

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS - SPECIAL MEETING
Casper City Hall – Council Chambers
October 31, 2020

1. ROLL CALL

Casper City Council met in special session at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, October 31, 2020. Present: Councilmembers Bates, Cathey, Hopkins, Huber, Johnson, Lutz, Pacheco, Powell and Mayor Freel. Councilmember Huber attended via telephone.

Councilmember Cathey called point of order and requested that the Pledge of Allegiance be recited. Mayor Freel led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. RESOLUTION

Following resolution read:

RESOLUTION NO. 20-210

A RESOLUTION RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 20-206 WHICH ALLOWED RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSE OWNERS TO REMAIN OPEN ON EXTENDED HOURS ON HALLOWEEN, OCTOBER 31, 2020 AND THE ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION CURTAILING THE TIME LIQUOR LICENSE OWNERS REMAIN OPEN ON HALLOWEEN.

Councilmember Pacheco presented the foregoing resolution for adoption. Seconded by Councilmember Huber. City Attorney Henley spoke briefly on the Wyoming Statute allowing for a special meeting and the reason for this meeting. He also shared that the following actions were taken to provide notice of the meeting to the public: the media was notified by e-mail; liquor license holders were notified by e-mail; and any liquor license holders without e-mail received a phone call from the City Clerk. Mayor Freel asked if the resolution should first be amended to reflect W.S. §16.4.404(d) rather than 16.4.405(d), as stated in the resolution before Council. City Attorney Henley suggested that a motion to amend the typographical error at this time would be best.

Moved by Councilmember Hopkins, to by minute action, change W.S. §16.4.404(d) to 16.4.405(d) in the third paragraph of the resolution. Seconded by Councilmember Pacheco. Motion to amend passed.

Mayor Freel explained that the City Council had passed a resolution on October 20th, which would extend the hours of operation for retail liquor license owners on the night of Halloween. He then stated that on October 30th, that representatives from Casper College, the Natrona County School District, Wyoming Medical Center, infectious disease physicians, Natrona County Commissioners, he and the City Manager met to share information and to discuss the current local infection rate of the Covid virus. He shared some statistics and described the impact of the virus on the community including: those who are ill or are dying; the hospital; and the staffing of health care and essential services. He stated that health officials requested that the resolution allowing bars to be open late on Halloween be rescinded.

Mayor Freel and every Councilmember shared their concerns and thoughts. Topics of discussion included: short notice to license holders; concentrating patrons at bars in town or out of town by having different closing times; overall activity at large community gatherings; and the health of the community now compared to when the hours were extended.

Councilmember Cathey moved to amend the resolution to allow liquor license establishments to be open until 2 a.m., which is their normal operating hours. Seconded by Councilmember Powell. Councilmembers Cathey, Powell and Mayor Freel voted aye. Motion to amend failed.

Mayor Freel then asked Council to vote to rescind the resolution. Councilmembers Bates, Cathey, Johnson, and Vice Mayor Lutz voted nay. Motion passed.

City Attorney Henley then stated that there were two parts to the resolution, the first part rescinding Resolution No. 20-206, and the second curtailing the time that retail liquor license owners may remain open on October 31, 2020 to midnight. He felt that as stated by the Mayor, the vote just cast was perhaps only on the rescission rather than the motion on the floor. Mayor Freel then requested everyone vote on the resolution (as amended to reflect the change of W.S. §16.4.404 (d) to 16.4.405 (d)). Councilmembers Bates, Cathey, Johnson, and Vice Mayor Lutz voted nay. Motion passed.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councilmember Cathey, seconded by Councilmember Lutz, to, by minute action adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

Fleur Tremel
City Clerk

Steven K. Freel
Mayor