

**CITY OF LANDER
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS: CITY HALL
240 LINCOLN STREET
LANDER, WY 82520
June 16, 2020**

THE CITY OF LANDER IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER

Governing Body Present: Mayor Monte Richardson, Council President Cade Maestas, Council Members John Larsen, Missy White, Mike Kusiek, Chris Hulme

Governing Body Absent: Council Member Dan Hahn

City Staff Present: City Attorney Adam Phillips, City Clerk Tami Hitsheiw, Police Chief Thomas Shroyer, City Treasurer Charri Lara, Assistant Mayor RaJean Strube Fossen, Public Works Director Lance Hopkin

Pledge of Allegiance
Call to Order

Approval of Agenda
Council President Maestas moved to approve, Council Member White made 2nd
Motion passed

I. Public Hearing

(a) **Budget Hearing 2020-2021**

(a) Open Public Hearing

(b) Introduce and Read

City Treasurer presented and read a balance budget

(c) Ask for comments

(d) closed public hearing

(a) Resolutions 1177 – Appropriations

Council Member Kusiek moved to approve, Council Member Hulme made 2nd. Motion passed

Council President Maestas asked if the payroll deductions that were discussed in the executive meeting had been cut from the budget. City Treasurer Lara said only not to replace Animal Control Officer position. Mayor Richardson asked Senator Cale Case to speak on budget cuts from the state level. Senator Cale Case stated all across Wyoming we are in a very serious budget crisis. Oil prices are way down which affects the budget. It will be 2 years before we see travel again. Bottom fell out of the oil prices I would start planning on more budget cuts to come. Mayor Richardson recommends moving forward with cutting \$300,000 from current budget. There was a discussion on moving \$50,000 from the land acquisition to the building maintenance line item. Mayor Richardson said we have talked about nonessential vs essential employees. It's a very tough decision to make. I believe we move forward with the cuts that you directed me to do.

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Council Member Larsen agreed with Mayor Richardson. Parks and Recreation Department would help eliminate the \$300,000 direction from the council. Council President Maestas said with no recreation revenue coming for the year, we do not have a recreation program that needs the staff. We have looked into different avenues for nonprofit groups to run the programs in the future. City Treasurer asked if this will happen as of June 30th. Mayor Richardson said yes. Council President Maestas said there are two options. Amend the current budget with the payroll numbers being adjusted or approve as presented and do a budget amendment at the next council meeting. Council Member White says I feel it is awkward cutting positions when we don't have final numbers. Public Works Hopkin said we need to talk about the other duties that the positions took care of. He went on to list them. Rental of the parks, gazebos, rodeo grounds, greenway committee, trails, dirt bike, arbor day, maintaining playground equipment, tree city USA. Mayor Richardson asked if those services add up to a fulltime position. Public Works directed asked if there are some you want to keep, we need to be able to cover those in some way. Public Works Director Hopkin asked if we were keeping one of the positions. Sara Felix said 90% of what she does is those services that Lance was talking about. They are all orchestrated through her.

Council President Maestas move to amend the budget presented to move \$50,000 from land acquisition and move to building fund. Council Member White 2nd. Motion passed

Council Member White asked why have people running rec programs when we don't have any. It doesn't look good with the taxpayers. We are stuck between a rock and hard place. Council Member Larsen agrees with that.

Council Member White made motion to eliminate two parks position which total \$180,000 by June 30, 2020. Council Member Larsen made 2nd. Motion passed.

Council President Maestas moved to approve Resolution 1177 as amended. Council Member Kusiek made 2nd motion. Motion passed.

(b) Resolution 1180 – Exempting Portion of N 8th from Open Container on July 3, 2020

Council Member Larsen moved to approve, Council Member White made 2nd. Motion passed

Chief Shroyer explained the street closure and open container that the Maverick Restaurant submitted. Mayor Richardson stated that the owner Abraham Kara presented a detailed plan. Mayor feels we could move forward with it. The Chief doesn't see any issues from the police department. Council Member Kusiek asked if there is anything different from previous street closures for the Maverick. Chief Shroyer said the only concern would be the time going until Midnight instead of 11. Council President Maestas said last year it went from 4 – 10. Abraham Kara said since it was a special day, the day before the 4th of July, to have it go until midnight. His customers are the ones that ask him to extend the time from last year. Council Member Hulme asked how many people do you usually get to attend. Mr. Kara said probably 200 – 250. Council Member White said lets keep the street closed until Midnight, and have the music stop playing at 11:00. Mr Kara agreed to that.

Council Member Kusiek move to amend Resolution 1180 to change the time ending to 11 p.m. Council Member White made 2nd. Motion passed with Mayor Richardson voting no.

Council President Maestas made motion to approve Resolution 1180 as amended.

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Council Member Larsen made 2nd. Motion passed.

