

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting of the Evansville Town Council, Evansville, Wyoming

January 13, 2020

The regular meeting of the Evansville Town Council of the Town of Evansville, County of Natrona, State of Wyoming, was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jennifer Sorenson at 7:00 p.m. and upon roll call the following were present: Council Members Chad Edwards, Joe Knop, Aaron Vigneault, and Sheena Hixson, Town Attorney Scott Murray, Town Planner Scott Radden, Town Treasurer Lexi Erickson, Chief of Police Mike Thompson, Fire Chief Leo Malsom, Public Works Director Ron Emond, Town Clerk Janelle Underwood, and interested citizens.

Town Engineer Shane Porter asked to be excused.

Mayor Jennifer Sorenson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Aaron Vigneault and seconded by Sheena Hixson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for the Regular Meeting on December 9, 2019, were presented for approval. Motion was made by Joe Knop and seconded by Chad Edwards to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.

APPROVAL FOR MAYOR TO EXECUTE CITEPAY USA SERVICES AGREEMENT: Town Attorney Scott Murray stated that the Cite Pay USA Services Agreement would allow the Evansville Municipal Court to accept court fine payments online. He stated that they have been working with Justice Systems, Inc., for some time. He stated that the agreement is in order and ready for authorization for the Mayor to execute.

Motion was made by Aaron Vigneault and seconded by Sheena Hixson authorizing the Mayor to execute the Cite Pay USA Services Agreement. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #1-2020: An Ordinance Prohibiting the Use of Portable Electronic Devices While Operating a Motor Vehicle. First reading. Chief of Police Mike Thompson reported to the Governing Body that currently the State of Wyoming has a law that states that you cannot text message while you are driving but that it doesn't say that you can't use your phone. He stated that in looking at the statistics for the last year, there were one hundred and one (101) vehicle accidents in Evansville. He stated that when that is compared to other communities our size around the state, it is excessively high. Chief Thompson further reported national statistics of vehicle accidents and the amount of accidents caused by distracted driving. He stated that the proposed ordinance would also restrict the use of wearing ear buds or head phones while the vehicle is in motion. He stated that he can't say how many people he sees driving while looking at their phones and that with all of the social media, news, and games, they may not necessarily be sending and receiving text messages. He stated that the proposed ordinance will not stop all accidents but that maybe it will curtail them if the hands-free ordinance is passed and people are paying attention to the road instead of their electronic devices.

Mayor Sorenson stated that this proposed ordinance doesn't pertain to a person if they are connected to Bluetooth.

Chief Thompson stated that was correct.

Councilmember Chad Edwards asked if it would be acceptable for people to use their speaker phone.

Chief Thompson said that would not be an issue because they can place their phone call on speaker, set the phone down, and not be distracted.

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Dacia Edwards asked if there would be an issue with the blue tooth hearing aids.

Mayor Sorenson stated that the blue tooth hearing aids are not noise cancelling. She stated that the ear buds and the headphones are noise cancelling and that is why there is a problem with them. She stated that because people are listening to music, they can't hear anything outside of those ear buds or headphones.

Chief Thompson stated that would not be a problem. He stated that if someone is driving down the road and not paying attention to the road because they are looking at the phone that is in their hand, that is distracted driving. Chief Thompson stated that there are fourteen states as well as Cheyenne and Jackson that have Hands Free laws. He stated that by people being hands free, it could help them avoid an accident because the distraction is not there.

Councilwoman Hixson stated that she wants to make sure that this doesn't affect those people that have a vehicle that does not have blue tooth and appreciated that Councilman Edwards asked about people using their phone and having it on speaker phone.

Councilman Edwards stated that he is torn and doesn't want to be intrusive, but he does think that distracted driving is an issue.

Councilmember Aaron Vigneault stated that he thinks it is an important safety issue, but that at least people can put their phone on speaker and place it on the dash. He stated that as far as using a GPS, you should be setting your GPS before you leave.

