

**CITY OF LANDER
WORK SESSION MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
240 LINCOLN STREET
LANDER, WY 82520
March 23, 2021**

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

Governing Body Present: Mayor Monte Richardson, Council Members John Larsen, Chris Hulme, Julia Stuble, Dan Hahn, Missy White, Melinda Cox

Governing Body Absent:

City Staff Present: City Clerk Tami Hitshe, Assistant Mayor RaJean Strube Fossen, City Treasurer Charri Lara, Attorney Adam Phillips, Public Works Director Lance Hopkin

Mayor Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

1. Staff & Council Updates

Ron Wells - Body Cams and Video cameras are all set. System is working well. Will start working on the E-ticketing next.

Lance Hopkin – Talked about the flooding situation we had from the ditch system on Smith Street on Saturday. Property owners put boards in the ditch to keep their dogs in the yard which then causes the water to go into neighbors’ yards. Wasn’t designed for our storm sewer system at all. We don’t have infrastructure in the ditch which causes problems with the flooding. Dealing with this is going into back yards and deal with fences, sheds and other things.

RaJean Strube Fossen – Wants to pursue what Jane Nolde talked about at an earlier council meeting about solar panels for the senior center. Considering going through the Blue-Sky program with Rocky Mountain Power. Chris Hulme asked what the cost savings would be. RaJean said that is why we are pursuing this to get that data. That information would have to be included in the grant.

Charri Lara – At the April 13th meeting, you will be approving the new salary structure with job descriptions by Resolution. There will be a public hearing for budget amendment. We will be receiving 1.1 million from the covid rescue monies \$570,000 this year and the other half next year. The Budgets will go live tomorrow for department heads to look at. There is a timeline of the budget process and when it has to be read. Charri also explained about the appointments of certain positions.

She asked about entertaining the ordinance about changing the removal of appointees. John Larsen said without the ordinance, the appointees are really hanging out there to the new mayors. Charri said it would be more security to appointed position.

Adam Phillips- Said there is state statute that dictate how to remove from certain positions. If you have a bad employee in that position, it would be harder to remove that person. Process would be more drawn out. Dan Hahn said Wyoming is an at-will state. Are you taking power away from Mayor? RaJean - Spelled out the positions that are appointed. Melinda Cox said it would be worth the discussion. Adam Phillip said we start working on an Ordinance and present to council for their review.

Julia Stuble – Attended the Popo Agie Conservation District meeting. RaJean will be joining me in April to give a briefing on the Corps of Engineers Study. Will be meeting April 5 with Park and Rec Board. Please to have our city stand firm in

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opposition to Senate file 16 and really support the solar development in our community.

Missy White – Its pothole season. Please help identify if you see locations. Lance said we will start as soon as weather warms up. Chris Hulme asked if we could use large metal plates to cover the huge holes until they get repaired. Lance said we use traffic cone or barriers. We are exploring the idea to put code patch in the holes. Might consider doing that next year. A lot of these are from water line breaks. Chris Hulme said the golf course has seen an increase in membership.

John Larsen said Old Timers Rodeo is planning on having one this year.

Melinda Cox – Went to the Lander senior center meeting and they are doing quite well. Impressed with their board. They take care of business. The center is starting to open back up. Will start serving meals in person soon. Started with cards and bingo. Opening up will be good for the elderly and not having person to person contact is important. They are moving in the right direction to get that to happen. Shout out to the speech and debate team. Lander took first. Shout out to basketball program. We had a 3A state player of the year. Shout out to Chief Wells and the police department. Level of professionalism has increased tremendously. Let the officers now that we appreciate it.

Scott Kane – owner of Creative Energies. Appreciate the Mayor supporting Senate file 16. Celebrated 20 anniversary of business this year. 14 employees. Biggest legislative threat so far.

John Burrows - Thanked the Mayor and Council for their support for solar in our community. We are ranked 43 in the country.

2. Updates for Parks & Recreation

Lori Eckhart – There has been an increase in park usage. Read all the events coming up. Did see a lot of activity through Covid. We were way over what we were last year. Actively looking for a camp director. Would like to also have a part time employee. Talked about summer programs. Reached out to everyone in January to see what they have to offer. Would still like to have registration day at the park in May. Thank the LOR foundation for their help. Sinks Canyon Camp would like to have it throughout the summer. June, July & August. People are excited to offer programs again. Will do a PDF version of the program brochure and put on the website. Lance said the school is letting people in the gym. Will reach out to some of the coaches and see if we can get into those gyms and offer some programs. Will open up different opportunities to use the space for indoor programs.

Melinda Cox – Thanked Lori for putting this together and said it looks great.

