

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Evansville Town Council Meeting, Evansville, Wyoming

January 13, 2020

Work Session

A Work Session was held on January 13, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Jennifer Sorenson, Council Members Chad Edwards, Joe Knop, Aaron Vigneault and Sheena Hixson. Also present were Town Attorney Scott Murray, Treasurer Lexi Erickson, Town Clerk Janelle Underwood, Police Chief Mike Thompson, Fire Chief Leo Malsom, Assistant Fire Chief Mark Cornett, Public Works Director Ron Emond, and interested citizens.

Proposed Rate Increase: Town Treasurer Lexi Erickson handed put a proposal to increase the water, sewer and sanitation rates by three percent (3%). She advised that the City of Casper is increasing the sanitation charges at the bale fill by two dollars (\$2.00) per ton and bale fill passes are increasing by three dollars (\$3.00) per trip. It was noted that there has not been an increase in utilities since January 2018. The proposed increase would start in 2020 if approved and the utilities would be increased by three percent (3%) in 2021, 2022, and 2023. A proposed ordinance will be presented to the Governing Body for approval. The proposal is attached.

Snow Removal Ordinance: Chief of Police Mike Thompson and Public Works Director Ron Emond spoke to the Governing Body about the issues that arise with the current snow removal procedures and the problems that the Public Works Department is faced with vehicles parked on the streets and the width of some of the streets in town. Currently the Public Works Department plows all the snow to the side of the streets but then there are issues with the snow melting and freezing in the gutters and water backing up. Ideally plowing the snow to the center of the street and then coming back in and removing the center windrow would be great but the cost of a snow blower is cost prohibitive at this time. Discussion was held on what other communities around the State of Wyoming and other states handle snow removal and a lot of places put a no parking on the streets order out to allow the snow removal crews to get in and get the snow removed off the streets. After much discussion, Public Works Director Ron Emond will put out a Survey Monkey with various questions for feedback and present the results to the Governing Body.

Ordinance #15-4-1 (b) – Disorderly House: Chief of Police Mike Thompson spoke to the Governing Body about Ordinance #15-4-1 (b). He stated that he is needing a definition of habitually disturbed and in that definition, define issues like drugs, parties, violence, and need clarification on a time frame. Chief Thompson stated that the ordinance needs to define how often to you look at the number of calls annually, semi-annually or quarterly to determine if it could be considered a Disorderly House.

Recess was taken during the Work Session at 6:58 p.m. in order to hold the Regular scheduled Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The Work Session reconvened at 7:45 p.m. after the Council Meeting. All present at the Work Session except for Town Attorney Scott Murray.

Update on Aspens Mobile Home Park and 135 Oklahoma – Removal of trailers: Chief Thompson stated that he was wanting to know the status of the clean up of the Aspens Mobile Home Park and 135 Oklahoma. He stated that Leave, Quit and Vacate Notices were placed on a lot of the trailers in the Aspens and wondered about the status of that property as well as the court ruled 135 Oklahoma to be cleaned by the 27th of December 2019. He stated that 135 Oklahoma had not been cleaned up yet and that Town Attorney Scott Murray will need to advise what the current status is.

MOU w/Casper Police Department for Shooting Range: Police Chief Mike Thompson stated that due to the expense of trying to purchase property outside of town for a Shooting Range that he has had discussion with the City of Casper Police Department about utilizing their facility. He stated that the users fee would be three hundred dollars (\$300.00) annually and for now, this is the route that he will go in order to get his officers on the shooting range for qualifications.

Ammunition: Chief Thompson stated that the Police Department's weapon policy has been standardized to using only 9mm pistols and 223 rifles. He stated that he has a large quantity of 40 caliber and 45 caliber ammo, and he is looking at offering it for sale to the police officers. The question came up if it could be sold to all town employees and he stated yes. Chief Thompson stated that he is looking at a price of \$17.50 per 50 rounds.

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Police Patrol Ford Explorers with V6: Police Chief Mike Thompson stated that there having issues with the engines on the Ford Explorers which the Town owns six of. He stated that the water pump is located inside the engine and is very costly to replace and it has been discovered that the timing chain usually needs replaced with the possibility of the engine because by the time it is realized there is an issue with the vehicle, a lot of damage has already been done. He stated that he has done some research and found that there are lawsuits that have been filed over this problem and that it may not be worth dumping money into them. Chief Thompson stated that he will look to see if there are any used patrol units to purchase just like the Chargers that were purchased a little over a year ago and if not, that he had budgeted for the purchase of a new patrol vehicle.

Police Department Firearm and Boots Policy: Chief of Police Mike Thompson handed out a new Firearm and Boot Policy to the Governing Body for the Police Department.

Revisit Current Fiscal Year Budget – Hiring of Additional Police Officer and Fire Fighters: Town Treasurer Lexi Erickson handed out the Year to Date Financial report on Revenues versus Expenses and currently the expenses are \$49,916.85 in the hole over revenues. She stated that what has improved the revenues versus expenses is the Cedar Springs Wind Impact Funds started coming in earlier than expected. She stated that to date, the Town has received \$59,500.00. The question was raised as to when the Town will start seeing the revenue from the off-track betting and Treasurer Lexi Erickson stated that the Town won't see funds until sometime in January 2020. Discussion was held about utilizing the one time funds such as Cedar Springs Wind Impact Funds to pay for one time expenses such as the cardiac monitors and patrol vehicles whereas hiring new positions is an ongoing expense and at this time the Town is not in a position to hire additional people.

Work Session adjourned at 9:20 p.m. No action was taken.

APPROVED:

ATTESTED: 
Janelle Underwood, Town Clerk


Jennifer Sorenson, Mayor