

	CITY OF LANDER		
	SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING		
	Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 6:00 PM		
	City Council Chambers, 240 Lincoln Street		
	MINUTES		

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: John Larsen, Chad Cassady, Dan Hahn, Melinda Cox, Julia Stuble, Josh Hahn, and Mayor White. STAFF PRESENT: Community Development Director Anne Even, Assistant Mayor RaJean Strube Fossen, City Treasurer Charri Lara and City Clerk Rachelle Fontaine.

1. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEMS)

A. Ayres Master Plan Presentation

Dave Land, a landscape architect from Ayres, presented the 2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The planning process included extensive public outreach at community events and local venues, with a focus on accessibility and meeting residents where they are. The team reported strong community engagement, and feedback—both positive and critical—was used to shape the plan. A comprehensive walking inventory was completed for each park, with sections addressing location, acreage, amenities, maps, and high-level recommendations such as ADA compliance, irrigation upgrades, and additional studies.

City Park improvements focus on enhancing user experience, pedestrian safety, and natural areas while addressing flooding, parking, and operational inefficiencies. A full concept plan was also presented for Popo Agie River Park, which includes ballfields, pickleball and tennis courts, traditional and nature-based playgrounds, obstacle/ninja courses, and preserved natural areas with walking trails. Council Member Cox raised concerns about the removal of the fire department’s drill field from City Park in the proposed design. The plan also includes improved signage and connectivity between parks, neighborhoods, schools, and senior centers.

Nathan Randall from Ayres was present to address follow-up questions to the main Master Plan, which was previously presented. Economic development goals were discussed. There was broad support for revitalizing vacant properties and expanding commercial focus beyond Main Street. Discussions also addressed childcare access and workforce support. Concerns about gentrification and potential displacement from infill development were raised.

B. Strategic Plan Wrap Up Kristen Gunther

Kristen Gunther presented draft strategic plan recommendations. A final version will follow after input from the meeting.

Work on the Strategic Plan began in February with discovery meetings, plan reviews, surveys, and work sessions involving the Council and staff, aiming to develop a framework to guide city priorities for the next five or more years.

Three strategic pillars were proposed: Operational Excellence, Infrastructure & Core Services, and Quality of Life (with an option to separate Pillar 2 into two parts). Under Operational Excellence, the top priority is achieving long-term staff stability through structural reforms and succession planning. Additional recommendations include improving communications, maintaining code enforcement, upgrading physical facilities (including ADA and cybersecurity), and exploring updates to licensing regulations.

The council emphasized its policy and fiduciary responsibilities, highlighting recent progress on financial stewardship and stressing the need to continue practices such as maintaining cash reserves and equipment replacement schedules. Concerns were raised about communication gaps within the organization and with the public. A regular roundtable meeting was proposed to foster better real-time communication between Council and staff without overburdening formal meetings.

Discussion also addressed the need to clarify the purpose and scope of a charter ordinance, including defining leadership roles and supporting long-term governance continuity. The meeting

concluded with support for ongoing check-ins throughout the year to track progress and ensure alignment with strategic priorities.

2. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.

The City of Lander,

ATTEST:

By: _____
Missy White,
City of Lander Mayor

Rachelle Fontaine, City Clerk

The entire meeting is available to view at <https://www.landerwyoming.org/meetings/recent> OR <https://www.youtube.com/@CityofLander>

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.