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OPEN MEETINGS - WYOMING

Cheyenne Newspapers, Inc. v. City of Cheyenne

Supreme Court of Wyoming - December 23, 2016 - P.3d - 2016 WL 7423093 - 2016 WY 125

Newspaper brought action against city, seeking declaration that team created by city to considering staffing and compensation study was subject to Wyoming Public Meetings Act.

City moved for summary judgment. The District Court granted the motion. Newspaper appealed.

The Supreme Court of Wyoming held that:

- Team created by city to consider staffing and compensation study was a "committee" for purposes of Wyoming Public Meetings Act, but
- Team was not created by or pursuant to constitutional, statute, or ordinance, and therefore, did not qualify as an "agency" subject to open meeting requirements.

Team created by city to consider staffing and compensation study was a "committee" for purposes of Wyoming Public Meetings Act, rather than an impermanent, advisory group. Resolution that created team called it a "committee," and city counsel referred business for consideration to the team.

Team created by city to consider staffing and compensation study was not created by or pursuant to constitutional, statute, or ordinance, and therefore, did not qualify as an "agency" subject to open meeting requirements of Wyoming Public Meetings Act. Team was charged to deal with matters of temporary and special nature and appropriately created by resolution, and team was not formed pursuant to statute granting city authority to set and pay employee salaries.

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