

A Pre-Meeting of the City Council was held on Tuesday the 20th day of November 2018.

Present were Councilmen Barks, Carsrud, Lundvall, Montgomery (via phone), Neary and Mayor Carter-King; City Administrator Davidson; City Attorney Reyes; Directors Aguirre, Cole, Henderson and Muzzarelli; Lt. Wasson; Managers Palazzari and Toscana; and City Clerk Abelseth.

Others present were Councilman Elect Brown, Commissioner Elect Reardon and Senator Von Flatern.

Warm Up Items

Mayor Carter-King announced that Councilman Carsrud will fulfill the remainder of former Councilman Kuntz's Council Presidency.

Ward III Vacancy Application Timeline

Administrator Davidson provided the timeline for accepting applications for the Ward III vacancy and added that all applications must be submitted in person to the City Clerk's office.

Air Service Reception Discussion

Senator Von Flatern extended an invitation to the Air Service reception to be held at the Pronghorn Center on Tuesday, November 27th. He then provided information regarding the Request for Proposal (RFP).

Franchise Fee Discussion

Joseph Van Eaton, attorney for Best, Best and Krieger, explained the franchise process, FCC issues that may be driving Charter Communication's behavior and a possible timeline. After the explanation Jarad Falk, Sr. Director of Government Affairs for Charter Communications, stated that he is committed to work with the City and get this issue resolved in 2019. Councilman Barks asked Mr. Falk if Charter is wanting to delay the franchise process until the Spring Ruling. Mr. Falk replied that he is not wanting to wait until then; in fact, he has a list of goals that he wants completed in 2019, and Gillette is on his list of goals. Councilman Barks asked if Mr. Falk is willing to work with City Attorney Reyes to accomplish his goals. Mr. Falk stated he is willing to work with City Attorney Reyes, however, it needs to be an agreement that works for both the City and Charter. He added that he would like to see this accomplished by the 3rd quarter of 2019. Mayor Carter-King stated that during the Wyoming Business Council hearings, a representative from Charter Communications argued against the City's fiber request. Mr. Falk stated that the way Charter looks at the RBC Grant, is that it is tax payer money which is being used to place fiber in the ground to compete against Charter where they already have fiber. He stated he would say to the City that if they wanted to use these grants, and other City funds to provide fiber in unserved areas, he would be first in line to congratulate the City. Administrator Davidson stated that grant request was not for fiber, it was for raceways. Mr. Falk stated that he believes it is the same thing, and added, the purpose is to put the conduit in and lease it out to other competitors to serve areas that Charter already serves. Mr. Davidson stated that Charter does not serve those areas and does not serve those businesses. Mr. Falk disagreed with Mr. Davidson and asked for a list of those businesses that are not being served as Charter wants to be part of the solution, not a part of the problem.

Review November 20th Council Agenda

The group reviewed the upcoming agenda items.

Executive Session

Councilman Barks made a motion to move into an Executive Session to discuss personnel, litigation and real estate; seconded by Councilman Carsrud. All voted aye. The motion carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m. An audio recording of this meeting is available in the City Clerk's Office.

(S E A L)

ATTEST:

Karlene Abelseth, City Clerk
Publish date: November 28, 2018

Louise Carter-King, Mayor