Motion was made by Aaron Vigneault and seconded by Joe Knop to approve Ordinance #1-2020 on first reading. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING – 7:05 P.M.- LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS: Liquor License renewals for Outback Steakhouse, Texas Roadhouse, Taylor's Sports Bar and Spirits, Wyoming Downs, Hooch's, Ash Premium Cigar and HQ BBQ were presented for Liquor License renewals. Mayor Jennifer Sorenson verified that a representative was present for each liquor establishment.

Town Clerk Janelle Underwood advised that all licensees filed their applications with the Town of Evansville and that the licenses were forwarded to the Wyoming Liquor Commission and approved except for one. She stated that the Wyoming Downs LLC dba Wyoming Downs OTB 15 applied for their Sales Tax License and that the Sales Tax License is issued to Wyoming Downs OTB15 LLC. She stated that the problem is that the liquor license and the sales tax license must be issued to the same applicant. She asked that the Wyoming Downs OTB 15 Liquor License be approved contingent on the sales tax license being corrected by February 27, 2020.

Mayor Sorenson asked for any public comments for or against the issuance of the liquor licenses. There were no public comments for or against. The Public Hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Joe Knop and seconded by Chad Edwards to approve the liquor licenses for Outback Steakhouse, Texas Roadhouse, Taylor's Sports Bar and Spirits, Hooch's, Ash Premium Cigar, and HQ BBQ. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Aaron Vigneault and seconded by Chad Edwards to approve the liquor license renewal for Wyoming Downs contingent upon Wyoming Downs getting the sales tax license corrected by February 27, 2020. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BUSINESS LICENSE: Business License application for Sedmak Construction was presented to the Governing Body for approval. Motion was made by Sheena Hixson and second by Chad Edwards to approve the Business License for Sedmak Construction. Motion carried.

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BILLS FOR APPROVAL: Bills were presented to the Governing Body for approval. Motion was made by Aaron Vigneault and seconded by Chad Edwards to pay all bills and draw treasury upon the same. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: During public comments, Tim Mead, 3015 Cotton Creek Place, Casper, Wyoming stated that he works for Mountain West Technologies. He stated that he had some information to pass out to the Governing Body regarding entering a lease with the Town of Evansville that would bring faster internet service into the Town as well as perhaps providing service to the Town of Evansville. He stated that they would like to build a customer base and install fiber optic within the Town's right-of-way on the property behind the Home Depot. He stated that Mountain West Technologies would also like to look at entering into a franchise agreement for review.

Mayor Sorenson asked that Mr. Mead provide an electronic copy of the packet that he handed out and that it could then be forwarded to Town Attorney Mike Lansing for review.

Levi Wyatt, 2505 Old Salt Creek Highway spoke to the Governing Body about his interest in purchasing the property located at 760 Second Street. He stated that he wants to build a post frame house and wanted to see if this is something that would be allowed by the Town of Evansville. He stated that he spoke with the Natrona County Building Department to make sure that it was acceptable to construct a slab on grade post frame structure to live in, which is also known as a "shouse", and wanted to make sure that the Town of Evansville would allow it. He stated that the structure he is looking at would be 60' x 120'. Mr. Wyatt stated that the outside of the structure can be made to look a lot like a residential home with the wains coating and perhaps with a covered porch. He provided pictures of some samples of what he is considering. He stated that it would be for personal use only with roughly 40' x 60' as his house, and then a shop in the middle for his personal things, and then the end would be personal storage for items such as a camper and a car trailer. He stated that there would be no commercial use out of it.

Town Planner Scott Radden stated that these are very large and tall structures and that he would be concerned about blocking the sun to the property to the north.

Mayor Sorenson stated that if it is for residential use and not any type of commercial use, she would be fine with it. Mayor Sorenson advised Mr. Wyatt to work with Town Planner Scott Radden and the inspector and that as he gets closer, to provide the Governing Body with some concept of what he was considering.

Public Works Director Ron Emond stated that he would like to see an oil/sand separator in the garage.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion was made by Joe Knop and seconded by Sheena Hixson to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried.

APPROVED: _____

Jennifer Sorenson, Mayor

ATTESTED: _____

Janelle Underwood, Town Clerk