PUBLIC NOTICE

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF WORLAND **April 16, 2024**

A regular meeting of the City Council of Worland, Wyoming met in the Council Chambers at Worland City Hall at 7:00 p.m. on April 16, 2024. Mayor Jim Gill presided and the Councilmembers in attendance were Kreg Lombard, Kody DeMunbrun, Adam Martinez, Rebecca George, William Worley, Pete Calderon; Wendy Fredricks and Mike Neufer via telephone. Also present were Director of Public Works, Nick Kruger; Airport Manager, Lynn Murdoch; City Attorney, Kent Richins; Chief of Police, Gabe Elliott; City Engineer Representative Mike Donnell and Clerk/Treasurer. Tracy Glanz. Councilmember Barbara Brookwell was absent and

There were thirteen (13) visitors present for this meeting of the City Council.

Councilmember Kody DeMunbrun led the Council and Visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Gill declared a quorum, with Councilmember Brookwell excused, and asked for approval of the agenda.

Motion: to approve the agenda. By: Councilmember Martinez. Second by: Councilmember George. Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the April 2, 2024 regular meeting stand approved as published.

Motion: to approve all vouchers and authorize payment for payroll, utility charges, refunds for City Services, recording fees, postage and other miscellaneous items, during the month of April, before normal City Council approval on the first Tuesday of May and approve the Consent Agenda with Council Work Session Minutes for April 9, 2024 and Payroll Voucher for the period of April 5, 2024. PAYROLL 4/5/24 - \$67,396.55. By: Councilmember Lombard.

Second by: Councilmember DeMunbrun. Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Gill thanked the Washakie County Commissioners for attending the meeting and read the following statement: "You shared a letter with us a couple of weeks ago concerning challenges and funding issues with the present ambulance service. I am in my comfort zone knowing that we do not have to make any major decisions on the matter this evening. This is an opportunity to work together to come to a viable understanding for the better good of our community. I would remind all to be recognized to access the floor for a question or comment. At this time, I will yield the floor to the County Commissioners to highlight some of your thoughts regarding the situation." Washakie County Commissioner Aaron Anderson stated that the Commissioners appreciated the governing body taking the time to review the letter and requested consideration in helping the County with this funding issue for essential ambulance service. The County received a significant increase from Cody Regional Health with a cost increase from \$16,250.00 to \$35,000.00 per month. The County approached the city because of the volume of calls that generated from inside the city limits. "As we look at the budget going forward and with the loss of ARPA funds, the County will see a deficit of \$193,000.00 next year. The County has other options to cover the expense through the next year. The challenge is looking forward, and trying to figure out where we are going to come up with \$400,000.00 per year for this essential service. We are asking that the city share that cost 50/50 with the county. The County submitted a grant application to the State to complete an emergency services assessment; this assessment would be done county wide for ground and air ambulance service and look at available funding sources." City Attorney Kent Richins stated that initially the Council was in shock after reading the Commissioners letter and asked just exactly what amount the County is asking for. Commissioner Anderson indicated that currently the request would be for half of the estimated deficit of \$193,000.00; however, the County can cover that deficit this fiscal year. When the County signed the initial contract, any deficit was taken out of the County General Fund. City Attorney Richins asked if Cody Regional Health gets paid by the user of the service as well as the County. County Commissioner Anderson indicated that they do receive compensation from health insurance, customers and Medicare. Discussion followed on whether the County would form a district to cover the costs for the service or request funding from the General Purpose Tax. The County is looking at the possibility of a district as using the general purpose tax could hurt other entities i.e., Worland Senior Center, Ten Sleep Senior Center and the Worland Community Center Complex. The question would need to be on this year's ballot as the general purpose tax will come up again in the 2026 election, however that may not be possible as the assessment should be done first. Councilmember George asked if Cody Regional Health explained doubling the cost of the contract and when the Commissioners were aware of the increase. Commissioner Anderson stated that the County was aware of the increase in November with the increase taking effect in March, 2024. The increase is based on employee costs and lost revenue from ground transport services. Discussion followed on how many employees are covering a shift. The County looked at bidding out the ground and air ambulance services but that is a challenge with unknown statistics. The County will have to look at extending the contract for at least one more year until an assessment can be done. The other options include bidding out the ambulance service or returning it to a volunteer department. Ultimately, the County is looking for a long-term solution to the issue. City Engineer Representative Mike Donnell asked if other municipalities are paying for this essential service or just Counties. County Commissioner Anderson indicated that other Counties are looking at doing an emergency services assessment prior to asking for funding from the municipality. It was asked if the County had talked to Washakie Medical Center about using ground service versus air service since Cody Regional Health admits that Washakie County is the only county they have lost

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revenue in due to so many life flights. County Commissioner Anderson stated that the Commissioners did talk to the hospital and were told that the decision to use flight versus ground ambulance is based on the Doctor. Discussion continued. The County will provide the City statistics from Cody Regional Health. Mayor Gill thanked the Commissioners for the information, stating that the Council will discuss the issue further.

