

**CITY OF LANDER  
WORK SESSION MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY  
HALL 240 LINCOLN STREET  
LANDER, WY 82520  
October 22, 2019**

**THE CITY OF LANDER IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY  
EMPLOYER**

**Governing Body Present:** Monte Richardson, Council President Cade Maestas, Council Members Dan Hahn, Chris Hulme, John Larsen, Missy White

**Governing Body Absent:** City Treasurer Charri Lara, Assistant Mayor Rajean Strube Fossen, City Attorney Adam Phillips

**City Staff Present:** City Sarah Edlund, Police Chief Thomas Shroyer, City Engineer Hopkin, Fire Administrator Fred Cox

Mayor Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**1. Staff & Council Updates**

Council Member White attended the public meeting on the Lander Pathways committee it was a great meeting, comments are being taken until November 15<sup>th</sup>. Let the golf course board that the city would like to meet with them regarding a MOU. Council Member Hulme, comment from a constituent that they would really like us to keep working on our subdivision rules so folks can develop their properties, Council Member Hahn thanks to the city staff and the mayor for all the hard work. Mayor Richardson, we fixed the rotted brick on the outside of the building, we did get insurance money to pay for the damage on the roof to fix interior problems.

City Clerk Edlund gave update on code audit

City Treasurer Lara we are looking at sending our outstanding accounts to collections accounts. Court has over one million in outstanding fines that need to be collected. Attended Cassell training last week, moving to a paperless system. Setting it up so department heads can look at their budgets real time. We are going to set up our service and maintenance orders online.

The contract for credit card processing for the rural water house will not remove the indemnification from their contract. We are going to look at utilizing the system we use for our water utility users. We are still waiting on hearing back from the credit card company for the airport credit card processing company. Discussion on how the council would like budget information presented.

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Chief Shroyer, brief report from the PD regarding the community outreach programs. We attended the fire department open house. Halloween is coming up next week we will be passing out candy and information on Main Street. We have computers up and running in the schools so now we have not only our two SROs, any of our officers can go in and do reports so we will have more interactions with our schools.

Also a few job descriptions I have been working on updating, were included in your packet. These haven't been updated in several years, so the department is updating our job descriptions to match our new SOPs. These will be on the November Regular Meeting for approval.

Assistant Mayor Strube Fossen, new job corp intern started Monday he will be here for 6 weeks. We have utilized over 2500 hours of Job Corp interns. Great program. The airport board has an opening and the housing board has an opening please have a letter of interest by November 15<sup>th</sup>. The management company that is running push root the board is very appreciative of them and they are doing well. Healthy rivers meeting next Tuesday at 6:00. The grant writers are working on grant opportunities for the police department, in addition to that they are also looking for opportunities for storm drains and infrastructure.

## 2. Strategic Planning Questions

Assistant Mayor Strube Fossen, staff met last Thursday to go over the spreadsheet we were provided by council these are things we didn't understand what you would like to see.

The budget officer position is in City Treasurer Lara's job description. Council President Maestas I would like to see earlier and more discussion from the Council in the budget process. I would like to see a budget committee, with council on it. The Council should be more involved in this process. There is not a firm procedure on how the city prepares their budget. We should develop a system to allow City Treasurer Lara to do her job correctly.

City Treasurer Lara the forecasting of the revenue from the State is hard as they don't provide that until after they meet in Feb.

Council Member Hulme I am more interested in what money is going out verse what we forecasted would be going out.

City Treasurer Lara I think that those will come more during when we develop our replacement plans. We used to have a financial meeting in February that we could have one of those again to analyze where we are at.

What is a livability plan and what are you looking for from staff for this?  
Affordable housing, code audit. Also if we are paying our staff enough to live here.

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Hiring a new team member for projects, under infrastructure and under public safety. Someone to work with Lance and someone for the NIBRS position or hiring the open position in the police department. Also if we have enough officers or if we have two many officers. Tom cities 50K and under it is recommended that we have 3.5 officers for every XXXX so we should have 27 officers.

What is the goal for trails? We talk about livability and we are working on our transportation plans, what is the council wanting to see from staff. A maintenance plan for the trails we have currently in place and if we have enough staff to maintain them.

There was a tree safety report presented and in here is a couple of times. Are you wanting more information about the ones in Lander or on Cities properties.

What is the proforma written under parks and rec? Is that the same as a cost benefit analysis on our recreation programs? Are we breaking even or not and if not how do we make it work.

Would you prefer that the bills and claims be moved out of the consent agenda or are you good with them staying there?

Council President Maestas if they exceed budget them they should be in new items

Keeper of the keys, project manager position discussed previously. A source of all information for all of City's assets.

So 1% money was spent on a new street vs only updating old infrastructure. Council President Maestas as long as it is within our master plan and it complies with what the voters approved then it is good. Would like to have more discussion on if we are spending 1% money on new projects.

Does the council want to spend down our reserves so we are able to apply for bigger grants or do you want to keep the reserves high and not be able to apply for those grants. Council Member Hahn I don't think you want to break yourself so that you can go after a grant.

Committees, we have a lot of volunteer boards are they all needed or should these be job descriptions. Some are required by state statute but some are not.

Council President Maestas, I would like to contend that is our tap into the public.

