

A Work Session Meeting of the City Council was held on Tuesday the 10th day of December 2019.

Present were Councilmen Brown, Carsrud, Lundvall, McLeland, Montgomery, Neary, and Mayor Carter-King; Administrator Davidson and City Attorney Reyes; Director Cole, Henderson, and Wilde; Managers Lt. Deaton, Molder, Schoen, D. Wasson, Palazzari, and Toscana; City Clerk Staskiewicz.

Warm Up Items

Mayor Carter-King mentioned the 100th anniversary of the first woman elected to public office. Councilman Brown commended City snow crews for their snow removal efforts during the last storm. Councilman Carsrud commented on the high school basketball tournament to be hosted in Gillette this week. Mayor Carter-King asked for an update on the outdoor ice rink. Public Works Director Wilde informed Council that the rink has been filled, and will be prepared for use when frozen.

Wastewater Capital Finance Options

Utilities Director Cole provided an update of the status and operations of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which included a summary of the high priority projects, and possible financing options for funding the projects. Director Cole explained that the life expectancy for wastewater treatment equipment is 15 years, and he stated that most of the City's equipment is over 30 years old. A detailed condition assessment, performed by HDR in 2018, was presented to Council on May 14, 2019. The assessment determined that over \$20 million would be needed to replace failing equipment over the next five (5) years. Director Cole informed Council that the City was not successful in receiving grant funding through the AML Program, or Principle-Forgiveness Loans through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program. Director Cole presented the pros and cons of several financing options. Staff recommended the pursuit of available loans or bonding opportunities to finance the improvements, and the establishment of a long-term capital replacement fund to reserve sewer revenue for future projects upon completion of the eminent "high priority" projects. The Mayor and Council directed staff to research available loans, with bonds as a secondary option.

Electronic Wager Machines

City Attorney Reyes and Lieutenant Deaton provided information regarding electronic wagering devices. The focus of the presentation was on unregulated electronic wagering devices. They explained the difficulties in distinguishing between a regulated skill game and an unregulated skill game, and reminded that gambling devices, such as slot machines, were prohibited by Wyoming law. Attorney Reyes explained that the Wyoming Pari-mutuel Commission regulates the historic horseracing devices at Wyoming Downs and the Gillette Horse Palace, but there is no regulation for the "skill games" located in local businesses. Municipalities receive revenue from the Pari-mutuel Commission, while the revenues from unregulated skill games have no benefit for municipalities. With no regulations in place, there is no guarantee that consumers would be compensated for their winnings, and the devices could be accessible to minors in some locations. The Wyoming Legislature made efforts to regulate electronic games of skill, which failed in a House vote. Lack of regulations for the skill games allows for potential issues regarding payouts from the devices, malfunction of the devices, and the possibility of minors accessing the devices, which jeopardizes the public health, safety, and welfare of the City. Attorney Reyes stated that the City has authority to regulate for public health, safety, and welfare, and suggested the consideration of an ordinance to regulate electronic wagering machines, with the possibility of requiring permits, establishing criteria and fees, and regulating the use and location of the devices. The Mayor and Council directed Attorney Reyes to draft an ordinance for further discussion.

Review December 17th Council Agenda

The group reviewed the upcoming Council agenda.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

(S E A L)

ATTEST:

Cindy Staskiewicz, City Clerk
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Louise Carter-King, Mayor