

City of Rock Springs)
County of Sweetwater)
State of Wyoming)

City Council met in special session on July 10, 2019. Mayor Timothy A. Kaumo called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Members present included Councilors David Halter, Keaton West, Glennise Wendorf, Billy Shalata, and Rob Zotti by phone. Councilors Tim Savage, Jeannie Demas, and David Tate were absent from the meeting. Department heads present included Matthew L. McBurnett, Richard Beckwith, Dave Lansang, and Paul Kauchich.

Mayor Kaumo made opening comments. Due to negotiations over the past month, there have been 4 renditions created of a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the use of City-owned RV sites located at the Sweetwater Events Complex, hereinafter referred to as “Events Complex.”

NEW BUSINESS

History of the construction of the RV sites for the National High School Finals Rodeo, Fair, Other/ History of funding for the RV sites and the Sweetwater Events Complex overall/ History of Sewer Tap Fee waivers and Permit Waivers for Sweetwater Events Complex

Exhibits A, B, C, and D were presented as different renditions and the Tiffin RV event was underway, with RV’s showing up on City land and no agreement in place. At this point, a hold harmless agreement was signed by the Events Complex staff with Richard Beckwith, City Attorney.

Mayor Kaumo stated that in 2011, an original MOU was being discussed and was never followed-up on or completed. Any time City land is being used by another party, a Memorandum is present.

Mayor Kaumo stated that the Sweetwater Events Complex secured the National High School Finals Rodeo, and at that time, the City agreed to make two budget amendments in 2011 in the amount of \$1.5 million to help build the RV sites, and waived sewer tap fees in the amount of approximately \$750, amounting to \$1 million or more. The City understands that this is an important event for the community. The main issue was insurance, which was then waived and in place, a hold harmless agreement was signed. After, the issue was a proposed \$6,900 fee per night, to be paid to the City for the use of the City-owned RV sites.

Councilor Zotti replied that the sewer tap fees are not representative of what it costs the City to actually tap into the sewer system, and the fee would essentially be transferring taxpayer money from one governmental entity to another if the Events Complex were to pay the tap fees to the City. He discussed the process of the development of the most recent MOU.

Discussion took place regarding the timeliness of the most recent MOU review and execution.

History of land acquired for new 9 Hole Golf Course Expansion

Discussion took place regarding the land given to the City for the Nine Hole Expansion to the White Mountain Golf Course.

History of the MOU/Insurance/Fees/Non-Competition with local businesses

Larry Lloyd, Director, asked whether the insurance requirements have been solved. Mayor Kaumo confirmed that with the Hold Harmless Agreement, those requirements have been met. He added that if the sites are at full capacity, the Events Complex would earn \$36,600 per night, and the City is only asking for \$6,900 of that.

Lodging Tax exemption

Mayor Kaumo asked about the Lodging Tax and why the Events Complex feels they are exempt from charging this lodging tax. Mr. Lloyd confirmed that the state has informed them that there is not a mechanism for registering the Events Complex in their system to account for these tax collections. Mayor Kaumo replied that the Department of Revenue has confirmed that the Events Complex is considered a vendor and should be collecting and remitting lodging tax. Ms. Pendleton stated that the local Revenue Office has asked that they submit a determination request to clarify whether fairgrounds statewide are exempt or not.

Mayor Kaumo stated that it is imperative to keep conflicts from taking place for important large events held by both the City and the Events Complex. Discussion took place regarding conflicts of events for the City and the Events Complex.

Conversation took place regarding tourism statistics from the Tiffin RV Rally and how they were calculated. Economic Impact studies were discussed for the rodeos as well.

The timing regarding the submission of the signed MOU by the Events Complex was discussed. Mr. Lloyd thanked City employees who work to make sure that events are successful, and stated that everyone benefits from the events and the Events Complex operates the best that it can with the funds it is given. 40% comes from the Mill Levy from the County, and the other 60% is up to the Events Complex to come up with.

Discussion took place regarding the revenue for the RV sites. Councilor Halter stated that if we are going to work together to make this agreeable, would it not be more reasonable to let the Events Complex keep the revenue from their events and the City keep the revenue from its events. Mayor Kaumo stated that the original MOU contained that language. Discussion took place whether the Council has seen the most recent version of the MOU. Dave Lansang added that the ability to develop and expand on Wataha Complex by giving RV spaces to the Events Complex has been diminished. There will be no soccer fields, no baseball fields, and there has been discussion regarding expanding the RV sites. Mr. Lansang expressed concern that the RV sites will expand into our current Wataha Complex. Mr. Lansang expressed a point that the City and those who are interested in developing recreation in the city of Rock Springs should know that an opportunity for another soccer field or ballfield has been lost.

Mayor Kaumo stated that the revenue is not necessarily the issue, and Mr. Lloyd expressed agreement that this issue is resolved if the revenue is not an issue.

Discussion took place regarding instituting a calendar to avoid conflicts between the Events Complex events and City events.

Malt Beverage Permit requirements (RSPD)

The Malt Beverage Permit for the Sweetwater County Fair was discussed. A fair board member asked whether the Chief Pacheco's recommendations were actually recommendations or requirements. Mr. Lloyd stated that less restrictions work better. Mayor Kaumo asked that we continue to have conversations every year regarding what works and what doesn't with regard to malt beverage permits. Mr. Lloyd stated that too much law enforcement is not beneficial for large events. Councilor Halter stated that his biggest issue is that the crowds are too large and that stopping beverage service at 10 p.m., or restricting the area to 21 and over after 10 p.m. would be his recommendation. Dwane Pacheco, Police Chief replied that he implements best practice strategies and agrees that less law enforcement is better, but the largest problem is that there are no absolutes when it comes to planning, and that the tent has become marketed more towards being a beer tent and not a Pepsi tent. Mr. Lloyd replied that he is willing to set an earlier time, if it is needed. Chief Pacheco stated that the Police Department needs to know what the event is going to look like in order to deploy resources properly. Mayor Kaumo suggested that a fair planning meeting take place next year prior to the fair. A citizen gave feedback regarding the fair last year and asked the fair board to consider providing more restrictions on alcohol service in order to prevent underage drinking or over consumption. Discussion took place regarding safeguards and volunteer participation in checking identification and banding underage patrons.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

By: _____
Council President

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor