

	CITY OF LANDER		
	CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING		
	Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 6:00 PM		
	City Council Chambers, 240 Lincoln Street		
	MINUTES		

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Richardson, led the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Roll Call. COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: John Larsen, Dan Hahn, Josh Hahn, Julia Stuble, Melinda Cox, Missy White and Mayor Monte Richardson. Declaration of a quorum. STAFF PRESENT: Police Chief Scott Peters, Public Works Director Lance Hopkin, Assistant Mayor Ralean Strube Fossen, Assistant Public Works Director Hunter Roseberry, City Treasurer Charri Lara, City Attorney Adam Phillips, City Clerk Rachelle Fontaine.

2. **NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEMS)**

A. Girls Softball LIFT funding discussion.

Craig Stoffel from Ayers presented the Master Planning Popo Agie River Park Conceptual Site Plan for review. The provided map includes proposed Baseball/Softball Fields, Batting Cage / Storage, Covered Shelter / Plaza, Player Promenade, Tennis Courts, Pickleball Courts, Storage / Maintenance Buildings, Irrigation / Fishing Pond, Day Use Picnic Areas, Soft Surface Trails, Native Plantings, Shade Shelter, Playground (2-12 YR), Fitness/ Ninja Course, Drop Off / Entry Plaza, Pavillion / Ticketing / Restrooms and a Parking Lot (approx. 200 spaces). Discussion ensued between Mr. Soffel and the Council Members concerning the proposed draft. Public Works Director Lance Hopkin also presented two options and costs to the Council for fixing and updating the current softball fields. These updates included foaming and fixing poles, fixing the Memorial Field Backstop, installing new fencing on backstops, bulbs, LED lighting upgrades, scoreboard anchoring, small electrical, as well as dugout floor removal and replacement. This property is leased from the school district. There is a possibility the district could revoke the lease. Discussion ensued concerning the safety of the fields and deferred maintenance. Councilmember J Hahn inquired about who is paying for these options, the city or the softball group with 1/2 cent funds. Councilmember Cox believes it is two-fold. The City and the Softball group could contribute through an award of LIFT funds to address the necessary repairs. Mike Harris, FCSD#1 Superintendent, commented that the school does not have any funds budgeted for the upkeep of the fields, and the school board has not provided any directions to use the fields. The Lander Girls Softball presentation illustrated many benefits the program brings to the community including the number of participants, the potential for high school softball, tournament play, and the local economic growth. An explanation of how their request meets the LIFT Requirements and other funding sources. Councilmember D Hahn commented that the girls could use a place where they could be part of something to grow and learn true-life values, teamwork, camaraderie, self-esteem, and motivation. Councilmember Stuble appreciates the amount of information the Girls Softball League provided. She stated the choice for her is a balance between the city budget, what the city will do on repairs and maintenance and safety for this property and what's appropriate to fund a lift grant to the girl's softball. She proposed returning to the original LIFT request, pulling the scoreboards and the scoreboard anchoring, and that electrical cost to be funded by the LIFT award and then funding the rest of it from a city budget amendment. Councilmember White likewise appreciates all the information shared. The Adult Softball League also uses these facilities, and the Council has not heard anything about their investment. She believes it's appropriate that the city funds the upkeep and maintenance items from the equipment replacement budget. She also supports going back to the original LIFT request. Councilmember J Hahn inquired as to why the city should get involved in payment on this? If the Softball League is asking to get economic funds from the half-percent sales tax, why can't they do this project on that and get everything repaired? It benefits the city both ways around. Councilmember Larsen stated that the Council has required that grantees need to be able to provide 50% and that the maximum award was \$50,000 per grantee. The softball league stated they would like volunteer hours to count as a match. They also requested a Connex storage container be allowed. Councilmember D Hahn commented that the City has already supported air services even though it was supposed to be temporary, and he believes it is a problem when taxpayers support private enterprise. The school is here indicating no interest in the fields. North Park. He supports awarding the funds to the Girls Softball League. Councilmember Stuble stated that it appears there are three items to accomplish: 1. on February 11, 2025, to untangle the Girls Softball League award LIFT funds; 2. to vote on the \$22,205 award for scoreboards, scoreboard anchoring and small electrical, leaving about \$62,000 that she proposes a budget amendment to use city funds to do that necessary repairs and maintenance; and 3. to address potential storage as an amendment to existing lease.

Councilmember White inquired about matching funds. Softball discussed matching options with in-kind and volunteer hours counting as a match. Mayor Richardson stated he would meet with the City Treasurer and present funding options from the City for the Council’s consideration.

**B. Wyoming Department of Transportation updates.**

Cody Beers, Wyoming Department of Transportation District Five Public Relations Specialist, explained that WYDOT’s presentation was intended to make our relationship as transparent as possible, provide information about WYDOT’s programs, and discuss the decision concerning pedestrian crossing at First and Main. Erik Smith, Resident Engineer, explained that the Lander urban area receives federal pass-through funding from WYDOT annually through the urban systems program. Recent local projects funded through urban systems include Goodrich Drive in 2009 for \$1,659, 839, and Jefferson St/Main St in 2018 for \$1,095,144. Discussion ensued concerning projects, costs of projects, and the Committee’s decision and meetings. Cole Bostron addressed the Council discussing the five current City of Lander TAP grant projects awarded in 2016, 2019, 2021 and 2023 totaling \$1,871, 821. Two of the projects are completed and three remain incomplete. These uncompleted projects may hinder Lander’s ability to receive TAP funds in the future. WYDOT is waiting for updates on the Baldwin Creek project, which was to be completely designed when awarded and will monitor the situation. Mr. Bostron stated that WYDOT may revoke the funding. Jack Hoffman District Engineer discussed the barrier between connecting two pathways at First and the highway/main street. He discussed the options for getting people across the highway. There are geometric concerns at the intersection where they are offset. Also, we have an East-West alignment there which at certain times of the year and certain times during the day sun glare can create visibility issues. Additionally, it is at the bottom of the hill, and there is a bridge at the bottom of the hill that has a high traffic volume.

**C. US Forest Service Lease Discussion**

Public Works Director Lance Hopkin and Civil City Attorney Adam Phillips discussed the US Forest Service Lease renewal. Attorney Phillips explained the new lease would require a waiver of governmental immunity if the city wanted to move forward and the city would need additional liability insurance. Discussion ensued concerning renting the location for specific purposes and terms versus entering a forty-year lease, and alternative locations for Sinks Canyon Camp if necessary. Further investigation would need to be made concerning the warming hut structure as it is a City building. Attorney Phillips summarized the discussion concluding the Council’s consensus is that the City will enter a new long-term lease but investigate possibilities for short-term rentals and the issue of the city-owned structure on the land.

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

The City of Lander

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Monte Richardson,  
City of Lander Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rachelle Fontaine, City Clerk

**CITY OF LANDER MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide a safe, stable, and responsive environment that promotes and supports a traditional yet progressive community resulting in a high quality of life.

**VISION**

Preserving the past, while embracing the future.

The City of Lander is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate. Qualified applicants are considered for positions without regard to race, religion, military status, sex, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or other characteristics protected by law.