

**CITY OF LANDER
WORK SESSION MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
240 LINCOLN STREET
LANDER, WY 82520
October 26, 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 Peters - As of Friday, He will officially be a resident of Lander. His department is doing great. Has been busier than normal for this time of year. We acquired three new vehicles from Utah. Our fleet is current. We are on a new replacement plan. Code enforcement is progressing. It is an uphill battle, but we are moving forward. Homeland security grant \$24,000 was awarded for the new Radios. Mayor Richardson thanked the chief for taking on the Lincoln Street problem. Lance Hopkin - project update. The boring by the chamber is completed but still needs to finish a few things in that area. They will move to Wyoming and then City Park. Starting to get ready for the snow season. Ordered two new plows for the new trucks. New fire administer/airport manager is on board doing a good job so far with lots to learn and a lot of training.

RaJean Strube Fossen – talked about he Lor Foundation application for the parks master planning. We hope to be able to hire a professional planner or professional facilitator to get community input and get a master plan for the new park. There is no match with the Lor grant. She updated the council on the work the planning commission has been working on new ordinances for housekeeping some of the definitions in the code book. We hope to bring to council in two separate ordinances. The planning commission is interviewing three people on November 4. Talked about the LCAN event happening where they take an inventory of how many streetlights are not working. Rocky Mountain owns the lights, but we pay the bill. They will replace lights with the most efficient technology. Council Member Cox Melinda asked about the LOR application. Utilizing the UW students and to be a part of that planning. Might be at a reduces cost. RaJean said we did look at that as an option, but the money must be spent within a 12-month period. We could put out a request for bids or handpick planners or facilitators and get request for proposals. Council Member Stuble asked for an update on the MOU for the ambulance. Mayor Richardson will give update.

Charri Lara - Auditors were here last week. One tested positive with Covid so they are working from home this week. Found an error on one of the Federal awards. There will be a new engagement letter for a single audit requirement because it was over \$750,000. Will be on the next council meeting. Update on vaccinations. We only are at 37%. Talked about how the City of Casper is compensating their employees for being vaccinated. Not sure where they council would like to see our percentage at. Adam Phillips – Has been working on a lot of MOU’s and ordinances with RaJean Tami Hitshew – Told council the Winter WAM convention is scheduled for February 23-25. She has received five rooms and just needs to know who will be attending.

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Reminded council that November 2nd is the Water Treatment Plant tour. Whoever wants to go is to meet at the plant at 5:00 p.m.

Dan Hahn – Main Street striping is 90% done. Inside lanes are eleven feet, outside lanes twelve feet to accommodate bicycles.

Julia Stuble - Would like to talk more about vaccine incentives or mandates at a work session to find out what we could do more at a local level. Shared the latest on the Via Ferrata meeting. They will have different sets of stakeholders think of other alternative site locations and to bring those proposals back for consideration which she said is a positive step. She said it is a good thing to think about when we start the master planning for the park. It will be good to get good input from the community.

Chris Hulme – Update on golf course, grounds keeper is putting the course to bed and getting ready for winter. Doing golf cart repairs. They do have a couple board seats available. Trying to recruit new people.

Melinda Cox - thanked staff and the city for the flowers. Mentioned there is a countywide DUI discussion group. Governor has appointed a few people to discuss about DUI on Thursday, October 28th at 10:00. Our county is the highest in the state for DUI's and top ten in the nation for DUI arrests and public intoxication. If you have any ideas on how to resolve these issues instead of putting a band aid, please let me know. Punishment does not always work. Deal with the lower risk folks first or deal with the more high-risk clients. Ask if the chief would have any ideas. Melinda mentioned she is concerned about main street striping being very dull. Council Member Hahn said they are aware of that and plan to fix it. Ask RaJean about bringing back up the main street study for trying to slow traffic down. RaJean said the lane diet that Council Member Hahn talked about was part of what we discussed in the study. That will allow a 6-foot bike lane and a dedicated bike lane from McDonalds down to First street where we branch off on to Garfield and Lincoln. We are doing little pieces at a time. Said she could share the recommendations and timeframe again. Melinda said a timeframe may be useful. Council Member Hahn said they reset the timing on the lights so it would slow the traffic down.

John Larsen - recognized a scout troop in attendance at the council meeting. Nice to see that. Chamber has adopted the young professionals. Would like to see if the council would be interested if they could present to the council to see if we could benefit from their ideas. Fremont county solid waste board and discussed the master plan. 2028 to have the landfill closed out. Transfer station underway by 2025. Still need to meet with LOTRA on their lease.

Monte Richardson – Said he and RaJean sat down with Commissioner Mike Jones gave him some ideas of what we wanted to see in an MOU, and he now must take it back to the commissioners for their review. The ball is in their court now, so we are waiting on them. He will be traveling to Dubois on Wednesday morning to meet with all the mayors to discuss the ambulance service and see how we can fix this problem. We also went to Sage west and met with hospital directors to see what a medical district would do for them. Found out it would not benefit them because they are not a nonprofit organization.

