

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting of the Evansville Town Council, Evansville, Wyoming

June 27, 2022

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 Chad Edwards at 7:00 p.m. and upon roll call the following were present: Council Members Joe Knop, Candace Machado, Michael Scott, and Dacia Edwards, Town Attorney Scott Murray, Chief of Police Mike Thompson, Fire Chief Leo Malsom, Public Works Director Robert Lewallen, Town Clerk Janelle Underwood, and interested citizens.

Mayor Chad Edwards led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Michael Scott and seconded by Dacia Edwards to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- A) Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting June 13, 2022, and June 20, 2022 Special Meeting.
- B) Approval of Business Licenses – BH, Inc., Chili’s Southwest Grill & Bar, Corner to Corner Exterior Cleaning, RAD Roofing, and Uplift Therapy and Wellness.

Motion was made by Michael Scott and seconded by Joe Knop to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

BID AWARD – 2022 OR NEWER ½ TON TRUCK: Town Clerk Janelle Underwood stated that the Town received bids for a 2022 or newer ½ Ton Truck. She stated that these bids are still under review and asked that the Governing Body table the award of bid.

Motion was made by Michael Scott and seconded by Candace Machado to table the bid award for the 2022 or Newer 1/2/Truck. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – METRO ANIMAL SHELTER SERVICES:

Mayor Chad Edwards stated that as everyone is aware, the Town’s current animal shelter providers, City of Mills and the Humane Society have decided to terminate their services effective July 1, 2022. He stated that with, the Town is exploring other options but, in the meantime, has reached out to the City of Casper and reached an agreement through a Memorandum of Understanding for them to house the animals for a two-month period.

Motion was made by Michael Scott to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Casper for housing animals for a two-month period.

Council Member Candace Machado stated that she did have some concerns with Metro Animal Control as far as staffing shortage and the care of animals.

Mayor Edwards stated that Chief Thompson spoke with the Casper Deputy Police Chief about staffing issues and that these issues have been addressed.

Alona Vigneault asked what the Town was going to do with the animals after hours.

Mayor Edwards stated that Casper has its own lock system for the facility and that if we wanted to gain access to the facility after hours, we could at a cost of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). He stated that he felt that this was an unwarranted expense, especially if the Town only utilizes the Metro facilities during this short interim. Mayor Edwards stated that Chief Thompson is going to purchase a couple of kennels to house the animals overnight if they are picked up after hours and then the animals can be taken to the shelter the next morning. Mayor Edwards stated that as of July 1, 2022, the Town will not have a place to take the animals. He stated that this interim agreement is to help bridge that gap until the Town we can come to a better agreement.

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Council Member Joe Knop seconded the motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Metro Animal Shelter Services. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING – APPROVAL OF CHILI’S BAR AND GRILL LIQUOR LICENSE: Mayor Edwards asked for any public comments regarding the Chili’s Bar and Grill Liquor License application. There were no public comments. Mayor Edwards closed the public hearing.

Because no one was present to represent the Chili’s Bar and Grill Liquor License application, motion was made by Michael Scott and seconded by Dacia Edwards to table the approval of the Chili’s Bar and Grill Liquor License. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #3-2022: An Ordinance to Amend Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget. Third and final reading. Town Clerk Janelle Underwood summarized Ordinance #3-2022 on third and final reading. She advised that the ordinance was amended to provide an increase in the Police Department and Fire Department categories. She stated that the Police Department saw increases in jail fees, PSCC fees, fuel, and vehicle repairs and that the Fire Department saw an increase in wages due to the Federal Fire assignment in Colorado in May and June of this year.

Mayor Edwards stated that the expenses that were incurred on the Federal Fire assignment by the Fire Department will be reimbursed but that the Town has not received the funds yet.

Motion was made by Michael Scott and seconded by Joe Knop to approve Ordinance #3-2022 as amended on third and final reading. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #4-2022: An Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget. Third and final reading. Town Clerk Janelle Underwood summarized Ordinance #4-2022 on third and final reading.

