

**CITY OF LARAMIE, WYOMING
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES**

JANUARY 23, 2024

Time Work Session began 6:00 p.m.

Present: Pat Gabriel (joined at 7:06 pm), Brandon Newman, Erin O'Doherty, Jayne Pearce, Micah Richardson, Joe Shumway, Andi Summerville, Sharon Cumbie, and Brian Harrington.
Absent: None.

Staff present: Janine Jordan, City Manager; Robert Southard, City Attorney; Nancy Bartholomew, City Clerk; Brooks Webb, Public Works Director; Eric Jaap, City Engineer; Jennifer Wade, Administrative Services Director; Shawn Klein, Deputy Public Works Director; Scott Palm, Utility Superintendent; and Brian Browne, Police Chief.

1. WORKSESSION

2. Public Comment

None.

3. WORK SESSION: Revenue & Rate Review: Water and Wastewater

Brooks Webb introduced Raftelis representative Todd Cristiano.

Councilor Richardson joined at 6:01 pm.

Todd Cristiano, Raftelis provided Council with a presentation related to the water and wastewater rate review.

3.A. Public Comment: none.

Future action on these items will be ordinance changes to set the rates.

4. WORK SESSION: Possible Speed Limit Reduction

Janine Jordan provided a presentation on the Traffic Safety Commission recommendation, "Laramie should implement a default city-wide 25 mph speed limit with posted exceptions." Chief Browne provided detailed information/statistics related to accidents involving pedestrians and bicycles and who was cited or found at fault for a violation:

- Pedestrian/vehicle: 5 vehicles; 10 pedestrians; 5 undetermined.
- Auto/bicycles: 5 vehicles; 9 bicycle; 6 undetermined.

Eric Jaap, City Engineer provided background information from the traffic study from 2014-15 found most people were driving 25 mph on local streets.

Pat Gabriel joined at 7:06 pm.

Mayor Harrington invited Nancy Sindelar, Traffic Safety Commission Chair and other Traffic Commission members to share information.

Traffic Safety Commission comments:

Nancy Sindelar- mentioned reducing speeds works towards a healthier community makes streets more friendly. Spoke about crash reduction with reduced speeds.

Melanie Arnett (former Traffic Safety Commission member)- added additional information on the subcommittee research. Feels that the 2014-15 decision was not made by the community. 321 Report requested lower speed limits.

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JANUARY 23, 2024

Eric Milliken (Traffic Safety Commission Vice-Chair)- confirmed crash data estimates and shared speed research. 3rd to 15th Street drivers drove under 30 mph, 15th to 30th Street speeds were above 30 mph. Suggested traffic calming measures be taken in addition to lowering speed limits.

Council asked follow-up questions:

- Stopping distance between 30 and 25 mph were unavailable at the meeting.
- Number of 30 MPH stop signs we currently have?
- Number of signs needed for speed limit changes going from 20 mph to 30 mph? (unavailable at the meeting)
- Traffic calming measures?

Harrington was favorable to recommendation.

Pearce was favorable to traffic calming measures and focused approach.

Summerville supported step approach (focused approach), timing of a larger approach should be considered.

Richardson was favorable to focused approach with more information on cost and continued approach.

Newman doesn't support reduction because of cost of study, supports focused approach.

Cumbie would like to look at pathways and bikeways for improvements and enhancements.

O'Doherty asked a question about why Traffic Safety Commission did not advance the work on bike boulevards.

Public comment:

Melanie Arnett- supports lowering speed limit to 25 mph and neighborhood bikeways.

Christopher Stratton- concerns about control and prioritizing budget.

Jennifer Bier (AARP)- supports lowering speed limits.

Barb Hill- would prefer budget be spent on drainage and crosswalks.

Bern Hagerty- supports recommendation.

Cumbie supports reducing speeds but also look at pathways and bikeways.

Newman stated just lowering the speed won't help.

Harrington supports reduction of speed limits and looking at pathways and bikeways.

Richardson asked do we need a new study? (City Engineer shared that it should be updated every 3-5 years.)

O'Doherty shared with more people and cars a new study might not be necessary as the old one may be more conservative.

Shumway would like to see safer transportation for everyone.

Future action will occur but is undetermined at this time.

Councilor Summerville left at 8:31 pm.

5. City Council Updates/Council Comments

O'Doherty- Laramie Advisory Commission on Disabilities.

Shumway- Traffic Safety Commission, Laramie Youth Council (tours).

Pearce- none.

**CITY OF LARAMIE, WYOMING
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JANUARY 23, 2024

Harrington- Pilot Hill (new trailhead)
Cumbie- Town and Gown Association (restructuring, international certification), Vulnerable
Adults Working Group (expanding to broader representation), Laramie Planning
Commission (Stormwater Focus Group, interns working on the Westside).
Newman- none.
Gabriel- none.

6. Agenda Review

None.

Time Work Session Adjourned 8:42 p.m.

Approved:



Nancy Bartholomew
City Clerk, CMC

1-25-24
Date

