

**COUNCIL PRE-MEETING**  
Tuesday, January 21, 2020 5:30 p.m.  
Casper City Hall - Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Distribution of January 14, 2020 Executive Session Minutes
2. Agenda Review

Mayor Freel began the pre-meeting session at 5:38 p.m. with Councilmembers Bates, Cathey, Hopkins, Huber, Lutz, Pacheco, Powell and Mayor Freel in attendance. Absent: Johnson.

City Manager Napier spoke about the upcoming legislative session. He stated that proposed changes to the direct distribution funding are being discussed and reminded Council that these funds are the portion of the State of Wyoming's budget designated for cities and towns throughout the state. He continued by stating that the City of Casper has recently been receiving roughly \$3.8 million of the \$105 million of the direct distribution funding and that those monies have been used for our operations/general fund. He explained that there is an amendment out of committee that may or may not be moving forward that would shift the direct distribution funding from the larger communities to smaller communities and would have a negative effect on our budget. He asked Council how they viewed this and what position should be taken going into the legislative session. He also suggested that if Casper can live with this cut, then perhaps additional assistance would need to be requested to support large projects.

Councilmember Powell said he supported the shift to the smaller towns. He said that Casper should ask for help with large things as well as request a municipal option tax. Councilmember Cathey asked about the likely amount of direct distribution funds. City Manager Napier shared that there is some support for reducing the amount but it is probably not the direction that will be taken. Councilmember Cathey shared that Casper could probably live with the cut but consideration for allowing other taxation could be key. He noted that the food tax had gone away and that the difference has never been replaced.

Mayor Freel asked for concerns regarding the agenda. Councilmember Cathey inquired about the need for a cooling unit at the Metro Animal Shelter. Liz Becher, Community Development Director, provided a summary of the need for this repair. Councilmembers had further questions, which Ms. Becher addressed.

Councilmember Huber asked Council to consider removing items from the consent agenda if the cost is above a certain threshold. Councilmembers discussed the matter. Councilmember Pacheco asked if citizens can request an item be discussed if it is listed on the consent agenda. City Manager Napier indicated that there is a process for that request. Councilmembers suggested review of the upcoming agendas to evaluate any possible items of concern and use of discretion regardless of the cost of the item. Mayor Freel adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING  
A Municipal Corporation

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Fleur Tremel  
City Clerk

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Steven K. Freel  
Mayor