

A Special Meeting of the City Council was held on Thursday the 21st day of November 2019.

Present were Councilmen Carsrud, McLeland, Montgomery, Neary, and Mayor Carter-King; Councilman Lundvall via a phone conference call; Administrator Davidson and City Attorney Reyes; Director Cole; Managers Palazzari and Toscana; City Clerk Staskiewicz.

Also present, Phil Christopherson, Executive Director of the Energy Capital Economic Development; and via phone conference call, Scott Quillinan, University of Wyoming, Director of Research, School of Energy Resources, and Jim Ford, Vice President of Operations for Atlas Carbon.

Mayor Carter-King called the meeting to order. City Administrator Davidson stated, for the record, that there was a quorum of the Council present, the press was properly notified, and the meeting was posted within the parameters as set forth by State Statute. Administrator Davidson gave a brief overview of the item for consideration, which included the committal of \$62,500 for a project, which has been identified by the U.S. Department of Energy, Campbell County, and the University of Wyoming's School of Energy Resources, as a potential benefit for our community. Ultimately, it is anticipated that this would be a three (3) year commitment, subject to appropriation and availability of funds. Campbell County has been identified as a potential location for the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) facility. Specifically, for feasibility of recovery of rare earth elements from coal and coal related bi-products. This is a project, which the School of Energy Resources initially committed a sum of \$750,000, with the understanding that the host community (Campbell County and the City of Gillette) would share half of the cost. \$375,000 spread over the three (3) year concept, computes to \$62,500, per year, for the County and for the City. Administrator Davidson informed Council that staff's recommendation was to support the project.

Rare Earth Elements Research Facility

Councilman Montgomery made a motion to Issue a Commitment Letter to the University of Wyoming to Cost-Share with Campbell County and the University of Wyoming, for Purposes of Establishing a U.S. Department of Energy, Rare Earth Elements Research Facility in Campbell County, Wyoming; seconded by Councilman Carsrud. Mayor Carter-King introduced Jim Ford and Scott Quillinan. Mr. Ford explained the research of the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), which focuses particularly on fossil energy and the use of coal bi-products and mining waste products, and the potential for those products as a source for rare earth elements. NETL develops specific technologies for extracting the rare earth elements from coal and coal ash under clay. NETL staff has considered applying to the Department of Energy's (DOE) Technology Commercialization Fund Program. One of the qualifications for the program is that non-federal partners must be included in the program. NETL would like to submit a formal application, and must demonstrate that they have non-federal partners. Scott Quillinan, explained that the first step of the project was to submit a pre-proposal to the program, which has been completed. The second step is to submit a full proposal. If the project is awarded and funded, the project would start around September of 2020 and run for three (3) years. Mayor Carter-King asked when the project would be awarded. Mr. Quillinan stated it would take two (2) to five (5) months for the award of the project. Councilman Lundvall asked for the criteria used for a decision on the location. Mr. Quillinan stated that the criteria for selection is based on the technology and its ability to be commercialized, it is the technology itself that is being vetted. Once awards are selected, project negotiations take place for two months, which gives an opportunity to fine-tune the scope of work and any other needed adjustments. Mr. Ford stated that, if awarded, the likely site for the project would be the Advanced Carbon Products Innovation Center (ACPIC). The support for the NETL project would lend a lot of credence to the ACPIC concept to attract federal government research, and create a good conduit for interaction with the DOE for other research at the ACPIC facility. The initial phase of the project would be at the NETL facility in West Virginia; the facility standup and construction would then take place at the site in Campbell County, with the final 15 to 18 months of the project utilized for actual operation and demonstration, which would conclude the term of the three (3) year agreement. All voted aye. The motion carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

(S E A L)

ATTEST:

Cindy Staskiewicz, City Clerk

Louise Carter-King, Mayor

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