Thanked the LOR Foundation and their support. The community members have stepped up and really helped out. When people think about Lander, they think about parks and recreation. The girls' and boys' basketball will be doing a program as a fundraiser this summer. Lori said for the T-ball changes. Lots of parents are willing to help coach. We don't have staff for that program. Chris Hulme asked about the scholarship program. Lori said we use the waiver program. We like to be able to offer the camp to everyone. We do have funding offered from a private individual to make sure every kid can make it to camp. Chris said this is a great thing.

Kevin Johnson talked about the maintenance staff. Remind the council the trash containers on main street get emptied 3 times a week during summer. Daily in all other facilities. We are getting a few people living in cars in the park. Huge increase of cleaning, toilet papers of restrooms. Would like to get another seasonal person for maintenance crew. Lance talked with Riverton about their parks. They have 4 full time employees. We have 2 full time employees. If we want to keep these events happening, we need to hire another person to offer these services. Long-term planning, we should look into this. We have good employees right now and wouldn't want to lose them. John Larsen said he has seen them out at 4:30 in the morning emptying the trash cans. It is very much appreciated.

Michelle Escudera - LOR foundation was looking to help with summer programming. Parks & Rec are at the heart of our community. I knew they needed help. That catalog is the key. Summer Smart grant be put into that catalog. Concerned it is only

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going to be online. Easy to work with. Offering new things. Baking classes. Chess in the parks. Pretty exciting.

Julia Stuble, Thank you Lori and Kevin. For the Summer camping season, what do we need to do about this issue? Lori - We do have online where they can make donations. There are a lot that don't donate, and they are the ones that abuse the use. A lot of people know it is free camping so I don't know what the answer would be. It is important to have a person in the park that could help move them along. Kevin said every camper come in late at night and leave early in the morning. That is not as bad as pitching a tent and leave for 5 days. Maybe we change the policy about tents and state they can't be left. It's hard to maintain the parks when there are tents left standing. Lance said it is a small amount of abuse. The worry is too much for our staff to handle. They want to take care of the park and not deal with the problems with campers. Missy - Struggle with folks being pushed out the of parks, they just move to other areas of Lander. Good to hear idea. That use is only going to increase. So much interest in outdoor programs and that it was draws people. Thank them for their effort. Lance said this is all being handled with employees and not a board. Would like to know their ideas for board members. Chris still would like to draw the interested parties of those board and have a meeting. We still have a lot to do with the new park. Make use of the volunteers that we have on other areas. Lance said we can try and peace it back together and see what we can come up with. Surely appreciate what they have done in the past, but our maintenance staff is short. Little bit of a cut back with the employees we have. Chris - Do you have a need that a volunteer could fill that could delegate a task. Lori - 64 people that have been on the boards. I haven't thought about that. Lance - Maybe kickball, track, t-ball, we could use those people for that. Missy says I can't believe that there aren't people that would want to volunteer. Make it meaningful for them. Maybe we have dog lovers that would help with the dog park. Brandon Reynolds- Appreciate what Lori and Kevin are doing. Glad to hear to continue with some of those boards. Will put my name in if you need someone.

3. Discussion of Wyoming Promise

John Larsen explained what Wyoming Promise was. Margie Farias presented to the council in October 2020. If we could get the council to sign off on the Resolution, we could present it to the WAM summer convention. John would like to show our support from the City of Lander and pass this Resolution.

Margie Farias said the City of Cheyenne just passed a resolution at their council meeting last night. She said any support we could get can help us out.

Adam Phillip asked why it has to be a Resolution. It would be more appropriate for a proclamation instead of resolution. Charri said to take it to WAM it would have to be a resolution and not a proclamation. The City of Cheyenne could take it to WAM. Margie we are just looking for your support. Chris asked if there a drawback in doing a resolution. Adam said a resolution is showing we are taking action. A proclamation is showing we are supporting something. Melinda said we need to have a little more discussion. Asked about the timeline? Margie was hoping when she presented it back in October that she would have had our support. Julia is in support of a resolution. Dan also agrees with it.

4. Discuss priorities in case of water shortage.

Lance Hopkin said we have been blessed with moisture and we are up to 90 %. Hopefully this will last and keep seeing accumulating in the mountains. There is only 1 year in records that the reservoir didn't get filled. What typically happens, if there is a shortage, we have to supplement with the reservoir. If we see we are running low at the reservoir, we have ways to cut back on watering in the parks, golf course, etc. If that doesn't help, we then ask the residents to volunteer cutting back watering to help. There are things we can do depending on where we are at with the water levels. 40% of properties are irrigated.

5. Update on 1% projects

Lance handed out what projects were planned for the upcoming year and explained each one. Michelle Escaredas said this list is incredible. This is the kind of information is what needs to be out to the public.

Lance mentioned Paul Guschewsky offer a tour of his new medical facility at one of

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our meetings. Will check out a date and time with him and let council know when it will be.

Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The City of Lander
A Municipal Corporation

Monte Richardson
Mayor

ATTEST:

Tami E. Hitshe

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