

COUNCIL PRE-MEETING

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 5:00 p.m.
Casper City Hall - Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Budget Amendment
2. Community Relations Spec Update
3. Health of Community Status Report
4. Agenda Review

Mayor Freel began the pre-meeting session at 5:04 p.m. with Councilmembers Bates, Cathey, Hopkins, Huber, Johnson, Lutz, Powell and Mayor Freel in attendance. Councilmember Pacheco attended via telephone.

City Manager Napier provided an overview of the proposed budget amendment, which is on the agenda for this evening. Tom Pitlick, Finance Director, shared that this would provide staff the authority to spend Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act reimbursements. Council did not have any questions.

Next City Manager Napier introduced the topic of the City Engineering division's resident communication plan. Andrew Beamer, Public Services Director, spoke about the changes that had been implemented and how those changes had been received. Council did not have any questions.

Then City Manager Napier spoke about the listing that was included in the pre-meeting packet of suggestions and ideas for helping to limit and control the spread of COVID-19 in the community during this time of high infection. He acknowledged that some of the actions are not under the control of the City Council. He also shared that City Hall has been modeling safe practices for staff and citizen interactions and other City facilities could move in that direction. He encouraged Council to ask for more information, if needed, and to provide staff direction in moving forward.

Mayor Freel commented that some of the listed suggestions are already in place or are already in progress. He shared that communication with businesses and other groups is ongoing and is about overall good health practices. He also shared that he feels limiting the hours of private businesses would not be constructive and that staffing is already difficult because of the amount of people that are sick or in quarantine.

Council discussed solutions for limiting or slowing the infection rate at length, and all Councilmembers spoke during the discussion. Key points included the following: limiting the size of gatherings, especially at City facilities; mask mandates and enforcing compliance with mandates; closing or limiting the hours of businesses in the City and the effectiveness if the limits aren't county-wide; the balance of too much or not enough action to protect the community; and requesting that the Natrona County School District shift to virtual classes for a time period (such as between Thanksgiving and the New Year).

City Manager Napier did indicate that staff would be open to direction at this time, or Council could have further discussion at another time. Council did not provide any action steps for City Manager Napier or staff. Mayor Freel adjourned the pre-meeting at 5:59 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Steven K. Freel
Mayor