(c) Authorize Mayor to sign Contract for Hanger Purchase, Hanger #208

Council Member Maestas moved to approve, Council Member White made 2nd Motion passed

Gary Michaud said he came to talk to the City about trying to have a parade since the Pioneer Days Rodeo had been cancelled. He presented the pioneer days parade for the last 15 years. He was very disappointed when he heard the parade was cancelled. The governor has allowed parades now so there are a few volunteers that would like to organize a parade. He supports a parade but concerned about the safety. Would like to ask for support and help from the City. Has heard that other groups have talked about putting a parade on. He would like all the groups to consolidate into one and start at 10:00 a.m. on the 4th. Cale Case believes we have a serious situation. He would rather have an organized parade. Wouldn't it be better if we all came together and got the WYDOT's blessing and the Police Departments blessing for us to have the traditional parade. If it is done safely, I think it would work. I asked if the City would work with us to get a parade going. Chief Shroyer feels like he is the negative person. The police department is under a lot of stress right now with all the issues going on. The first issue is what guarantee do you have that we have all the groups come together to the same time. It takes a lot of planning to hold a parade. We don't have enough officers to shut down main street. Will have to ask for assistance from the county and the fire department. Rolling parade? Lots of questions. Handing candy out. If the city agrees with this, the police department will do everything they can to get it done. Mayor Richardson said a parade will take place whether we say yes or not. Chief Shroyer doesn't like the rolling parade if they pass out candy. Big concern about kids running out and not paying attention. Council President Maestas does support it and wants to make sure it's as organized and safe as possible. It's going to have a different feel. What is our best foot forward to help make this happen. What can we do to facility it to make it work. Chief Shroyer reaffirms that all groups become one centralized organizer for the parade. Assist having volunteers coming to help. Maybe Parade committee to do a go fund me to help with overtime. Volunteers helping with traffic controls, helping watch for kids, Council Member Larsen asked about the insurance policy?

Council President Maestas asked Mr. Michaud if they had an insurance policy. They do not have an insurance policy. The parade will happen not matter what you do. Explained what their plan would be. Asked for the other groups to join. Council Member Kusiek explained what he has been seeing on social media. Would like everyone to work together and be safe. Council President Maestas mentioned we just had a very peaceful very short term protest. The police supported that and this is a much similar issue. The City will not take responsibility for this parade. Not issuing any insurance for it. If we called it a protest, then we would have to help out with it. Council Member Maestas would like the police department to offer guidance to make this happen. Chief Shroyer asked if they could shorten the parade route to help them out. Cut out some of the intersections that we have to block. Cale Case said the traditional starting place will be at Baldwin creek. Because of the bridge being under construction, we would stop at 2nd street instead of 1st. Thinks it will be a much smaller parade this year.

Fire Chief, Bobby Johnston, pointed out his concerns. 4th of July is the busiest time for the fire department. When they heard that the Pioneer Days Parade was cancelled, a lot of the firemen are now going to be on vacation so they will be short staffed. If there is going to be a parade he would suggest shutting down the entire main street. Biggest concern if we don't shut down the whole street, kids will still run out. Council President Maestas said we can't guarantee someone running out into the street. That is why it's the

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best to shut down the entire main street with the WYDOT permit. We can do this. And it would be good for our town. It's independence day. We will work with all departments to make it work. Council Member White said someone needs to stand up and say they will organize this parade. City Attorney Phillips said there is a lot of confusion on whose parade this is. The only thing the city does is provide law enforcement to help traffic. If it's done by a bunch of volunteers, it still will not be on the city. The City's only obligation is security. Gary Michaud, I totally understands where the attorney is coming from. The parade is going moved to happen. Not matter what happens today.

Hunter Brewer introduced himself and said he starting out with a post on social media and was trying to do a Friday night drag. But in 2 days it has blown up huge. He is willing to step up and volunteers to help keep things safe. Having people clean up after also. Rachel Good introduced herself. We are trying to figure out what is going on. We started a Petition to have the Lander Parade. Over 1,500 signed the petition...Then we started the group on social media and it has blown up. Council Member Kusiek told them great job organizing it. As a City, we have to represent the entire community. This is why we like to plan. It has its challenges. Council Member Hulme has a number of concerns. When a board of volunteers on the parade committee makes the decision to cancel the parade why would we consider recruiting them to come help with the new parade. It had to have been a hard decision on their part to cancel the parade in the first place. Fireworks are a big thing also. When we had the fire band 5 years ago and we couldn't set off fireworks, we all stuck together got through it. We are just coming out of a pandemic and we need to taking it very serious. I would hope we could take this as serious as the fire band. I wish we could put this in the same category because that is where we are at. I would hope that the leaders take the place of the board members and maybe explain why we shouldn't do it this year. Chief Shroyer asked the council for guidance if he has to hire other officers from other agencies, if he would have to get their approval to pay the overtime. If I hire 5 or 6 officers to help out for one day and pay them one day rate, is it a council approval or do I make the decision myself. Council President Maestas said its in your budget so do what you need to do. Two biggest concerns are the insurance and the street closures. We have every officer on duty that day because of the 4th. Council President Maestas would like to support a parade. 20 days is a very ambitious to get this done. If an organization or an individual, comes in with a liability insurance and the street closure permit, then we should support it. Council Member White told them to ask for help, start a go fund me account, get insurance and get functional structure. City Attorney Phillips, the City will not take on the liability. We should still be concerned about the Covid 19 and the safety of our citizens. Cale Case, the governor lifted the restrictions after the parade committee decided to cancel the parade. I am not here to make a threat but the parade will happen. Came here to offer you a plan with some structure. Thank you for your time. Council Member Maestas said they can't take liability on for this. I know the parade is possible to do if an organization would help out. Council Member Kusiek, we do want this to happen. Be the people out there that wants to make this the best 4th of July to have. Mayor Richardson said we know this is going to happen but you need to get with the police and fire department to make sure it's done the right way.

Council President Maestas move to adjourn. Council Member Hulme made 2nd Motion passed.

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Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at pm 8:01

ATTEST:

The City of Lander

By: _____
Monte Richardson, Mayor

Tami Hitsheew, City Clerk

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