Clerk/Treasurer Tracy Glanz (for Kara Anderson) requested approval and help with the graduation parade for the Senior Class on Wednesday, May 15, 2024; the parade starts at 6:00 p.m.

Motion: to approve the request to help with the graduation parade on May 15, 2024.

By: Councilmember Neufer. Second by: Councilmember Worley. Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Kunz representing the Eagles requested approval of a street closure and lifting the open container law for a Cornhole Tournament on Saturday, May 4, 2024 from noon to midnight. The street closure will be on Rupp and South 3rd Street from the alley to Railway Avenue. Wristbands will be provided for those drinking alcohol. The funds from the tournament will be used to help the Joe Hunter family with medical expenses. Chief of Police Elliott requested that the Eagles notify nearby neighbors if the event lasts beyond 9:00 p.m.

Motion: to approve the request to lift the open container law and the street closure for the Cornhole Tournament on May 4, 2024 from noon to midnight.

By: Councilmember Martinez. Second by: Councilmember Neufer. Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Kevin Belle with Rails to Trails Conservancy passed out information on the Great American Rail Trail Project which was founded in the mid 1980's using formerly abandoned railways and transforming them into public trails. A project was launched five (5) years ago to create a 3,700 mile walking and hiking trail between Washington D.C. and Washington State. Currently, someone can walk from Washington D.C. to Pennsylvania without ever leaving the trail. The Warrior Expedition will leave from Washington D.C. using the current trail and will come through Worland in mid to late June. The vast majority of people that use the Rail to Trail systems are those that live within 50 miles of the trail. We are building this trail for local and international use, and we anticipate over \$230 million in expenditures nationally and over \$13 million in expenditures in Wyoming. A few years ago, former Governor Mead encouraged us to go through the Big Horn Basin to encourage economic growth in the area. Each of the municipalities located in the Big Horn Basin is perfectly spaced for this type of expedition. We initially contacted the Big Horn Basin Outdoor Coalition and Director of Public Works Nick Kruger with the City of Worland and kicked off a feasibility study a couple of months ago. Emily Lauderdale and Carly Good with Tool Design Engineers spoke about the study which should be completed at the end of August. The design engineers are starting to identify different routes through town using public and BLM right of way. Different criteria are used to connect to important destinations in the municipality, i.e., schools and parks. The final feasibility study will be a report detailing the preferred alignment with graphics. Director of Public Works Kruger added that the City received a 100% grant from the Conservancy to pay for the feasibility study. Once the feasibility study is done the city can look for available grant opportunities. "It would be nice to tie this in with the County walking paths as they are well used. The Mayor and Council thanked the group, stating that it sounds like a good project.

City Attorney Richins presented Ordinance #873 for first

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WORLAND, WASHAKIE COUNTY, WYOMING, REVISING THE EQUIVALENT DWELL ING UNIT (EDU) FEE ESTABLISHED BY THE BIG HORN RE-GIONAL JOINT POWERS BOARD, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024, BY AMENDING SECTION 23-37-4(B) OF THE WORLAND CITY CODE. ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH ARE HEREBY REPEALSED.

City Attorney Richins explained that this is a fee to operate and maintain the Big Horn Regional (BHR) water system and the City of Worland is a member of that system. This is a pass through fee as BHR charges the city and the consumer of water pays the fee; every tap, active or inactive pays this fee. The increase to the EDU fee is 15% as passed by BHR.

Motion: to approve Ordinance #873 on first reading. By: Councilmember DeMunbrun. Council Minutes 4/16/2024 Page 4

Second by: Councilmember Martinez. Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Clerk/Treasurer Glanz presented Resolution #2024-2:

A RESOLUTION ALLOWING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF WORLAND, WASHAKIE COUNTY, WYOMING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024.

