

RESOLUTION 2025-001
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH LARIMER
COUNTY CONCERNING THE LIVERMORE CONSERVATION
PROJECT

A. To meet shared land conservation goals, the City and Larimer County (“County”) have been collaborating for more than two decades on funding partnerships to acquire various open space properties and conservation easements.

B. The County has been working toward the purchase of Conservation Easements (“CEs”) on four ranches totaling 4,897 acres in the area west of the intersection of County Road 74E and Highway 287 (the “Properties”). The acquisition of the CEs would be jointly funded by the City, the County, and Great Outdoors Colorado. The County would own the CEs and the City would have the right to assume ownership of the CEs if the County were ever to seek to sell or assign ownership of the CEs.

C. The Properties contain diverse, intact, connected wildlife habitats: foothills grasslands, shrublands, montane forest, and riparian corridors. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program designates the Properties as having high biodiversity significance. The Properties are part of an iconic 4-mile viewshed and serve as a buffer and connection between Forest Service lands, Cherokee Park State Wildlife Area – Lower Unit, State Land Board parcels, Larimer County’s Eagle’s Nest Open Space, and numerous conservation easements. Approximately 1.5 miles of Lone Pine Creek runs through one of the four ranches and includes a mature riparian system that supports critical habitat for the Preble’s Meadow Jumping Mouse.

D. The cost to acquire the CEs is approximately \$15,000,000. The City will contribute \$3,000,000. The County will contribute \$9,500,000. Great Outdoors Colorado will contribute \$2,500,000, through the County.

E. The City and the County are negotiating a proposed intergovernmental agreement regarding the proposed transaction, the form of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A (the “IGA”) and incorporated in by this reference.

F. At its December 11, 2024, meeting, the Land Conservation and Stewardship Board voted unanimously to recommend that Council approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with Larimer County to acquire CEs on the Properties.

G. Article II, Section 16 of the City Charter empowers the City Council, by ordinance or resolution, to enter into contracts with governmental bodies to furnish governmental services and make charges for such services, or enter into cooperative or joint activities with other governmental bodies.

H. Section 29-1-203 of the Colorado Revised Statutes provides that governments may cooperate or contract with one another to provide certain services or facilities when such cooperation or contracts are authorized by each party thereto with the approval of its legislative body or other authority having the power to so approve.

I. Approval of intergovernmental agreements by City Council is required under Section 1-22 of the City Code, unless an exception applies.

In light of the foregoing recitals, which the Council hereby makes and adopts as determinations and findings, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS that the City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute the IGA, attached hereto as Exhibit A, together with such modifications, deletions and additions as the City Manager, in consultation with the City Attorney, determines are necessary or appropriate to protect the interests of the City or further the purposes of this Resolution.

Passed and adopted on January 7, 2025.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Effective Date: January 7, 2025
Approving Attorney: Ted Hewitt