

FACT CHECK

Councilman Wolfe's Citation Does Not Support Administrative Warrants

THE CLAIM:

"The law is quite clear that such warrants are valid, legal and don't violate 4th Amendment or other constitutional protections. There is a recent case decided by the Wyoming Supreme Court, Hale v. The City of Laramie that I would encourage you to read."

— Councilman Larry Wolfe, Ward 1

THE FACTS:

Hale v. City of Laramie, 2025 WY 133 (Dec. 15, 2025) has **nothing to do with administrative warrants or the Fourth Amendment**.

What the case is actually about: A Laramie welder built a storage shed without a permit. The City got an injunction. After years of failed negotiations, the welder asked the court to lift the injunction. The district court refused to rule because "the parties have not reached any agreement."

What the Wyoming Supreme Court held: The district court "abused its discretion by not exercising it." Courts cannot refuse to decide cases just because parties disagree—that is the entire purpose of courts.

The case contains zero discussion of: Administrative warrants, Fourth Amendment protections, search and seizure law, constitutional limits on inspections, or municipal authority to create warrant procedures.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Councilman Wolfe cited a case about building permits and judicial procedure as authority for administrative warrant constitutionality. The case does not mention warrants, searches, or the Fourth Amendment even once. Citizens should ask: If this is the best legal authority supporting Chapter 1.28, what analysis has actually been done?

Questions for Councilman Wolfe and the City Council:

1. What specific passage in *Hale* addresses administrative warrant constitutionality?
2. Has the City Attorney provided a formal opinion on whether Chapter 1.28 complies with Wyoming Constitution Article 1, Section 4?
3. Under Chapter 1.28's standard allowing warrants to "determine, discover, or verify compliance," on what grounds could a municipal judge ever deny a warrant application?

[Read the full opinion](#)