Some of our staff have been here for 30+ years and I think these are great public outreach.

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How does the council want to integrate a working relationship with department heads and staff.

I think this is more amongst departments and not council.

3. Interviews with City Council Applicants

Will interview applicants tonight and vote and appoint the new member in November. Joe Smith Jr., have lived in Lander for 25 years. Fremont County native. My thoughts on running for council I think it is time for more diversity in our Council. I am a member of the northern Arapaho tribe, a Lander valley high school graduate, I have a business degree from the university of Wyoming. I did the financial statements for the tribes for 15 years. The reason I think I would be a good council person is that I am loyal and faithful. I have a back ground in finance and budgeting with governments. I used to be a grant writer for the tribes. I am at the point in my life that I want to give back to our community. Set up a good future for the next generation. Another thing I think would be good is having a liaison with our Tribes. We need to build this bridge between our communities.

Mike Kusiek, I have lived in Lander for 3 years, but am from Wyoming. I work in healthcare, and are on some boards. My background is organizational development, culture change and team development.

Council Member Larsen, Mr. Kusiek, you seem like a very busy man how many boards are you on now?

Two Boards. Community Foundation and the Wyoming Wildlife Federation.

Council President Maestas, Fourth of July is one of the biggest events in lander, how do you feel about it, what do you like and what would you change?

Mr. Smith, this is one of my favorite memories. It is a huge draw for the City, I am the chairperson of the parade and I know what it means for us to have all these people coming to our town. We receive a lot of feedback from people all over the world. The people here are great and it brings in a lot of sales tax revenue and sales revenue for our local businesses. We have people who come back every year we have heard from folks who loved it so much that they moved here. For the Lander community I think that it is the biggest event we have. We try and help promote our history that we have around us. I think that if Lander ever did away with the 4<sup>th</sup> it would be a huge loss to our community.

Mr. Kusiek, I agree it is an amazing community event. It is part of the reason why Lander is such a great event. So much of what makes our community great is all the

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volunteers that help put this event on for our community. I wouldn't change a thing with it.

Council Member Hahn I think they answered my two main concerns is the history and the concerns of our town.

Council Member White, what do you think are the two or three top issues facing Lander as a city?

Mike, short term and long-term budget concerns and recruiting good employees. As we face challenges that we see as a Council we need to be very transparent with the public. Our history is what makes this town so great, assisting our community on understanding that we want to cling to our past but still look to the future.

Mr. Smith, Lander has a great history of the railroads. This is where people would come, and it was the end of the line. One of the things Lander is facing is the renewal of the 1% tax. Some of the items are big and I think we need to be proportionates of this tax passing again to relive the burden from our taxpayers. The other thing I think are issues with the airport. Our infrastructure needs to be evaluated; do we have a 25-year plan? Transparency is a huge issue; I think that it is getting better, but we still have more work to do. Lastly, we need to push education more for our kids. I would probably hold more meetings with the public. Maybe Coffee with a council member.

Council Member Larsen, how do you see the city council affecting education for the younger kids.

I would like to see the Council members go to the grade schools and talk to the kids. Maybe talk to the school board and administrators more. As a council we could encourage different courses that maybe missing in our curriculum.

Council President Maestas, would like to go over duties. City council fills two roles, fiscal responsibility of the city and setting policy. We meet twice a month the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. There may be additional meetings. Each council position is a liaison to two outside boards they are expected to attend their meetings and report back to the Council. The boards would be the senior center and the nature conservancy.

Mayor Richardson, we have controversy frequently in a council position and often must tell folks we know, "no" often. How do you approach those situations?

Mr. Kusiek, you stick to the issue, policy and the law. Remain unemotional but stay in your lane.

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Mr. Smith, I think working for the tribes was a huge lesson in this experience. I have had to fire my own family members. You must remember it is a job and it is not personal. I have had a lot of training on how to interact with people. It's all a part of the job.

Council Member White, what is your understanding of economic development and what is the council's role in supporting that?  
Mr. Smith, that depends on what the situation you are looking at. Lander is a small community; LEDA does a good job on what our community needs for economic development. We need to encourage new jobs. It means new sources of revenue coming in. What we could do to enhance our community to bring in new businesses. The casinos have been economic development for the tribes.  
Mr. Kusiek, I think Joe is right and that LEDA does a great job. Council works within the budget for the city. I think council is the group that helps form and guide the growth in our community. All kinds of opportunities are here, and we would work through the channels set and what is best for Lander.

Council Member Larsen, what do see as the biggest need for our city?  
Mr. Kusiek, infrastructure and replacement plans of our assets and our staff.  
Mr. Smith, infrastructure will always be a need. The council needs to be aware of what our citizens want and always be truthful.

Council Member Hulme, for me coming in going through the election process being willing to say I don't know the answer to that, please be open to others around helping you learn what is going on in the city.

Council Member Hahn, one of the things that has come up is that we have a lot of folks move into our community and they moved away from where they were because they didn't like what was going on there, and pretty soon those people try and create that same issue in our community. There are a lot of items that come to the council that are difficult to deal with in how people want to change our community.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Sarah Edlund, City Clerk

The City of Lander  
A Municipal Corporation

By:   
Monte Richardson, Mayor

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