

A Work Session of the City Council was held on Tuesday the 13th day of August 2019.

Present were Councilmen Brown, Carsrud, Lundvall, McLeland, Montgomery, Neary, and Mayor Carter-King; Administrator Davidson and City Attorney Reyes; Director Cole, Henderson, Muzzarelli, and Wilde; Managers Sgt. Brothers, Hogan, Animal Control Supervisor Lile, Schoen, Lt. Wasson, and Palazzari; Civil Engineer Marty and City Clerk Staskiewicz.

Warm Up Items

Councilman Montgomery announced the Council of Community Services' open house on August 14th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mayor Carter-King informed Council of an invitation from Steve Crow to participate in the ground breaking ceremony of the Gillette Golf Course's additional 9-holes.

Emergency Snow Policy

City Administrator Davidson explained the current Emergency Snow Policy levels and Staff's concerns with the policy. Current issues include the basis that the status of when City employees are to report to work is dictated by the snow level status for the general public, as outlined in Gillette City Code 11-10. Business establishments are improperly interpreting the City Code, Snow Emergency Level III, as a City mandate for closure of their business, with the assumption that citations would be issued to citizens driving on City streets during a Level III emergency. Because of this misconception, citizens contact the City to ask, and sometimes demand, that the City move to a different snow emergency level. Administrator Davidson reported that last winter the City had three (3) Level II events and one (1) Level III event. Staff's recommendation is to update the external Snow Route and Snow Emergency designations contained within City Code to apply only to streets and motor vehicles, as follows:

- LEVEL 1: "Level 1 requires the removal of vehicles from all snow emergency routes, places no restrictions on travel, and maintains all City facilities in an open status. In general, roads are open but hazardous driving conditions may exist. The public is advised to pay particular attention to road conditions as drivers may encounter icy conditions, reduced visibility, blowing and drifting snow, or any combination of the same."
- LEVEL 2: "Level 2 prohibits non-emergency travel throughout the City of Gillette. City facilities are closed. In general, only the most urgent and emergency situations should warrant travel upon City streets. Road conditions are poor and dangerous. Drivers attempting to travel in such situations should have a legitimate and urgent need to travel and should be very experienced with winter driving conditions. Drivers may encounter roads which are impassible. Further, drivers should keep in mind that their presence on City streets will interfere with snow removal and emergency services."

Staff's recommendation for the internal Administrative Policy is as follows:

- LEVEL A: "City Departments are OPEN and all employees are expected to report to work. This is the standard level of operations for the City, regardless of inclement weather."
- LEVEL B: "City Departments are CLOSED. The City Administrator sends employees home or asks employees to not report to work due to adverse weather conditions or other emergency situations. Emergency and Essential personnel are required to be on duty due to the nature of their work, and should report to work, or contact their immediate supervisor for instructions. Any closure under LEVEL B will have a start and end time that shall be used for calculating work time."

Councilman McLeland asked if citizens currently receive citations for driving during Level III snow emergency events. Lt. Wasson informed Council that citizens could be cited for violations, such as driving too fast for conditions or other traffic violations, but are not cited for driving on roads during a Level III snow emergency. Mayor Carter-King stated that she felt that the word "prohibits" in the first sentence of the LEVEL 2 snow emergency is too harsh and should be amended to read, "it is recommended" there be no non-emergency travel throughout the City". It was also suggested that the City Code clearly indicate that the City's internal Administrative Policy only regulates the work status of City employees. Businesses would need to determine closure status based on their own guidelines and circumstances.

Public Works Director Wilde informed Council of snow plowing issues dealing with parked vehicles on 4th Street, 6th Street, 7th Street, and Foothills Boulevard. Director Wilde presented the possibility of prohibiting street parking, from November 1st thru April 30th, on 4th Street from 4-J Road to Gillette Avenue, 6th Street from Burma Avenue to Gillette Avenue, 7th Street from 4-J Road to Gillette Avenue,

and Foothills Boulevard from Goldenrod Avenue to Highway 14-16. This seasonal prohibition of parking would allow snow removal from curb to curb without having to continually contact citizens for removal of parked vehicles, and avoidance of having to tow vehicles off of the route. The Mayor and Council discussed the pros and cons of the seasonal parking restrictions. Staff was given direction to amend the Ordinance to include the emergency snow level changes and the seasonal parking restrictions, with the understanding that in the three (3) readings of the Ordinance, citizens would have an opportunity to voice their opinions, and the Ordinance could be amended prior to the final reading. Communications Manager Palazzari informed Council that citizens would be educated on the snow emergency code changes prior to the start of the next snow season.

Review August 20th Council Agenda

The group reviewed the upcoming Council agenda.

Tour of Animal Control Facilities

The group toured the newly remodeled, temporary animal control building, and examined the condition of the current animal control building, which is scheduled for remodel in FY2019-2020.

Police K-9 Demonstration

Sergeant Greg Brothers, K-9 Program Coordinator, explained the history of the Police Department's K-9 program. Officer Trevor Johnson demonstrated article search and recovery skills of his dog, Lord. Officer Ryan Mussell demonstrated apprehension and detention skills of his dog, Camo.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

(S E A L)

ATTEST:

Cindy Staskiewicz, City Clerk

Louise Carter-King, Mayor

Publish date: August 21, 2019