

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Council Pre-Meeting

November 19, 2013

6:00 p.m.

A Pre-Meeting of the City Council of the City of Gillette, County of Campbell, State of Wyoming, was held on Tuesday the 19th day of November 2013, in the third floor conference room of City Hall, pursuant to due notice and call. The Presiding Officer called the meeting to order and upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Council Members present: Louise Carter-King, Robin Kuntz, Ted Jerred, Kevin McGrath, Forrest Rothleutner, and Council President Opseth.

Council Member absent: Mayor Tom Murphy.

Staff present: Kendall Glover, Acting City Administrator; Charlie Anderson, City Attorney; Dustin Hamilton, Development Services Director; Sawley Wilde, Public Works Director; Wayne Lindgren, Utilities System Analyst; Chuck Deaton, Lieutenant; Joe Lunne, Public Information Officer; Patti Davidsmeier, Community & Gov't Relations Manager; and Karlene Abelseth, City Clerk.

Warm Up Items

Councilwoman Carter-King inquired about the progress of a traffic signal at Highway 50 and Force Road. After some discussion it was decided to place this topic on the December 10, 2013, Work Session Agenda.

Councilman Kuntz reported that he had received a call from a citizen who is concerned about the lack of street lighting on the Beaver Drive extension. Staff will look into the possibility of more lighting.

Councilman Rothleutner requested that parking tickets be suspended during the Holiday Season to allow citizens more time to shop downtown.

Patel Liquor License Update

The Council asked that Kanti Patel, Patel, LLC, update them on the progress of his liquor establishment. Mr. Patel began by explaining that he approached the bank and made an offer for the property and liquor license. However, he was told by the bank that his offer was too low. Kum & Go then made an offer. The bank accepted the offer however, the timeline for their agreement expired. The bank then called Mr. Patel to inquire if he was still interested in purchasing the property and liquor license. Mr. Patel went on to say that he made the purchase and then left for India as his son was getting married. When they had returned home, his daughter-in-law began removing the carpeting in the building. However, she told Mr. Patel that she does not believe in the liquor business and does not want any part of it. In the meantime, Kum & Go approached Mr. Patel to purchase the liquor license. A letter of intent was signed between Kum & Go and Mr. Patel for a purchase agreement. However, the time expired and another letter of intent was signed between the two parties. Mr. Patel added that there is a local businessman who is interested in the property and liquor license and he is in the process of negotiating with him. Mr. Patel went on to say that if these negotiations don't work out, then he will have to open the business as he needs to protect his investment. Councilwoman Carter-King wanted confirmation that if the deal with the local businessman does not go through, then Mr. Patel would open the

business. Mr. Patel confirmed that was correct. Councilwoman Carter-King asked about the timeline. Mr. Patel replied by the end of the year and reiterated that he needs to protect his investment. Councilwoman Carter-King stated that the Council transferred the liquor license because they were made to believe, by his agent, that the business would be opened quickly. Mr. Patel stated it was his intent to open quickly. He then assured the Council that he understands their concern in regards to the liquor license not being operational. Councilman Jerred asked for confirmation that Mr. Patel's original intent was to open his establishment and not to hold the liquor license for Kum & Go. Mr. Patel affirmed that was correct. Councilman McGrath asked if the property and liquor license is sold to the local businessman, what would be the timeline for opening the business. Angie Sheridan, realtor representing the local businessman, informed the Council that her client currently holds a liquor license in the County and an established business. The businessman's intent is to do some renovating and open a package liquor store while waiting for his current establishment to sell. Councilwoman Carter-King asked about the building's condition, and when the business could be operational. Mr. Patel stated the building is intact; it would depend on how much remodeling a person wants to do. Councilman Jerred asked about the heating and cooling as he understood from Mr. Patel that it was not working. Mr. Patel stated that he checked the heating and cooling system and it does work. Discussion took place in regards to the upcoming liquor license renewal process and the timeline concerning the transfer of a liquor license.

Holiday Lighting Contest Discussion

Public Information Officer Lunne explained the revisions to the Holiday Lighting Contest. He reported that citizens can find information and rules pertaining to the contest in the Gillette News Record.

Agenda Item Review

The group discussed the upcoming agenda items for November 19, 2013.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

John Opseth, Council President

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ATTEST:

Karlene Abelseth, City Clerk
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