2. Discussion next two chapters of “13 Ways to kill your community” book
Council was to read Chapters 5 & 6 of the book. Council Member White talked about the community aspect of the chapter, and it all comes back to being able to provide affordable housing is hurting us. We need to start looking at different ways that are available to us to start changing what kind of homes can be built so we can have our young professionals be here. Melinda biggest thing is the idea of the attitude and how it really affects the community whether we will be successful or not. We will always have naysayers with change. Growth needs to be smart. We need to open to change into ideas that will make our community better. Charri Lara talked about chapter 6. Focus on our main street and how it looks. First impression is very important. Mayor

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Richardson also talked about first impressions. Council Member Cox talked about sitting on the beautification committee which no longer exists, but they had good ideas about getting the businesses involved. She said one part of the book talked about driving is a valuable way to do a quick assessment of what your community looks like. We should be paying attention to the things that need to take care of. Council Member Hulme said he does a lot of walking and that is how it connected him to his ward. It comes back to Missy's comment about housing, and I am driven on that aspect of things because of me walking the northside of town, I see that disparity in housing from Amoretti North and what the housing costs are and the housing quality. We have a discrepancy between the higher and the lower class of people in town and it is obvious. Commented from the book successful communities, the investment in beautification supported by local government but also come from businesses, homeowners, and volunteer groups. Makes me think of what combinations we as a city could produce. Council Member Larsen - not sure how you get away from the different costs in housing. You run into that problem where you go where some can afford nicer homes than others. We can work on is pride in ownership with private property. With the code enforcement officer, we are starting on that. Lander has a lot going for it but there are ways to improve it also. Council Member Stuble, it comes down to what do we want to see. Maybe what we are missing is there is a lack of coordination to get all the pieces together. Talked about the quality-of-life piece about a Lander livability plan. Have we thought about returning to a broader livability study? RaJean said our Master Plan is 10 years old and we have picked off a lot of those action items. There were a lot of big projects, and we were on a budget crunch, we have done some of it in pieces. It is time to apply for funding to do a new Master Plan. If we get some funding, we could add the other pieces. Julia said getting the input from the community is important but how do we get there. RaJean talked about community involvement with doing polls or canvassing.

3. Other council discussion – if needed

Council Member Hulme - Would like to have an update on Strategic planning. Charri said at our November work session there will be an updated about the new Stacker and Air Tables program that each council will have access to and will be able to see when staff make updates to those duties. Council Member White would like to have a more specific updates from staff members about items that are being done. Talked about bringing back quarterly updates from each department for updates. Council Member Hulme mentioned that he would like to receive the agenda items on a timely manner to review them prior to council meetings. Tami mentioned she normally put them in their shared drive on Thursdays because of not working on Friday. There have been a few times that it was forgotten, or the agenda was amended, and new documents were not shared until Monday. Chris was told that if he did not feel like he had enough time to review an agenda item, he could always table that item. RaJean said the staff is working on an economic development full time position for the City of Lander. We will put in a LIFT application to see if that position could be funded and housed here at the City of Lander. The application is due November 1st. Charri said you will need to approve a new job description and the pay scale for that position. There was discussion on if we amend agendas if we are getting the information out on a timely manner. Attorney Phillips said we are complying on how we do it.

Council Member Cox references the email she received about the civil defense horn. She would like some sort of solution. Doesn't want to ignore complaints. Mayor Richardson said he has reached out and tried to communicate. Attorney Phillips said make sure you acknowledge that the complaints are being heard. The problem is what is the resolution because we do have a safety issue and that is the way we community

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with our first responders. Council Member White response would be we've looked at some of the ideas, the siren is at its lowest level and can't be turned down any less, it was clear from the fire fighters that they need systems that work them, cell phones have delays and there aren't any funds available for pagers and radios so we don't anticipate that is going to change. Those were stated at the public meeting as well. Council Member Hulme asked about the costs involved to change. Maybe have a 10-year plan to move towards the goal of changing. Mayor Richardson believes it is a lot of work for one or two people that have complained. Lander is not the only town that uses the siren to notify first responders. Council Member Hahn said one of the problems is the pagers are old and not work correctly. He cannot even take his off the charger. The cells phone has a delay. The siren is the way to alert us for a quicker response time. Council Member Stuble agrees that we have not communicated the decision to the community. She would like to have the staff investigate how much a new pager system would cost. She would like to have other options for alerting our fire department to an emergency and to have staff bring forward what those options would be.

Lance Hopkin asked what the council would like to see on the next agenda item for the second reading of the ordinance adopting the building code. The consensus was to have the second reading to adopt the building code be in its entirety and it is up to the individual council member to draft the proposed amendments and propose them during the discussion.

Adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

The City of Lander
A Municipal Corporation

Monte Richardson
Mayor

ATTEST:

Tami E. Hitsheuw

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