

COUNCIL PRE-MEETING
Tuesday, October 20, 2020 5:30 p.m.
Casper City Hall - Council Chambers

AGENDA

1. Wind River Traffic Update
2. Ice Replacement Status
3. Westnet, Inc. – Fire Station No. 1 Alerting System Project
4. Temporary Extension of Hours of Operation – Halloween – Liquor License Holders
5. Agenda Review

Mayor Freel began the pre-meeting session at 5:34 p.m. with Councilmembers Bates, Cathey, Hopkins, Huber, Johnson, Lutz, Pacheco, Powell and Mayor Freel in attendance.

City Manager Napier provided an overview of the concerns with traffic along Wind River Avenue. Police Chief McPheeters shared detailed information on the traffic data collected in the area and indicated that there is not a chronic speeding or traffic area in the vicinity. Councilmember Bates asked about the duration of the study, which Chief McPheeters addressed.

City Manager Napier introduced the topic of the project at the ice arena and indicated that Mr. Cortez would provide further details on the project as well as give an update on the lighting at Hogadon.

Tim Cortez, Parks and Recreation Manager, shared a slide show of pictures taken during the extensive work done to place the ice plant from the Casper Events Center (CEC) at the ice arena. He described the timing setbacks involved with the project and explained the need for an alarm system that is required by code. He shared that the project is due to be completed in mid-November. He also explained that the contingency amount for this project was still being calculated because the ice plant had been damaged while at the CEC and insurance reimbursements are still being processed.

Next Mr. Cortez spoke about the lighting poles at Hogadon that were recently installed to allow night skiing. He shared that upon inspection and further evaluation the poles had significant manufacturing issues which required all the poles to be taken down, replaced, and re-installed. He reminded everyone that this equipment was going to be a gift to the City of Casper and that the donation of them has not been finalized. He stated that because of these issues it would be unlikely that Hogadon would offer night skiing this season. He also said that the manufacturer is working to reimburse the project managers for taking down the poles and replacing them. Councilmember Bates asked if the project may be completed in time for the ski season and Mr. Cortez indicated it was very unlikely.

City Manager Napier introduced the topic of a sole-source purchase of new equipment for Fire Station No. 1 and requested further information from staff. Deputy Fire Chief Speiser stated that the alerting system at Station One is on the verge of failure and needs to be replaced. He indicated

that this purchase would make the equipment consistent amongst the stations and would help the well-being of staff. He also shared that contract negotiations over insurance was delaying the item and would need to be considered at a future Council meeting. Council did not have any questions.

City Manager Napier stated that a liquor license holder had requested a two-hour extension of operating hours for the night of Halloween, which also happens to coincide with the end of daylight savings time. City Manager Napier indicated that the extension could be made to extend the operating hours two or three hours (if the closing time rather than the duration is honored), depending on what Council prefers. Councilmember Pacheco asked for further information and Mayor Freel indicated that one dealer had requested it, but it would be an option for all dealers, and it would allow businesses to space out customers. Councilmember Pacheco asked if the police department was comfortable with this change. Police Chief McPheeters indicated that staff would be able to accommodate the change. City Manager Napier also stated that this item would be authorized by a resolution this evening and that the liquor dealer also had a change in ownership and the public hearing for the transfer of ownership would be established at the meeting tonight.

Then City Manager Napier spoke about a second round of Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) funding that staff would be applying for and the need to complete certain upgrades. He shared that the key upgrades would include the following: reducing door and fixture touch-points in City facilities, reducing staff exposure to Covid at lift station; and a self-service payment kiosk for bill payments. He stated that while these requests would cost about \$200,00 and would likely be awarded by the State of Wyoming, he would advocate that these upgrades occur even if the funding is not provided. Councilmember Bates also asked if City Hall upgrades would need be redone when the long-term rehabilitation plans are carried out. City Manager Napier said that the changes would not need to be replicated. Councilmembers had concerns that the kiosk would cut staff jobs, might not be cost effective, or may otherwise limit the quality of customer service provided by the City. City Manager Napier said that this measure would limit lines, offer customers another contactless option, and would supplement rather than replace staff. Council provided a thumbs up to the upgrades.

Mayor Freel adjourned the pre-meeting at 6:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Steven K. Freel
Mayor