

**CITY OF LANDER
WORK SESSION MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL
240 LINCOLN STREET
LANDER, WY 82520
March 20, 2018**

THE CITY OF LANDER IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Governing Body Present: Mayor Del McOmie, Council President Cade Maestas, Vice President Monte Richardson, Council Members Melinda Cox, Dan Hahn, Mark Calhoun, Dick Hudson

Governing Body Absent:

City Staff Present: Assistant Mayor RaJean Strube Fossen, Police Chief Bob Cecrle, Public Works Director Lance Hopkin, City Attorney Adam Phillips, City Treasurer Charri Lara, City Clerk Sarah Edlund,

Mayor Called meeting to order at 6:04

1. Staff & Council Updates

Member Hudson, is there something going on at Fremont Motors regarding the ice? Public Works Director Hopkin yes the property owner is working on drainage issues there. The City is not looking at relocating the fire hydrant.

2. Healthy Rivers Update

Bob Tipton, we were here in 2016 and wanted to give an update. We are still focused on the Middle fork improving the quantity and quality of the river. Manage our system, improve storage, efficiencies and conservation with our irrigation. We have a 7 member partnership and a working group with all the stake holders, agriculture, recreation, environmental community, and city. It is about bringing everyone together and working toward common goals. We have worked on a lot of community outreach to keep everyone up to date. We have had some success, 1 is the LOR Foundation came to us and we applied for and received a \$100K grant which is funding the event this week. 2. There is another 1.18 million under the RCCP group and we are hopefully looking at that. 3. We went to Wyoming Water Development and worked with them and are re-doing a level 1 study follow up that will look at some of the things we did not look at in 2003 study. We just found out the study has been approved and this summer to look at three topics First is surface water storage for harvesting later, micro-storage is second and third is looking at our irrigation systems again from a system wide perspective to see which ones are big priorities and where we should be applying our funding. There is an event this Thursday night and Friday full day for classes. Good courses being offered, water rights 101 and Steve giving a talk on subdivisions. High quality people are coming in, with good knowledge. We have made some really good steps and appreciate the City for all their help.

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President Maestas question on the level 1 study, when studying the ditches are they looking at the level amounts coming out what they should be per water rights?

We are mainly looking at where we are losing water, we will look at levels at the head gates and what is going in and out.

Vice President Richardson, are they looking at raising our reservoir so we can store more in it? No it is not in the level 1 study.

Public Works Director Hopkin, people want us to look at water rights and storage as a whole. We are looking at our reservoirs with the State Engineers office to see what we can do in the future. We are also looking at developing that well. We had our first meeting regarding that project. There are a lot of good projects on the table.

Police Chief Cecrle, we have a unique situation with our ground water in that it is almost a underground river that regenerates quickly.

3. Community Tree Assessment, Mike Garvey

I have a written report for you on this assessment on the trees in your community. It is not a management plan or a tree hazard/risk evaluation; this is a step before that. Lander has a great tree board. Gave a background of what was assessed. 3 species account for 59% of all trees in Lander. Your two top trees are really susceptible to diseases and bugs. Over 60% of your trees are in City Park and are cottonwoods. The downtown has very few trees for a town this size. Our municipalities should have more trees on their main streets. Lander needs a tree inventory, good use of a GIS system. Your community is well known by tree people. The main issue is looking at the big cottonwoods in City Park. Sara has started the next generation of trees in the park that were cuttings from the original cottonwoods in the park. City needs to evaluate which trees that have hazards and what risks those hazards create, then make decisions on those evaluations. Lander's trees weren't managed until 1986 and were planted in 1906. So they are in good shape and really need very little pruning on them. Younger trees need to be properly pruned so they will grow strong trees. Plant a larger variety of types of trees. We need to be like the pioneers and plant the next generation of trees.

4. FAST Board Presentation, Missy White

Missy White, thank you for your support for the air service in our community, without it we would not have the air service that we do. Successes we are rebounding in 2017, we were just shy of 8,000 passengers and numbers are continuing to go up. Our goal is to reach that 10,000 enplanement goal. Reliable air service is huge for businesses in our community. There will be more capacity and better plane times in next year and more planes going to Denver. We are still working on a co-chair with a bigger service soon. In spring of last year we asked for \$100,000 and Council recommended coming back this spring to see about the additional money. We are growing faster than we had anticipated and now we only need an additional \$50K for the end of this year, and we are asking for next year for \$152,000 which is less than what we needed last year.

President Maestas, last year you asked for \$200,000 and this year you are asking for \$152,000 and if there is still growth that number could go down?

Yes.

Mayor, the state of Wyoming just passed legislation can you let us know what that is all about? It is suggesting to the governor that he look at increasing the air service to smaller areas, and

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would serve other larger communities, and suggesting a funding figure for that process. It could bring some good cost savings for us.

We are making progress and we need to continue to move forward. It is critical for our part of the state. And it is a corner stone of economic development especially with how far apart we are from things. Sheridan just had a huge business move to the community and part of their decision on Sheridan was the air service that they have there.

Member Hudson, a friend came out for the eclipse but had issues with the car rental, has that changed?

I don't know enough to say anything on that subject.

Member Calhoun the co-chair seems to be the next big piece, it impacts baggage and it is an issue, what is the time frame on that piece?

Denver Air Connection is actively working on it and is hoping that it would be the start of the next year. Working with a company to work with United and the FAA to get this done the target date is July 1 (hopefully) but maybe a little later in the year.

President Maestas on behalf of LETA this is one of the top 3 priorities for us, and could have a huge outcome for the economy in our communities.

City Treasurer Lara gave update of reports she receives regarding the air service.

Member Calhoun, how does the pricing structure work in respect to the guarantee and how that works together?

There is a specific structure to their pricing. There are three tiers of pricing and only a percentage of seats for each tier of pricing. There are some special fares that we have given for medical issues. Our revenue management folks would like to spread that out even further.

5. Health and Safety Plan

Assistant Mayor Strube-Fossen, when Nick Hudson was here he wrote this program, we thought it was previously approved by the council but that action was not completed. We removed redundant information that is within our new plan and we wanted to you to review it and it will need to be adopted.

President Maestas, we could adopt the policy resolution.

Melinda there is a couple of references to the public works director and make sure all the terms are the same.

6. Proposed WAM Resolutions for the 2018 WAM Annual Convention

These two resolutions we have talked about several times. One is regarding our sewer indebtedness and the limitations for what we can apply for in grants and loans due to the big sewer projects that come up. Specifically the auditors will look at this. Statue says sewer funds have to be self-sufficient and this wording in the constitution does not allow it to run that way. Mayor in 2000 they capped us in the mineral royalties but have never changed that amount. We brought this up with the last WAM meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

The City of Lander
A Municipal Corporation

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By: _____
Del McOmie, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah Edlund, City Clerk

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