

COUNCIL WORK SESSION – September 9, 2014

Mayor Meyer called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with the following members present: Councilmen Bertoglio, Sandoval, Powell, Hopkins, Cathey and Goodenough. Councilman Schlager was present on the telephone. Absent: Councilman Hedquist.

At 4:35 p.m. it was moved by Councilman Hopkins, seconded by Councilman Cathey to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation. The vote in favor was unanimous.

At 5:10 p.m. it was moved by Councilman Sandoval, seconded by Councilman Powell to adjourn the Executive Session. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The Council invited Aaron McCreigh to provide an update on the proposed election on the Transient Room Tax. Aaron explained that Natrona County currently has a 3% Lodging Tax and the state law allows counties to adopt up to a 4% tax. Laramie County (Cheyenne), Johnson County (Sheridan) and Albany County (Laramie) all have adopted the 4th cent and have been competing with Casper with more marketing dollars to secure conventions and visitor dollars. The CCVB Board has voted to put the issue of increasing the Lodging Tax to 4% on the November 4th ballot. If the issue fails the CCVB will lose all funding. Aaron responded to questions about changing the timing of the vote on Lodging Tax away from the vote on the Optional 1%. He noted that the direction from the state has been that once the tax is in place it stays the same for the full 4 years and the timing on the vote cannot be changed even if an increase is desired.

Fleur Tremel, Assistant to the City Manager, presented her report on the Community Promotions process. Council agreed in the new guidelines to handle consideration for cash requests separate from requests for use of facilities and in-kind services. A total of 44 applications have been received for this round and Council will receive their first voting sheets along with copies of the applications for the next Council Meeting. Council direction was to move this forward with two separate voting sheets.

Fleur also presented the proposal to adopt a Citizen Academy for Casper. The intent of the Academy is to build a corp of educated citizens who will be interested in city government and will get involved in serving on committees or commissions or even running for future elected offices. Council endorsed the proposal and asked that it move forward with nominations solicited from current City Council Members and staff. The first class may begin this fall with 8 sessions – one each week.

Liz Becher, Community Development Director and Joy Clark, Community Development Technician, presented the 2013-2014 Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Annual Plan Evaluation. They reviewed the process for reporting to HUD regarding how the funds from the previous year were spent to benefit low to moderate income residents. Council will hold a public hearing on the CAPER at their Regular Meeting on September 16th.

City Manager Patterson led the discussion on which Council appointments for Boards and Commissions should include a Council interview with applicants. Councilman Bertoglio

reviewed the historical approach to the process of appointment of boards and commissions. After some discussion it was decided that appointments to the City Planning and Zoning Commission, the Amoco Joint Powers Board, and Civil Service Commission would be the only appointments where candidates would be interviewed by the City Council unless another group asks for assistance in making a selection.

Councilman Goodenough commented that the Drug Court is operating one police officer short to do follow up meetings with the participants until the Police Department is back to full staffing.

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting to be adjourned.