

COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.
City Hall - Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Follow-up
2. Arborist Licensing
3. Context Sensitive Agreements with WYDOT on Poplar Street Bridge
4. Meadowlark Park
5. WAM Video – Open Meetings Law
6. Code of Ethics & Social Media Policy (Continued Discussion)
7. Agenda Setting
8. Legislative Review
9. Council Around the Table

Mayor Powell called the work session to order at 4:31 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Johnson, Freel, Huber, Pacheco, Hopkins, Cathey, Lutz, Bates, and Mayor Powell.

There was no follow-up from the last Council meeting.

City Manager Napier led a discussion regarding arborist licensing. He explained that a man was recently killed in Casper due to a tree trimming accident. After this accident arborists approached the City to consider ways to adjust the ordinance to require licensing that would tighten the certification requirements and prevent those who do not have the correct expertise from practicing in Casper. The family of the man who died were present at the work session and explained the accident and how it could have been prevented if a certified arborist was present at the time the incident occurred. City Manager Napier explained that the proposed ordinance would require a certified arborist to be on site for aerial jobs, such as the trimming and felling of trees. The ordinance also raises the required insurance levels and requires workers compensation. The certification requirement is a three year process through the International Society of Arborists. Council discussed the process that would be in place for appeals, which would include appealing directly to City Council. Councilmember Hopkins asked for the 4-ft curb/sidewalk requirement to be changed back to 2-ft, and the other Councilmembers agreed with this change. Council gave their thumbs up to move forward with the proposed ordinance with the curb/sidewalk requirement changed to 2-ft.

Next, Council discussed the options for the Poplar Street bridge enhancements. City Manager Napier gave a background on the project and explained that the project is being undertaken by WYDOT (Wyoming Department of Transportation), and their plans include a 5-ft sidewalk on one side of the bridge, and a 10-ft sidewalk on the other side of the bridge. He also explained that the City has Federal Surface Transportation On-System

Enhancement funds as well as 1%#16 funds to use on enhancements. After paying \$100K for preliminary engineering, construction engineering, and an Indirect Cost Allocation Plan, the City has about \$589K available for enhancements. Members of the Platte River Trails Trust Board spoke about what their priorities are for the bridge, and stated that they would like the trail to circulate from the bridge. They said that they would like to prioritize a 10-ft sidewalk on both sides of the bridge, because the construction of the bridge cannot be changed later, while some of the beautification enhancements can be added later. They also discussed adding bump outs to the bridge, and stated that they could raise \$100K for this enhancement, which would pay for two bump outs. Council discussed all of the presented options and most Councilmembers agreed that they would like to prioritize the 10-ft sidewalk as well as add some street lighting to the bridge. They also decided they would like the two bump outs that the Trust has offered to fund, but they do not want to add any additional bump outs. City Manager Napier stated that if Council would like to focus on the widening of the sidewalks, he would at least suggest adding the infrastructure now (conduit, etc.) for lighting and trees to be placed later along the Poplar corridor. He stated that staff will bring a narrowed estimate back to Council for review. Councilmember Cathey asked that the estimate also include the cost of the trail connections, if WYDOT decides not to cover this cost.

Next, Council discussed the undeveloped portion of Meadowlark Park. City Manager Napier explained that staff met with community members who were seeking information on what future plans were for this park, and had expressed that they would like more maintenance of the undeveloped portion. Council discussed an idea to lease a portion of the park for a community greenhouse, and staff stated that they will discuss this option with the neighbors as well as Wyoming Food for Thought and University of Wyoming to see if they are interested in this idea. City Manager Napier stated that staff will meet with the neighbors again to narrow down ideas for the park.

Next, Council watched a Wyoming Association of Municipalities (WAM) video on open meetings laws.

Next, Council discussed the proposed ordinance for a code of ethics. They discussed the need for a code of ethics as a guiding document for the organization. Council gave their thumbs up to move the ordinance forward for formal consideration.

Council then discussed the proposed resolution for a social media policy. Council discussed the process if someone was to violate the policy, and asked if an executive session could take place to deal with the issue. City Attorney Henley replied that he did not think an executive session would be appropriate, but instead the Mayor or Vice Mayor could take the Councilmember aside to discuss the violation. He also explained that this policy provides guidance but does not punish for a violation and does not violate a Councilmember's first amendment right. He also explained that the portion that addresses not disparaging fellow Councilmembers is from Robert's Rule of Order, which Council has already adopted for Council meetings, and this is just an extension of the

same idea. Council gave their thumbs up to move the social media policy forward for formal consideration.

Next, Council scheduled agenda items for the September 24, 2019 work session and added items to future work session topics.

Mayor Powell updated Council on legislative items, and stated that there is a Minerals Committee hearing this week at Casper College. He also stated that Casper will be hosting a WAM regional meeting on September 5th and encouraged Councilmembers to attend.

Next, Council went around the table to discuss their respective board and committee meetings and share ideas and concerns related to public matters of interest. Councilmember Bates asked if staff could look into strengthening portions of the solicitation ordinance, and City Attorney Henley stated he will look into this. Mayor Powell stated that this could maybe be added to a future work session. Councilmember Lutz encouraged Councilmembers to attend the ENGAGE conference on September 7th. Councilmember Cathey brought up an issue related to impounding a vehicle, and City Manager Napier stated he will look further into this. Councilmember Hopkins discussed QCD's and opportunity funds.

The Council meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
ATTEST:

A Municipal Corporation

Fleur D. Tremel
City Clerk

Charles Powell
Mayor