Motion was made by Michael Scott and seconded by Candace Machado to approve Ordinance #4-2022 on third and reading. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: During public comments, Council Member Candace Machado stated that there was a post on a social media feed that got heated concerning campers and trailers parking on the streets. She stated that she then posted the ordinances that had been passed from 1982, 1992, and 2016. She stated that the ordinances have been clear other than a change in the width. She stated that she knows that the Governing Body had started the discussion last year and had spent a lot of time considering everyone’s thoughts and concerns. She stated that they found that making a decision was not going to be easy. She stated that she wanted everyone to know that at no point in time has the Council not addressed issues that have come up and that enforcement needs to be looked at knowing that not everyone is going to be happy with the choices that are made. She stated that the Governing Body does hear the citizens and wants them to know that the Governing Body does hear them. She stated that there have been complaints that the ordinances are not being enforced and that she cannot confirm or deny those comments. Council Member Machado stated that she spoke to Community Service Officer Brandy Nester and Officer Nester assured her that she is working very diligently to address the issues with animals and property maintenance, but that she is only one person. Council Member Machado asked how the Town addresses these issues because they were brought up last year and again this year.

Chief of Police Mike Thompson stated that if someone has an issue, they need to call Police Dispatch or his office to make said complaint. He stated that no one has called the Police Department and complained about trailers parked on the streets since the last discussion. He stated that if a complaint is made to the Police Department, they have a way to track those issues. He also stated that Officer Nester has been busy addressing issues with people not taking care of their weeds and grass. He stated that law enforcement should not have to tell people to mow their weeds and grass, but they do. He stated that it is an important issue because weeds and grass harbor snakes, rodents, and the potential for a fire. He stated that the Police Officers are busy with other

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more serious crimes. He stated that three years ago, the department responded to about four thousand six hundred calls (4600) and that they are now at about seventy-eight hundred calls (7800). He stated that they simply do not have the manpower.

Council Member Machado stated that she wanted to clarify that there have been no complaints made to the Police Department concerning the issue of trailers parked on the streets.

Chief Thompson stated that Council Member Machado was correct and that after seeing the complaint on Facebook, he drove around town and found a total of twenty-four trailers ranging from campers to utility trailers to boats and that some of those were hooked up to vehicles. He stated that he does not have the manpower to go around and mark a tire on a trailer and then calendar it. He stated that if people see an issue, they need to communicate that with the Police Department by calling the Police Dispatch and state that they have an issue such as a camper parked on the street and that they cannot back out of their driveway safely. He stated that his officers are busy addressing other issues to make the community safe. He stated that if people do not communicate with them, it is hard for them to address the issue. Chief Thompson stated that it is just like people complaining about the Kirby salespeople. He stated that if someone is trying to solicit business without a license, people need to call the Police Department because it is not illegal to walk down the sidewalk or for people to be driving around in a van with out-of-state license plates. He stated that without probable cause, law enforcement's hands are tied.

A great deal of discussion took place concerning trailers parked on the streets with opinions ranging from no trailers allowed on streets to seasonal parking of trailers on the streets to trailers should not be allowed to park on the streets and is a complicated issue. Some people feel that a work trailer should be allowed to park on the streets year-round.

Council Member Machado stated that everybody has an opinion about the trailer and camper ordinance and that the Governing Body is hearing everything from safety to allowing a few months out of the year to removing the ordinance all together. She stated that the Governing Body heard the same thing last year. She stated that whatever decision the Governing Body makes, someone is not going to be happy.

Mayor Edwards stated that the Governing Body can choose to revise or remove the ordinance and that it would take three readings. Mayor Edwards suggested that they hold a public hearing at the July 25, 2022, to give people an opportunity to express their feelings on this issue.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion was made by Joe Knop and seconded by Michael Scott to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. Motion carried.

APPROVED: 

Chad Edwards, Mayor

ATTESTED: 

Janelle Underwood, Town Clerk