

**CITY OF LANDER
WORK SESSION MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL
240 LINCOLN STREET
LANDER, WY 82520
February 27, 2018**

THE CITY OF LANDER IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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

Governing Body Absent: Vice President Monte Richardson,

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, Fire Administrator Fred Cox, City Inspector Mike Logue

Mayor Called meeting to order at 6:06

1. Staff & Council Updates

Sara Felix, Parks and Recreation Director, update on concert, it was a great success \$30,001.26 was raised. We had a great committee and Monte Richardson really did a great job. We had people from all over the state between 900 and 1000 people there. The Ambassadors were awesome and Don Reynolds was our MC. The setup was done and our chairs snap together and it made them really solid. The food trucks were a great idea and worked really well. It was a good event. The concert rose close to \$30,000 in profit and will only need about \$15,000 from our budget. We are looking at raising another \$25,000 with a naming bleacher fundraiser. Everything has to be done by the 3rd of July.

Public Works Director Lance Hopkin, we are still planning on using the contingency for repairs of the older bleachers, and moving of other buildings that will need to be done.

Mayor gave update on the history of the bleachers for the audience. Everything done at the Rodeo Grounds is the Cities property and responsibility. LOTRA runs the rodeo for the city but the grounds are the cities responsibility.

Director Hopkin, quick updates we are working on selection for the projects we discussed at earlier meetings, and are looking at a lining project on Jefferson Street and more construction to come this summer. We are going to start working on some of the potholes that are developing and we will do our best to get them fixed.

Council Member Hudson, I had a conversation with Mike Shane about all the troubles that getting a water line into their location. Their foundation is right next to the waterline on the edge of the easement and we are looking at moving the waterline in the middle of the easement. We will touch base with Mr. Shane and see where we are.

Council President Maestas, an observation now that the blades have gone around and broke up the ice we had a person get high centered in front of our house and we probably need to pick up some of that ice.

Council Member Calhoun, a couple of things, one comment, Rajean and Charri and I had the opportunity to represent Lander at the WAM meeting. It was an awesome pleasure to represent Lander there. It was a good opportunity. Request in a future work session that the school is considering some safety concerns

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and implementing some new policies I would like to know more about the Chief's thoughts on this subject. Chief Cecrle,, this is an interesting topic and have I been having meetings with the school board and other law enforcement to discuss this topic.

2. Child Development Services, Modular Building CDBG Grant

CDS is looking at pursuing a grant to do some modifications to our building. The reason for the need for the grant is that we are full to our capacity now and we are required to provide all of these services to children in Fremont County who have a need for this. We do not have any more in our rooms now. We have looked at other properties in Lander that we could remodel or buy but they are too expensive. We are looking at remodeling one of the rooms and move some of our staff around into a modular unit on our property. The school district has a modular unit that they have not been using and we are looking at maybe using that modular unit. If that does not become available then we will be looking at a new modular. The nursing home next door said that we could use a portion of their land for this modular. We are working on documenting all of the requirements for the grant.

Council President Maestas, what is the match % for this grant?

0% match on the CDBG.

The pre-application is due March 19th.

Assistant Mayor Strube-Fossen, want to clarify that what this requires is a sponsorship for this grant and the city would be required to do all of the paperwork and grant follow up. 100% grant with up to 500,000.00.

Council Member Cox, is there a reason you are not adding on to your building?

Due to the easements, parking issues, water lines, but we are really landlocked and we just don't have the room on the property.

Lance if that waterline was not there would you consider building there?

We didn't consider that since we didn't think that it would be an option.

That water line does come in from the highway.

3. Fee Schedule Update

Small updates and 5 & 6th grade basketball rates and soccer 4 to 6 year olds.

Council Member Maestas, could we remove the parks and rec stuff from this and have it state that those fees can be passed as needed by their board.

4. Personnel Policy

Public Works Director Hopkin, we were talking about the on call pay vs the on call status pay. We have employees who are receiving texts from a computer and being able to fix things from their house vs having to come in and do things in person.

Council Member Cox, so now what it is only for two hours and is only the water treatment plant.

The change is if it is a normal alarm and they can clear it from home and they will get 15 minutes of regular time wages. If the on call employee has to physically come in then the employee will receive 2 hours of regular time wages. This is along with the on call pay the employees receive. They do receive compensation for the time they are on call.

Council Member Cox, wants to compensate people who are on call.

Public Works Director Hopkin, these employees who are on call receive an hourly wage the whole time they are on call. The 15 minutes and 2 hours would be in addition to that.

Council President Maestas, how would exempt employees be handled on call? Should these be the employees who are on call?

They are exempt so that is included in their salaries. Our goal is to reduce those call outs and alarms.

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When on call they receive a \$1.75 per hour, if they have to handle an issue at home they get 15 minutes of their regular wages and if they get called out to the plant then they get a 2 hour call back time. They do have to be able to report to the call within 40 minutes.

5. Taylor Ditch Update

Public Works Director Hopkin, right now where we are at is there is an issue with the liner. We did a little work but now there is concern about where we are going in the future. This is between the golf course and the city to come up with solutions. That liner has been torn up and we are going to try and remove the liner and some of the sediment that is in it. Then we need to see what needs to be done to correct the problems. It will need to be decided between the Ditch Company, golf course and city. Mayor, also where the slide occurred, is that going to be fixed this spring? We need to contact the Taylor ditch company and see what their plans are for this. We need to get some stabilization on that hill side.

Council President Maestas, what are the legal requirements of the ditch company? Who should be managing this?

City Attorney Phillips, we cannot answer question that without the ditch company present.

Mike Anderson, what everyone is saying is who was there first? We don't know at this point but we want to be able to have good golfing events and we cannot do that without fixing this problem.

