual ownership of the white water park and the adjoining properties.

A presentation by Wallace Trembath reviewed the progress on the Rocky Mountain Power settlement agreement. Mr. Trembath noted that the next quarterly meeting with Rocky Mountain Power is scheduled for November. He also indicated that there are some areas of the community which were not addressed in the settlement agreement and he is hopeful that Rocky Mountain Power will be open to looking at improvements to replace underground wiring in older neighborhoods as they have exceeded the estimated 30 year life, and to upgrade the overhead wiring in Paradise Valley and North Casper, as well as improve service capacity in Downtown Casper. Council thanked Mr. Trembath for his presentation and for his continued efforts on behalf of the City of Casper.

V.H. McDonald, Administrative Services Director, presented the Fiscal Year 2014 Financial Report for June 30, 2014. He noted that there were 4 cost centers that had expended more than was budgeted for the Fiscal Year. He also noted that the General Fund had received less in sales tax revenues than was originally budgeted but because of increases in other revenue sources the Fund was in good shape. He noted that the audit may contain a comment regarding the over-expenditures but that there was no provision for penalizing the city for this discrepancy.

At 6:15 p.m. it was moved by Councilman Hedquist, seconded by Councilman Hopkins to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation. The vote in favor was unanimous.

At 6:50 p.m. it was moved by Councilman Hedquist, seconded by Councilman Bertoglio to adjourn the meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous.