

**CITY OF LANDER
WORK SESSION MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL
240 LINCOLN STREET
LANDER, WY 82520
May 22, 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: Council Members Melinda Cox

City Staff Present: Assistant Mayor RaJean Strube Fossen, Police Chief Bob Ceacle, Public Works Director Lance Hopkin Hopkin, City Treasurer Charri Lara, City Clerk Sarah Edlund, Alan McOmie, Mark Salsbury,

Mayor Called meeting to order at 6:01

Council Comments:

Council President Maestas update on WOW event that went on this last weekend. Our numbers of attendees were up we had 370 kids came through on Friday. Collected over \$25K in shop local receipts raffle event. 2500 people. Mayor congratulations to all the people who put this great event on.

Council Vice President Richardson, the bleachers are in and being installed up at the rodeo grounds.

Council Member Calhoun, the grand opening for the chamber is on the 31st at 2:00 p.m.

Lt. McOmie, we had the click it or ticket campaign going on last night and we had a total of 47 traffic stops. It was productive campaign. Lander police dept was picked for a national highway safety ad campaign. They will be here and doing ride alongs with multiple agencies in our local area.

Rajeane we need to have a special session in the next week.

1. Budget Discussion

City Treasurer Lara – enterprise fund looks higher, was that in prior years these were other places but auditors wanted it there. Still get the same amount. Depts. Didn't make any cuts this year in the wages is different it includes the 1K, the 500 for the HRA, the step increase and including a hiring of someone in the parks dept. moving a seasonal to a full time. Includes wages for Fred's previous job in the police dept. and 2 positions in the water dept. Workers comp went up, large increase. We did not see an increase in our insurance costs, the Wyo

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retirement did increase and that was picked up by the employee and now this year for the next four years it will go up by .50 but the city picked that one up this year. Still funds the chamber, golf course at the same number as last year. It funds retirement funds for retiree pay outs. Funds both equipment funds for enterprise and general. Funds the 152,000 to the airport guarantee, the corp. of engineer projects, 15,000 for moving the caboose, the cities cost for the FEMA work that has to be done, the airport fly-in, a new asset at the airport for snow removal equipment. Includes the HPWL and the lagoon projects. The chambers rent for their loan. On the streets budget, it does not show that they spent the money for the line painting it is because they spent that money for the street striper.

Chamber request for the budget.

Brian Fabel attached is a letter to look at the outcome for things to come. We are looking forward to moving into the new visitor center, and are asking for the same amount as last year. The Mayor reflected that the chamber has done a great job and their new building will be a great asset for our community. When we accepted the bid for the building we are going to come in under bid we are at 180,000 of our 200,000 fundraising goal.

The City of Lander was invited to the Eastern Shoshone ground breaking at 10:00 on the May 30.

Council Vice President Richardson the cost for the caboose does that include the concrete for where it is moved to? No that only includes the moving of the caboose. We still don't have a long term plan for the caboose.

Council Member Calhoun, we appear to be in pretty good shape. A couple of concerns for me, I would want us to be attentive to equipment replacement in all departments including our police department. And would like us to be mindful that we start to plan for additional officers and resources for our community as it grows.

Public Works Director Hopkin, the replacement fund includes everyone not just public works, it includes the police department and fire department. Asking for a new car each year for the next five years.

Chief, thank you this is a great point. Next year we will probably be asking for a new position as we are taking on more and more projects and we are short staffed. We just promoted an investigator but can only do it part time as we need more patrol officers. As far as the other assets we are going to need new radios as they are becoming obsolete. We are looking at replacing Tasers. Some of the ARs that we carry are personal weapons and as we retire and move on the new officers will need replacements. The state system is great and now with the equipment needing updated we will to replace these radios. We purchased a number of the refurbished so we do have some extras.

Fire Administrator Cox, the fire department has the same issue with radios that are older but am looking into grants that we could use to replace those units.

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Council Vice President Richardson, on the dispatch contract do you expect it to go up again? Bob the last we heard that cost seems to have topped out. But Wyolink could end up being an additional 20,000 a year. If they do this then we are planning on dropping out of Wyolink and going back to our original system. It is a great system but I don't know if we can afford it as a city.

Mayor, we have included a step increase for our employees as they have not had one in 5 years but that is a reoccurring cost that will continue on. And if the economy goes back down then that can really hurt our city. 78% of our funds come from the state so we are very dependent on them. We have worked out ways in 5 year plans with City Treasurer Lara to make sure that we can function. I really appreciate the staff and the department heads for all the work they have put into this balanced budget. Please take time to look this over and ask any questions you have on this.

