

**CITY OF LANDER
WORK SESSION MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
240 LINCOLN STREET
LANDER, WY 82520
November 30, 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 Hitshew, City Treasurer Charri Lara, Assistant Mayor RaJean Strube Fossen, Police Chief Scott Peters, City Attorney Adam Phillips, Public Works Director Lance Hopkin

1. Staff & Council Updates

Chief Scott Peters - The new cars are pushed back for a few weeks because they are waiting on parts. Portable radios should be in by the end of the month. John Larsen asked about the eticketing. Chief said the platform has been built. We are trying to get a hold of the company to come here and get it up and running.

Lance Hopkin - designing a few projects for next year. Tanks and pump station project is near to start advertising. He feels it will be more like a \$7 million instead of \$5 million but we have two different funding sources and will still be covered the project.

RaJean Strube Fossen gave grant update. We were awarded \$50,000 from T-Mobile. There will be a public event on December 9, 2021, at the park location. Invited the council to attend. LOR grant for community planning for the park master plan was denied. Now we must figure out how to get that done so we have a direction for the future. We were denied the LIFT grant for the event coordinator community development position. She will be applying for a few more in December. One of those is for funds for a new restroom at the new park. Christmas Party is December 10th. Asked for donations for the party. Julia asked if the grant for the restroom facility has been submitted and wanted to know if we could change it to be used for the park planning instead of new restrooms. Julia asked if LOR gave a reason we were denied. RaJean said there were three reasons but did not have them in front her. She could send that to Julia.

Charri Lara- Audit will be done at the end of the month and they will report to the council later in December. Mentioned Mayor Hall from Cody came last week. He was so impressed with our communities, and we are making all the other towns and cities jealous that we had the economic development tax, and we are having growth and positions things happening and is very appreciative of the things that had been done. He sits on the steering committee for the state and has been keeping us updated on the state releasing the covid funds. He is under the impression that since the state has so much money, that our direct distribution might not take a hit.

Adam Phillips - Completing the letter for the audit showing that we do not have any active lawsuits against us. Working on notice of violations for codes for the code enforcement officer and building inspector can use.

Tami Hitshew – Mentioned the new employee that was hired for the water clerk position and that she would be starting December 6th. Also reminded the council of the Winter WAM conference scheduled for February 23-25. Needs to know who will be attending.

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Julia Stuble - Gave update from the Popo Agie conservation district meeting she attended. They are still eager to stay involved as we do the planning with the Corps of Engineers. They are also interest in the healthy rivers initiative.

Missy White - Recognizing that we have a lot of good things happening in Lander. The ability to purchase a park and building an assistant living facility. Amazing things going on. Will have good impact. Thanked the Bike Club and LCAN for their projects.

Melina Cox asked Kara Colovich from LCAN to give an update on what they are doing. They are looking for grant funding for a part time contractor to help with the greenhouse gas inventory which would look at the municipal emissions of the city. The task force is made up of volunteers and we just do not have the time to get this project done without the part time person. The next stage would be climate action planning for carbon reduction. Would be looking for an independent contractor for that also. Melinda said it comes down to the amount of time it will take to get the inventory completed. RaJean explained that it would not a city position but an independent contractor.

Melinda Cox - Senior Center is having a craft fair this Saturday. They are very excited for that. She mentioned Tara Berg would like to give a presentation to council to talk about government owned property that is being used for commercial use. There are changes coming and Tara would like to update us. Wants to come to the next work session. Melinda asked Lance about Bonnie Brae Street. It has come up a few times with some constituents. The issue is not having enough space to turn a vehicle around in. Lance said the long-term plan and solution in the transportation master plan is to reconnect those at some point. We will address this at a later date.

John Larson – Update from the chamber meeting. Said the number one concern they have is not having affordable house prices. John talked about the infrastructure money that might come down to us from the federal government and asked Lance about the regional water and sewer systems that we have talked about in the past. Lance explained there needs to be a study and then see what happens next. Without the plan we cannot do a project. We are working on the master plan currently and hopefully within the next year, the projects can come from that plan. It is a slow track for long term planning. Discussion about putting irrigation water from the sewer pond up to the life resource center. John thinks it would be another great project that we could put in for that money.

Mayor Richardson thanked the staff for all their hard work.

Andy Gramlich, LIFT - Discuss projects from the one-half cent sales tax to be awarded.

Andy handed out report to the council. He explained the progress of the committee and talked about the meetings they have had. They had to develop criteria on judging whether they applicants met economic development criteria. We have \$273,340 and requests came in totaling \$338,381. Talked about the applications that they received and what they had to offer. Explained why they denied the city's application. Said there were pros and cons about an economic development director being in a government entity. He said it is a good project and we have talked with LEDA and other organizations about getting an economic development person. Julia asked if there is a rubric developed used for the applications. Andy said they have a list of items that we look at, but we do not have a number assigned to them. Sara Hamlin explained they decided to do with the first round of applications is review them as a group to establish some of the things that they felt strongly about that could be used for the rubric system. Charri has put the document together to make it more formalized. We meet again next week and then again in January before the February reviews. Julia said there would be inconsistent evaluations between the two rounds if you are using this round to develop how you are going to wait and evaluation in the

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second round. They are being measured differently between the two rounds. Julia would like to see the rubric for when we vote these projects. Missy said they were trying to learn from the first round so they would know what rubric to use moving on. Andy said that is one of the things we are working on, and we are also in a learning process. Looking at changing a few questions on the applications. Missy asked if we should hold off and have these applications reevaluated when there is a more similar evaluation process in place. Andy said the process of evaluation projects will change forever. Not sure we want to hold on. Sara reminded the council that they way this committee is set up, that this is a recommendation to LEDA and then LEDA signing off on to come to the council. It is up to the council's discretion to make the final decision.

Chris – Shares the same concerns. Until the process become refined, everyone should be judged on the same level. As a council member awarding taxpayer money, he would like to see all the applications information prior to voting the awards. Melinda said we assigned LIFT to do this evaluation process for us. There are a lot of Rubrics out there to use. Missy said it is a learning curve for all of us. She said it would be helpful to have the rubric in place and to share these ideas to the LIFT committee for you to consider in your upcoming meeting. Timeline would be important to find out. Andy said we talked about the timeline. He asked what like to know what the council wants from the committee. Missy said it is all about the rubric and helping them understand how you evaluation and make the decisions.

Charri said she came up with a grading sheet. Asked about taking it to the committee and have them fill them out for the applicants that they did review and give to council so they can see how they were evaluated. Adam Phillips said we need to be consistent on every round so there would not be any allegations from outside sources.

Dan said we had the same situation to the planning committee. We need to let the LIFT committee do their job and not micromanage them. We need to trust them. Missy said it would better understand through the rubric system so I can better support their thinking. Mayor Richardson asked about their concern of why they denied the economic development position. I am a firm believer for having this position. We could move forward and hire this person and use the covid funds we have. We have been talking about this for 3 years. We are missing the boat. This is a much-needed position. Andy said we have been talking about this position for a long time and agree with you of the value of that person. He got the pro and cons of an economic development position out of an international economic development listing. Sara Hamlin said the purpose of this committee is to recommend on the applications. Not to award or deny. The committee felt like it was not to award at this time. The city could reapply in the future. Julia would like to see the handout that Andy had for the pros and cons of the position being in the government. She also Julia asked if LEDA or the Chamber would want to get this position started and if they could do is as quickly as the city could.

Chris says the city is a good place to have an economic development position. We do not have the rubric, or the matrix system set up so we can see how it gets evaluated. Clear understanding of the applicants before the vote would be helpful.

RaJean said LEDA has formed a committee to look at getting a similar position like this one and reapplying to LIFT. LEDA also voted to put forward the LIFT recommendations that you were presented of you for a vote with the awards listed and the denial. Mike Jones said the discussion there were some concerns were much broader that just what Andy mentioned on the economic development criteria.

Marilyn Fischer - The committee felt that this was a very important position. She said economic development is a tough business. Talked about Goshen County Economic Development Corporation and how they handled their tax monies. They have been able to pay for a full-time position and it has been very successful.

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Economic Development is a long term. Said it is hard to get anything accomplished in one, two or even four years.

Lance Hopkin said it will be much easier to do this off of scoring. We need a scoring system to make a good decision. Direct the committee to come up with a system, The name at the top should not matter. We need that system in place before you can pick the correct applicants. Sara asked if the council had things they would like to see on the rubric, to let them know before their meeting next week. Julia reviewed the language of the tax and read the definition of economic development. There was a discussion on primary dollars and jobs. Mike Jones recommends the council have a work session with the LIFT committee and LEDA and work through the rubric system so they can get it up and running. Andy would like a timeframe on what happens next. Charri said the committee can meet next Tuesday, make any changes to the scoring sheet, and then give copy of the scoring sheet to the council prior to the December 14th meeting.

Julia asked about funding a business that has not been in for two years. Sara said the Committee did change some of the language for startup business. These recommendations will be put on the December 14th agenda for the vote.

2. Airtable/Stacker demonstration – Jacob Lara, DYT Consulting

Jacob Lara gave a presentation on the airtable and stacker software program that he is building for the city.

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The City of Lander
A Municipal Corporation

Monte Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tami E. Hitshe

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