BE IT RESOLVED that an amendment be made to the following line items for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024:

EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND 16-40000-270

Loans Made \$ 165,000.00

To increase the Loans Made expenditure in the Expendable Trust Fund to account for an additional business loan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the City of Worland that the amendments to the budget April 25, 2024

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through Resolution in accordance with Wyoming State Statute 16-4-113 be adopted as the Official Budget for the City of Worland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

DATED this 16th day of April, 2024. ATTEST:

Tracy A. Glanz, Clerk/Treasurer

James R. Gill, Mayor

Motion: to approve Resolution #2024-2. By: Councilmember George. Second by: Councilmember Lombard. Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

City Attorney Richins presented the Fixed Base Operations Agreement (FBO) by and between the City of Worland and Hellyer Aviation, Inc. and touched on the basics of the agreement. The agreement pertains mostly to fuel services and includes a fuel flow fee of \$.05 per gallon to be paid quarterly. Discussion followed with Mr. Hellyer and the services offered by the FBO. It was noted that there are more people coming to Worland Municipal Airport and buying fuel. City Attorney Richins thanked Josh and Nicole Hellyer and the Airport Committee for their time and efforts to improve the airport.

Motion: to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the FBO Agreement by and between the City of Worland and Hellyer Aviation, Inc.

By: Councilmember Neufer. Second by: Councilmember Worley. Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Airport Manager Lynn Murdoch reported that the new FBO is a vast improvement at the airport as well as working with the Hellyer's. The airport staff is working on spring cleaning but is not ready to remove the snowplow blades yet.

Director of Public Works Kruger informed the Council that the city is participating in sewer line replacement at the new Oxbow Center north of town. This is an old line the city talked about a few years ago. The line was cleaned out today with the new equipment purchased. The water has been turned on in Newell Sargent Park, we are watering with city water until the pumphouse is placed and the pumps running. The switch to raw water should happen within the next four (4) weeks. Mayor Gill noted that this will protect our water rights once the irrigation is switched to using canal water. The bathrooms are open at the baseball field and within a couple of weeks the rest of the park restrooms will be open. The crew will continue to patch potholes, weather permitting. The city used 6,000 pounds of pothole patch so far this season and will receive additional patch soon

City Engineer Representative Donnell reported that bids were opened for the 11th Street Water Main Replacement Project on Monday April 15th, and two (2) bids were received. The Engineers estimate for the project was \$126,915.00, the Copper Creek Construction bid was \$179,528.00 and the Viper Underground Inc. bid was \$100,422.00 under the Engineers estimate. City Engineer Representative Donnell recommended the bid of Viper Underground Inc.

Motion: to approve the low bid of \$100,422.00 by Viper Underground Inc. for the 11th Street Water Main Replacement Project and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract documents. By: Councilmember Calderon.

Second by: Councilmember DeMunbrun. Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

City Engineer Representative Donnell stated that the pre-bid meeting for the 2024 Streets and Miscellaneous Concrete Upgrade Project was held this last Monday and two (2) firms showed up. The schedule may be tight to get the work done this budget year. The Washakie Avenue Project Kick off was today with Ardurra, that project is moving forward. The work on the artesian line is starting with Wilson Bros. working on the valve vault either later this week or early next week. The contractor should be able to complete the work, with the water shut off for only one day, once they have all the pipe and equipment in place. All customers affected by the water shut off will be notified.

Chief of Police Gabe Elliott informed the Council that promotional testing for the position of Sergeant will be done on May 2, 2024 with two (2) officers testing for the position. Chief of Police Elliott wished both officers the best; it is not an easy test dealing with case law, policies and procedures, and an oral board. The performance evaluations are also taken into consideration. Chief of Police Elliott will attend the Sheriff and Chief's Leadership Conference in Casper next week and travel to Douglas to see Officer Pantelis graduate from the Academy.

Clerk/Treasurer Glanz asked the Mayor and Council if they would be available for a picture on either May 21st or June 4th. Either date works; Clerk/Treasurer Glanz will schedule the photographer and let the governing body know the date. The Council Work Session has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 14th at 5:15 p.m. since the Clerk/Treasurer will be gone on Monday, May 13th.

Mayor Gill thanked the budget committee for their continued work on the uncoming budget.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gill asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. By: Councilmember Martinez. Second by: Councilmember Neufer. Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

James R. Gill, Mayor

ATTEST: Tracy A. Glanz, Clerk/Treasurer