

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, May 28, 2019 4:30 p.m.

Casper City Hall

Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Follow-Up
2. Small Trailer Parking
3. Camping Ordinance
4. Council Resolution Regarding Tow Fees
5. Reallocation of County-Wide Consensus
6. Agenda Setting
7. Legislative Review
8. Council Around the Table

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Bates, Freel, Hopkins, Huber, Johnson, Lutz, Walsh, and Mayor Pro Tem Johnson. Absent Mayor Powell.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson asked for a volunteer to be the Wyoming Association of Municipalities alternate voting delegate at the upcoming June conference. Councilmember Huber agreed to be the alternate.

Next, Councilmember Walsh mentioned his concern with the International Codes being difficult for the public to view, which was discussed at the last Council meeting. Councilmember Lutz suggested purchasing a copy to leave as a reference item at the public library. Councilmember Walsh requested that this topic be discussed at a future work session.

Next, City Manager Napier provided an overview on an ordinance that would extend the same parking restrictions to small trailers as other trailers and recreational vehicles. City Attorney Henley explained that City staff had brought the issue forward because of safety concerns. Councilmembers had several questions on the details of the ordinance, which City Attorney Henley addressed. Councilmembers provided a thumbs up to bring the ordinance forward for formal consideration.

Next, City Manager Napier introduced the camping ordinance. City Attorney Henley presented information on the proposed ordinance and explained what camping issues would and would not be addressed. Council discussed the matter at length and asked several questions, which City Attorney Henley addressed. Councilmembers were concerned about private property rights, zoning restrictions, duration of camping allowed, and sanitation issues. City Manager Napier clarified that this would not limit itinerant merchants and that the purpose is to find a balance that would allow brief stays at places like a truck stop without encouraging tent cities. Council further discussed space and time restrictions for camping, the intent of such a law versus the perception of the law, and if there is a need for any changes at this time. Chief McPheeters indicated that the law is currently overly broad, and he would like direction from Council to refine

it. Councilmembers discussed their concerns about the ordinance affecting private property rights and asked for clarification. Chief McPheeters again stated he would like direction from Council so he can enforce things fairly. Council continued to discuss what camping restrictions would be reasonable. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson asked if the proposed ordinance should be moved forward, which resulted in an equal number of thumbs up and thumbs down. City Manager Napier suggested that Council consider either letting the ordinance die at this time, or consider amendments that are agreeable to Council. Councilmembers discussed how camping restrictions may be monitored, and what would be reasonable.

City Manager Napier asked if temporary camping on private property, such as Walmart, would be allowed. City Attorney Henley indicated that no camping is allowed in the City limits currently, that the law is likely unconstitutional as written, and that the proposed changes are an effort to have reasonable terms in place without over-reaching. City Attorney Henley also stated that our law is currently very prohibitive, and changes would expand options for the public.

Councilmembers further discussed camping restrictions, enforceability, and laws that already apply to some of the camping issues. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson suggested an amendment that just states that camping is not allowed on public property. City Attorney Henley asked if language could be included that defines camping. Councilmembers seemed open to the proposed language.

Next, City Manager Napier spoke regarding the towing and wrecker services policy. Chief McPheeters shared his concerns with the current policy and requested direction from the Council. Councilmembers discussed the matter and asked several questions, which Chief McPheeters addressed. Council discussed how the towing services could best be managed to allow appropriate controls and oversight to avoid overcharging citizens. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson asked if Council would support a resolution updating the towing policy. City Manager Napier indicated staff would bring a resolution forward for formal consideration.

Next, City Manager Napier suggested reallocating the residual County Wide Consensus funding from the Midwest Avenue and Poplar Street traffic signal project to the Midwest Avenue reconstruction phase II project. City Manager Napier indicated that if Council wished to do so, that the consensus group would be contacted for their approval. Councilmembers indicated a thumbs up to the reallocation. Councilmember Bates asked if the funding could be used for a project on Poplar and First Street. City Manager Napier indicated that was possible, if Council desired it. Andrew Beamer, Public Services Director, suggested that because of the timing of the projects, the phase II project may be more appropriate. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson confirmed that Council would like to request the reallocation be to the Midwest Avenue phase II project.

Next, Council discussed future work session agenda items for the June 25, 2019 agenda.

Council did not need to discuss any legislative issues.

Council then went around the table to discuss their respective board and committee meetings and share ideas and concerns related to public matters of interest. Councilmember Lutz asked about food truck licensing, which City Attorney Henley addressed. Councilmember Huber expressed concern that the City of Casper may not seem to be business friendly because safe and reasonable places for some businesses have limited options within City limits.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur D. Tremel
City Clerk

Charles Powell
Mayor