Council President Maestas, the reason I asked is if we find out it is someone else's responsibility then the insurance will not pay it. As for the protectors of the taxpayer's money we need to make sure we are paying for what we need to be paying for.

Public Works Director Hopkin, this is not a new problem, it has been an issue for a long time and we need to have a meeting with all three groups and see what we can do. We were running very full in that ditch and we would like to do the repairs we have talked about and then see how that works.

Mayor hole 13 got really bad this last year and we did a little work but it doesn't solve the problem with the ditch and we need to work with the ditch company.

Our golf course board has done a great deal of work on our course and has done a good job on this problem.

Dean Staszak, superintendent, the problems we are having is not just drainage, the surface water is flowing and that water ran until January. Our fairways end up looking like the potholes in our streets.

Where we stopped with the drainage the water just moved up the hill further. Since I have been there it has been an issue. It is something that we need to take a better look at.

Council President Maestas, this is more than just a golf course, when we were building a new community center the engineer recommended that we change the footings due to the water risk in that location. I just want to complement the golf board as they are one the hardest working boards that we have in our community. They are the reason that course has come along so well. They are a great volunteer board.

Public Works Director Hopkin, we have to make sure we don't go too far in the other direction so that we do not impact the other buildings in the area that were built and designed with the ground water issues.

Mike Anderson, about the foundation, did they build a bulk head in there to keep the water back?

They had to over excavate the foundation and put in a fabric to keep the water back. This last year we had cat tails on the south side of the building.

Once you get to be 80 you get to play golf for free.

6. Community Center Discussion

Requested that this be put on the agenda due to some concerns of why particular groups are charged for the rental of the facility.

Nick Hudson, history of fund raising for the fire department. I used to be the Fire Administrator for the city. The fire department has always raised money since the beginning. We would work with the city and provide annual audits. All of this money is based around providing training, equipment and the needs for the fire department. In 2009 we bought a small brush truck, the city paid out \$10,000 and the volunteers

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fund raised dollars put in \$15,000. It improves retention for our fire fighters. We have had 50 year members who have retired. Recently we have started supporting our competition drill team to send them each year. We do this because it is held in Lander regularly. We support fire prevention activities through the volunteer donated dollars. We support the Personal Protection Equipment for the fire fighters. One of the main issues we had problems was in 2010 we purchased a \$7,000 thermal imaging camera. Where we ran into an issue was trying to donate it to the city. In 2015 we started to run into issues on how the audit was performed and we had to do one of two things is give the City our fundraised money to oversee in a separate fund or we had to start our own 501c3. So the nonprofit was created and we did not stay under the city umbrella. This was left up to the membership to decide and they made the decision to form the Lander Volunteers Firefighter Association, to oversee the fundraised money. Doing this enabled us to look at other avenues of funding. By the end of 2016 we had a nonprofit set up. The members of the association are also the members of the fire department and retired members. We didn't spend too much the first year. We supported a wild fire and had income due to those operations. We do a big fundraiser each Christmas and it has transformed our fundraising. Roughly in this fiscal year we are going to purchase \$20,000 worth of equipment and vehicle upgrades and that will go back to the city.

Council President Maestas, when the equipment is on the wildland fires it generates revenue and it came back to the city and we were able to do repairs on the fire hall and buy other equipment.

City Fire Administrator Cox, so the reason we are here is that the fire department is charged close to \$2,800.00 per year for the community center for this fundraiser event, and the reason we are charged is due to the formation of the 501c3, which is why Nick was asked to come and give the history on how the association came to be.

Council President Maestas, we set the standard that only direct city entities could use the community center at no cost, and that is due to a lot of non for profits use the convention center. It has to be a direct city entity to get free use of the facility.

Council Member Cox, I have a couple of questions, over the next 3 years you said you will be charged 7200 does that come out of the general budget or the association budget? Other off shoot departments do fundraising.

Mayor, the problem the auditors had with this situation is that the money the fire department raised was not coming back to the city and was not in city oversight to show it was being used for what it was raised for. The funds raised by other off shoot departments are direct city entities and is held by the city and set aside for that specific use.

Council Member Cox, the City of Landers Fire department is fundraising for city, I feel like we are splitting hairs here, I can see both sides but I think it is causing problems.

Public Works Director Hopkin, I look at it as one big pocket, the money the fire department puts in the general fund is the same money that is being taken out of the same pocket. But we need to look at this as a big picture and we will still be taking care of the fire department.

Council President Maestas, they are able to spend money they way they want to and that was the price of autonomy from the City. Now if the Lander Volunteer Fire Department wants to have a Christmas party then it would be free, but due to the association being in charge of the funds, they pay for use of the facility.

Council Member Hudson, being totally honest, it would have been really easy to allow the City to oversee this money, but many of those firefighters do not trust the city hall employees to oversee their money. And unfortunately it does happen and there is a lack of trust there.

Kelly Ameling, if the 501c3 has only been in effect for one year then why has the fire department been charged for 3 years?

City Fire Administrator Cox, we have only paid for the last 2 years.

Kelly Ameling, if you did not create the 501c3 and did the fundraiser does that mean that the city could take the money and spend it on whatever they wanted, like public works instead of the fire department? No, when money is donated for a particular activity then the money has to be spent on that activity.

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Fred, do we have policy on the community center?
Mayor, yes there is policy on this and how this is run.

Council President Maestas, I was approached this weekend after an event and they would like to hold it in lander But there is one thing we are missing, an ATM machine. Maybe we could look at doing a request for proposal with our financial institutions to see if there is an interest in this.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The City of Lander
A Municipal Corporation

By: _____
Del McOmie, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah Edlund, City Clerk

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