City Treasurer Lara, we are down 9 employees. Trying to find people work for the city is a challenge. We have very ageing staff and a lot are looking at retirements, which is why we need to make sure we are funding these retirees.

City Treasurer Lara, another couple of items we didn't fund the equipment fund this year we would like to fund that with whatever shop money is left using that as a rollover fund to use it for equipment replacement fund.

We refinanced the water treatment with SLIB. We had about a million in restricted dollars that we need to un-restrict that money and free it up for the HPWL phase II

Council President Maestas, taxes general when are our largest months? City Treasurer Lara, that number is based on 8 mils of the property tax. City Treasurer Lara, I am using last year's number. Community center improvements, we only have used 2,000 of our 15,000 budget? The stage was ordered and should be here next year it was for 29,000. Workers compensations under streets have more than doubled. We had 3 employees who received a step and added a part time wages. City Treasurer Lara I will have to look at that one.

Parks and Recreation is the difference just one position? Yes, it is for an assistant parks position who has been studying under our person. Kevin is getting close to retiring and this person would be a great person to step into that job. Does this position require a CDL? Yes it would be one we could cross train to do multiple jobs. This would be a short term succession plan. Council President Maestas, so the reason we can balance everything is due to paying off all our loans off and there is nothing left to add back into reserves. We are budgeting to a net zero without working to pay into our reserves. Anything not being spent in this fiscal year is going into our reserve. Council President Maestas, I am a fan of conservative budgets and would like to see some reserves as a line item instead of a padded budget. We could spend all of this money but we would like to make sure things are planned correctly and doing the projects well. Council President Maestas, I still think that we need to start a savings line item just in-case we have something that comes up.

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Public Works Director Hopkin, what should be our reserve carryover amount? We create a liability issue by not spending all of these budgets. What levels do we want this at?

Council President Maestas, I would rather see you spend the money if it is a safety concern to spend the money and we should have 3 to 6 months of operating expenses in our reserve funds. We have the enterprise reserve funds that we can borrow from if we have to.

Chief, in the police department there is very little flexibility for our department. The cost of ammo has increased hugely in the last five years. We have to try and fund it without know what the price is going to go up. We have to buy special bullets for those new employees. The same goes for overtime, investigations. But we need some flexibility in these budgets because sometimes emergencies happen. Council President Maestas, we saved 105,000 last year and that is gone. We funded the airport 50,000, additional corp. project 40,000 and equipment, which was not included in last year's budget.

Council President Maestas, as for each individual line item I am good with allowing the managers to manage their funds, as a Council projective we should look at building a reserve fund for our city. Public Works Director Hopkin that is great but we have several infrastructure issues that will be coming up. Council President Maestas, I would like to see a 50,000 line item for reserves to show spending, but maybe at least 20,000.

Council Member Hahn, I agree with Council President Maestas it is nice to have a reserve but we have come so far since our equipment was broke down and where we were. We have come so far. I think the problem we have is that we let our equipment become so rundown but we are doing better and need to start to look at putting back the funds we spent from our reserves.

City Treasurer Lara, would like us to find 20,000 to cut in our budgets and put it in a line item? Our rate increases were set aside to build reserve funds to pay off loans for some of these projects and City Treasurer Lara has step up reserve accounts for these projects that are restrictive funds to pay for these items. Where we are really in trouble is the 4 mil and 4 mils cap that we are working on with the legislatures.

Mayor we have the power to have a public hearing to move the money if we need to have to move it.

In reserve is 350,000 anticipated at the end of this year it will be 400,000. The sales tax has a very conservative fund so that will have extra and the 70,000 for the community center.

Rajejan, we have some unknown costs this year such as our FEMA work. Anything that is extra is not included in this budget. The corp of engineers flood study this year was the same way but it was supposed to be shared between 3 partners but those funds are not currently in.

Council President Maestas, we should have the first business meeting of the quarter having a more detailed budget meeting so the council can be more dialed in on where we are budget wise.

We talk about restricting money Mayor would much prefer to have a large unrestricted account, more of a global fund to increase our flexibility.

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Council President Maestas the concern I have with that is that we could have 4 new people up here and if it is restricted money then it has to be a council decision. Council President Maestas, can money be taken out of reserve without council action? No it has to be done as a budget amendment.

If there is something that needs to be replaced then council will have to approve that purchase before we could move forward.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

The City of Lander
A Municipal Corporation

By: 
Del McOmie, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sarah Edlund, City Clerk

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