

**CITY OF LANDER  
WORK SESSION MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
CITY HALL 240 LINCOLN STREET  
LANDER, WY 82520  
September 22, 2020**

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

**Governing Body Present:** Council President Cade Maestas, Council Members Chris Hulme, John Larsen, Missy White, Mike Kusiek, and Dan Hahn

**Governing Body Absent:** Mayor Monte Richardson

**City Staff Present:** City Clerk Tami Hitshe, Assistant Mayor RaJean Strube Fossen, Public Works Director/Engineer Lance Hopkin, Chief Thomas Shroyer,

Mayor Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Demonstration from MuniCode – JR Riley, Kimball Clark and James Bonneville  
There was a presentation given to Council from MuniCode. They are a self-publishing software service for government agencies. We will discuss which way the City would like to go with this product.

2. Presentation – Lander Climate Action Network (LCAN) –

Presentation was given by Ariel Greene, Katie Oram and Adam Kiekenhiem. Katie explained what Lander Climate Action Network (LCAN) was. It is a group of climate-minded constituents of Lander that have a mission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Lander through commitment to environmental sustainability, community engagement and economic viability. Very concerned about current and future climate change. They are made up of volunteers that actively have meeting a few times a month to talk about climate change. Adam also spoke about his concerns about climate change. Talked about what other communities have done. Ariel talked about Blue Sky Grant Program that is available right now to help with the funding. Council President Maestas said the next step would be to do a proclamation of support for program which will be put on the October 13<sup>th</sup> agenda.

3. Snow Removal  
Discussion on snow removal for commercial zones. The issue we have had in the past years, there are a couple of commercial lots that push the snow out into the streets and there have been times the piles are so high that it is going to cause an accident because you can't see around it at the intersections. Lance has recommended the bigger lots shouldn't be allowed to push into the streets. He said we are very low on our rates and we shouldn't be competing with businesses that do this for a living. Chris Hulme talked that our current city code states that if your lot is 8,000 sq ft or bigger, would not qualify to push the snow into the city streets. Wondering why we have allowed them to do this in the first place. Cade Maestas said we should enforce our code. Anyone over the 8,000 sq foot lot size, should not be allowed to push into the streets. Dan Hahn said we need to address this if there is a reason to cause an accident. Chris Hulme is concerned about the cost of the service we provide. He feels we should go to an hourly rate instead of an annual charge. The snow plowing program is unaffordable.

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Lance Hopkin said what we are really trying to do is to provide safety across the town. We put more effort into Mainstreet. He agrees we should cap it at the 8,000 and go by what the city code states. Cade Maestas said since we did not take out the snow removal rates from the Fee Schedule; we honor the fee schedule and enforce the code. We will send out letters to the commercial lots that do not qualify and let them know.

#### General snow removal

There was discussion on changing the way we plow snow. Maybe going with if there is less than 4 inches, we don't plow snow and they wouldn't be able to push it in the streets. Missy White talked about having different plowing patterns. Educating the community about the schedules on plowing then they could plan accordingly. Cade Maestas said maybe this is our opportunity to create a map of priorities for the plowing. Mike Kusiek said we need to evaluate what makes sense on which streets to plow. Lance Hopkin said other cities have snow plans that we could look at. We need to set lower expectations on snow removal. The problem is our citizens expect it to be done in a timely manner because we have done it in the past. Discussed how much it costs for snow removal. Lance Hopkin said it takes 11 employees with all the equipment. He came up with a cost of \$300 a day per employee. We could look into getting rid of equipment and the street crew and contract it out but believes it will still cost a lot. The problem we have is the equipment is getting older and harder to find parts to fix it when it breaks down. He said there is a buyback program for equipment, but it still costs to invest in it. Its take capital to get into that program. Lance said it also depends on what budget cuts are coming in January. We might have to look at not to provide some of the services. Look at hiring part time employees to replace full time. We will be as effective as we can with the crew we have. Chris Hulme asked Lance Hopkin about general funds and enterprise funds to plow streets. Lance explained how we manage that.

#### 4. Staff & Council Updates

Lance Hopkin – Talked about Worthen Reservoir. We haven't had to tap into the reservoir yet. There has been a 20% of reduction of water use. Talked about the wells. We have drilled 4 wells. They will be able to produce 400 gallons a minute. They will be a supplement to our system in an emergency backup. Dan asked what the percentage would be if the wells were up and running. Lance figured 2.3 mgd. We could meet the entire city demand if we needed to use them. Lance Hopkin mentioned the rural water house credit card base system was down this past weekend. He said it upset some people. Lance talked about setting up pins and accounts for the water customers but knows it would be alot more work for the everyone involved. The rural water house is a nice perk for people that don't live here. We charge they county people the same rate the current customer pays. We are pulling reservoir water out of the mountains for county residents. We need to look at additional avenues and into the transmission lines and see how we can make them our customers. Rural water house should capture more revenue to sustain itself. Cade Maestas talked about how low we are on the rural water rates. Lance agrees the water rates are low. At some point we will have to increase those rates. Lance mentioned we have plans to make the ice for the skating season. We have the staff to help build it. Still talking about how we will handle the rentals and the warming house. Will let the community know that we will have ice for the season. Lance talked about the Enforcement. Talked about how we are moving forward. Looking at what codes will need to be corrected. Straighten out what we are enforcing and them decide who would enforce them. He said Charri Lara is looking into software for permits to make it easier to tract the permit process. Looking at different codes that need to be changed for building permits

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Rajeane Strube Fossen– Applied for Wyoming energy grant. We were awarded \$25,000 to replace the air conditioning units at the senior center. We also have CARES Act money which will allow us to remodel city hall. It is totally grant money. She also mentioned the fuel station at the airport is having the credit card issue. Working on that issue. Call QPod to help us fix it.

Chris Hulme – Said the school board had a good idea and thought the City could do the same. Maybe go through our code books and policies and look to see if anything is out of date or not relevant to us. Then we can enforce the codes that mean something

Missy White – Golf Course Board thanked the city crew that helped clean up the tree that was pushed down by the last storm. Wanted to stress to the public that whoever is painting the political things on the city street to stop. It is not appropriate to put that on the street plus you are vandalizing city property.

Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The City of Lander  
A Municipal Corporation

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Monte Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tami Hitschew, City Clerk

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